

City of North Saint Paul
October 17, 2023
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Nordby
Council Member Schweer
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Communications Kari Erpenbach

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Open Window Productions – North St. Paul Promotional Video

Henry Schneider presented two promotional videos highlighting the City of North St. Paul. City Council thanked Mr. Schneider for the videos.

B. Trunk Highway 120 (Century Avenue) Corridor Study – Progress Presentation by Minnesota Department of Transportation

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented a high-level overview of the corridor study and introduced Ryan Coddington, MnDOT Project Manager and Travis Wieber, WSB Project Manager.

Mr. Coddington and Mr. Wieber explained a comprehensive study that was started in 2020 and showed the existing conditions of Highway 120. There have been multiple public engagements during this time. Residents and community members have expressed their concern regarding bike and pedestrian safety, lack of sidewalks and trails, congestion on Highway 120 and Highway 36 interchange, vehicle safety in relation to intersections, pavement conditions, storm water management, ADA improvements, cost effectiveness, connected and automated

infrastructure, and smart corridor as a future vision. They also provided an overview of the primary and secondary needs of this project in the Phase 1 study. All viable solutions were vetted and carefully researched.

Mr. Wieber provided basic information on interchanges, shared paths, center turn lanes, raised medians, and roundabouts. He stated the next steps are meetings with cities and counties and to return with an update.

Morgan Dawley, City Engineer clarified the Glenbrook area will be completed by the City of Oakdale. He noted this project is still in the beginning stages and not at the stage of pedestrian strategies yet but will look forward to resident feedback.

Mayor Monge inquired about a date for this project. Mr. Coddington stated this project is currently not on the radar of MnDOT.

Council Member Nordby inquired about resident feedback. Mr. Coddington stated public meetings would be the best place for residents to voice their thoughts and concerns.

Council Member Wong thanked them for their time and energy.

Council Member Cole suggested North St. Paul have a voice in this process when it comes time.

C. Overview of EDA Procedures – Robert Dew

Economic Development Authority (EDA) Chair Robert Dew provided an overview of procedures and roles of the EDA. He expressed his concern with communicability between the EDA and City Council. He suggested the EDA create files on each property including the history. He noted the process for commercial developments and ways to communicate this information effectively.

The City Council discussed various ideas and solutions regarding this matter and agreed that having an organized system for any new member to be provided with information on properties would be helpful. There was discussion surrounding the property across the street from City Hall.

Mayor Monge expressed his appreciation for the conversation and Mr. Dew's vast knowledge on these matters. Council Member Cole thanked him for coming and agreed that the EDA should be allowed some flexibility when it comes to commercial properties.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wong requested Consent Agenda Item A be moved to City Business. Council Member Cole requested Consent Agenda Items E and H be moved to City Business.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda as amended, Resolution No. 2023-047 consisting of:

A. October 3, 2023 workshop meeting minutes **Moved to City Business**

- B. October 3, 2023 regular meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$3,259,521.06
- D. HRA Claims \$19,474.42
- E. 2579 7th Avenue Listing Agreement **Moved to City Business**
- F. Purchase Energy Saver Kits for Conservation Spending Requirements for 2023
- G. School Resource Officer (SRO) Agreement – ISD 622
- H. MOU for Development of Margaret Street Site **Moved to City Business**
- I. Approval of Contingent Settlement Agreement
- J. Resolution Adopting Change of Workshop Time **Resolution No. 2023-048**
- K. Declaration of Surplus – Fire Department
- L. Re-Approve Ordinance Amending the 2023 Municipal Fee Schedule – Ordinance No. 822

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl Noted the City's rates are higher than Xcel Energy, and described the air quality passing over Highway 36.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Special Assessment Hearing for Unpaid Bills and Authorizing the City of North St. Paul to Certify to the County Auditor's Office All Unpaid Fees

Mayor Monge opened the public hearing at 8:14 p.m.

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and stated notices were sent out to residents that were delinquent. After this public hearing, residents have 30 days to pay their bill.

Mayor Monge closed the hearing at 8:17 p.m.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023- 051, Approving Assessment to Properties for Unpaid Water, Waste Water, Environmental Utility, Street Lights, Solid Waste and Recycling for North St. Paul Properties, Resolution No. 2023-050, Approving Assessment to Properties for Unpaid Water, Waste Water, Environmental Utility and Recycling for Maplewood Properties, and Resolution No. 2023-xxx, Approving Assessment to Properties for Unpaid Water, Waste Water, Environmental Utility, Street Lights, Solid Waste and Recycling for North St. Paul Properties Billed by City of Oakdale.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. October 3, 2023 closed session Summary

Mayor Monge read a summary regarding the October 3, 2023 closed session.

- B. October 3, 2023 workshop meeting minutes

Council Member Wong requested this item be pulled to clarify language regarding the fine increase. She was looking for more clarity, not suggesting an increase in fines.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the October 3, 2023 workshop meeting minutes as revised above.

C. 2579 7th Avenue Listing Agreement

Council Member Cole requested this item be pulled for further discussion. The Council discussed pros and cons to the selling or keeping of this property.

Community Development Director Brandy Howe provided information on a possible contingent offer stating the developer would have to align with the zoning requirements of the location. Ms. Howe suggested a flow chart to better understand how the City can move forward with this property.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to deny 2579 7th Avenue Listing Agreement.

D. MOU for Development of Margaret Street Site

Council Member Cole requested this item be pulled to allow for more discussion. Council Member Wong clarified the MOU would allow the current developer to move forward and have first rights to the property. It also allows the developer three months to come up with a viable plan and does not allow any other developer to move forward on this property.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Monge and Council Member Nordby voting aye and Council Members Schweer, Wong, and Cole voting nay, the motion failed (2-3), to extend the MOU for 3-4 months to allow the developer to get their documents and create a plan.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle provided updates from the Electric Department, and the Lillie building. He stated Public Works continues to do patching, televising, and is out winterizing the City. The walls are up at the student-built house and gas will go in next week. The Fire Department is in the middle of Fire Prevention week. The Hometown Holiday Light Contest opens November 6th and closes December 8th with cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place winners. The winners will be announced at the last City Council meeting in December.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole provided a brief update on the core community center meeting. The core group is looking to meet in December and hopes to have a presentation for City Council in January. The next EDA meeting is scheduled for November 14th in council chambers.

Council Member Wong stated the Arts and Culture Commission met earlier this month, reflected on the Arts Festival, and discussed a possible location change. The Commission is also looking into a potential turtle campaign. She noted a young artist was recognized for her work on a

community engagement project. Council Member Wong provided utility box updates and mentioned a Snowy has been purchased.

Council Member Nordby stated there was not a Planning Commission meeting in October and their next meeting will be Thursday, November 2, 2023.

Council Member Schweer stated the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be October 25th and encouraged everyone to attend a presentation at the History Museum next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Wong attended the Hang Time Board shop opening.

Council Member Nordby reminded everyone of the special meeting on Monday, October 23rd at 5:15 p.m.

Council Member Cole expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ritchie for selling or trading equipment in a financially responsible manner. He also encouraged everyone and the Council to attend a tour of the food and toy shelf.

Mayor Monge inquired about Community Center use during the winter and thanked the Fire Department for all they do for the community.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Cole, Seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk