

City of North Saint Paul
October 23, 2023
Approved Special City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 arrived at 5:01 p.m.
Council Member Wong
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Daniel Winek, Accountant Mary Kay Heinen, Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Chief of Police Phil Baebenroth, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, Electric Director John Wick, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, City Engineer Morgan Dawley

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Health Insurance Carrier Change

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and provided a brief history of the City's Health Insurance plan. Gallagher was hired to search the market on Carrier options for the City. Gallagher presented their findings to staff and the Insurance Committee. All recommend the change in Health Insurance Carriers from Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) to United Healthcare for the 2024 plan year.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2023-052, Supporting Employee Health Insurance Carrier Change from Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP) to United Healthcare.

B. Capital Improvement Plan 2024 - 2033

Mr. Winek presented the 10-year plan and noted the additional allocation of \$25,000 to facilities. He reviewed some of the big tickets items and department heads explained their budgets. Mr. Winek stated the approval is only for 2024.

Police Chief Baebenroth provided information and statistics on the vehicle and equipment fund regarding the Police Department. Council Member Cole inquired about the replacement schedule for police interceptors. Mr. Baebenroth stated they have switched the replacement from five to six years. Council Member Wong inquired about vehicle longevity. Mayor Monge inquired about mobile cameras. Mr. Baebenroth provided an explanation on mobile camera usage and cost.

Council Member Wong suggested repurposing City vehicles for different departments and usages and inquired about purchasing used vehicles. Public Works Director Ron Ritchie stated the bobcats are used year-round and provide a variety of services. These vehicles are on a five-year replacement program because of their continual use.

Recess and Reconvene

Mayor Monge called a recess for a short break. The meeting was reconvened

B. Capital Improvement Plan 2024 – 2033 (continued)

Mr. Winek reviewed the building and improvement facilities line items. Mr. Baebenroth and City Council discussed at length the aging and broken public safety garage door. Fire Chief Mallinger noted parts take a long time to receive due to parts coming from Canada.

Mayor Monge inquired about higher quality security cameras and suggested a second opinion on the audio/visual technology needs of the City.

The Council and Mr. Winek discussed the parks, trails and open spaces. Community Development Director Brandy Howe stated they secured a grant fund for an additional cushion of \$250,000 for improvements. Council Member Cole inquired about the sidewalk along McKnight. Ms. Howe stated it was pulled out of the capital improvement plan and there always on-going reprioritization of projects. The Council discussed gateway trail improvements, wayfinding signs, and possible DNR grants.

Mr. Winek discussed pavement preservation, previously titled street maintenance. Mr. Ritchie explained who maintains the different roads such as the City, County and State. The Council discussed with City staff how the pavement preservation lines up against the redevelopment master plan. Ms. Howe noted projects can get adjusted to earlier or later dates and cost estimates change when projects are pushed out to the future.

Mr. Ritchie discussed the maintenance of the City's natural resources. He noted invasive species are scheduled to be removed which will help with storm water maintenance. City Engineer Morgan Dawley stated they do not work on the shoreline and Mr. Ritchie discussed the maintenance of the multiple uses for the ponds.

Council Member Wong inquired about the management of invasive species and suggested looking for grant opportunities. It was noted that streets and utilities will see bonding requests for reconstruction during the 2025, 2027, 2029 year. Council Member Wong inquired about the process of street selection. Mr. Ritchie noted multiple factors go into deciding which roads need the most maintenance.

Mr. Dawley noted each year staff look at street conditions and approximately every third year they get an accurate account of the streets. Mr. Dawley stated there is good information in the Comprehensive Plan regarding streets and sidewalks.

Council Member Wong inquired about opportunities for federal infrastructure with regard to electric vehicle charging stations and if the City had enough infrastructure that North St. Paul could become a destination city.

Council Member Nordby inquired about lead pipe testing. Mr. Dawley noted lead pipe testing will be budgeted for in the years to come. He also stated there will be more information regarding this issue after October 2024.

Mr. Winek acknowledged the levy may be difficult for some residents but it is how the City becomes a place people want to live. Mr. Winek thanked all the department heads, Accountant Mary Kay and City Manager Brian Frandle for their hard work and the support from City Council.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk