

City of North Saint Paul
November 21, 2023
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Chief of Police Phil Baebenroth, Police Sergeant Joe Friedrichs, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, Communications Staff Kari Erpenbach, City Engineer Morgan Dawley and City Attorney Soren Mattick.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Fire Prevention Poster Awards

Fire Chief Mallinger presented this item and stated this year's campaign was "Cooking Safety Starts with You". Assistant Fire Chief Brent Fyksen, Captain Johnson, Firefighter Foster and other staff went into various elementary schools to discuss fire safety, cooking safety, and a home escape plan. The Fire Prevention Poster contest had over 500 entries from students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Assistant Fire Chief Brent Fyksen presented all of the winners with a certificate, a monetary award and noted that all winning posters will be submitted to the State contest to compete with other student throughout Minnesota.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wong requested that Consent Agenda Item B and I, respectively, be removed and addressed under City Business.

Council Member Cole requested that Consent Agenda Item P be removed and addressed under City Business.

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda as amended, Resolution No. 2023-053 consisting of:

- A. October 17, 2023 workshop meeting minutes
- B. October 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes **Moved to City Business**
- C. October 23, 2023 special meeting minutes
- D. November 7, 2023 special meeting minutes
- E. General Claims \$3,285,568.59
- F. HRA Claims \$20,513.75
- G. EDA Claims \$3,706.00
- H. 2024 Annual Polling Place Designations ***Resolution No. 2023-054***
- I. North St. Paul Participation in Minnesota's Toward Zero Death ("TZD") Grant Program **Moved to City Business**
- J. Building Permit Report – September & October 2023
- K. Resolution Accepting Donations – September & October 2023 ***Resolution No. 2023-055***
- L. Mailbox Repair/Replacement Policy Update
- M. 2024 Retainer Agreement – Erickson, Bell, Beckman & Quinn, P.A.
- N. Campbell Knutson Agreement for Legal Services
- O. Resolution Approving the 2024 Score Grant Application ***Resolution No. 2023-056***
- P. Park Rental Policy Amendment **Moved to City Business**
- Q. Planning Commission Appointment ***Resolution No. 2023-057***
- R. Park and Recreation Commission Appointment ***Resolution No. 2023-058***
- S. Economic Development Authority Appointment ***Resolution No. 2023-059***
- T. Site Plan at 2371 McKnight Road ***Resolution No. 2023-060***
- U. Certificate of Completion of 2315 Anchor Drive (Extra Space Storage)
- V. Anchor Block Commons Final BMPs (City Project No. 22-05) – Final Payment ***Resolution No. 2023-061***
- W. Lead Service Line Inventory Professional Services Proposal – WSB
- X. Declaration of Surplus – Fire Department

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl discussed his concern regarding water rates and the use of electric funds to help with street maintenance.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Consideration of Ordinance No. 823, An Amendment to City Code Concerning Tobacco Regulations

City Manager Brian Frandle reviewed this item and stated the new recommendations were discussed at prior workshop meetings with a consensus on direction given to staff. Several changes were made to the ordinance, including: compliance with state and federal statutes, tobacco license cap at the current seven license holders, and limit of 750 feet from any youth-

orientated facility. Council Member Wong noted that the regulations did not put any restrictions on flavored tobacco. Council Member Wong suggested the addition on restrictions regarding flavoring. Mr. Frandle stated it could be readdressed at a later date.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Cole, with Mayor Monge and Council Members, Nordby and Cole voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay, (3-1), motion carried to adopt Ordinance No. 823, approving an Ordinance Amending Chapter 118 of the North St. Paul City Code Concerning Tobacco Regulations.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to adopt Summary Ordinance No. 823, approving an Ordinance Amending Chapter 118 of the North St. Paul City Code Concerning Tobacco Regulations.

B. October 17, 2023 regular meeting minutes (formerly Consent Agenda Item B)

Council Member Wong requested this item be pulled for language clarification regarding a hayride she did not participate in.

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the October 17, 2023 workshop meeting minutes as revised above.

C. North St. Paul Participation in Minnesota's Toward Zero Death ("TZD") Grant Program (formerly Consent Agenda Item I)

Council Member Wong requested this item be pulled for further discussion on traffic safety in North St. Paul and the Police Department's culture of public safety. She noted her concern regarding a traffic stop on November 11th at 6:45 a.m. and read the quoted narrative "Officer stopped vehicle traveling south bound McKnight Rd at Hwy 36 for a high rate of speed. Driver was a Ramsey County Correctional Officer. 78 in a 35. Two priors. Verbal warning given. Chief of Police Phil Baebenroth read the mission of the Police Department and stated there is not a law that requires officers to give a citation. Chief Baebenroth stated the mission of the Department and his officers are to engage in positive interactions and use these incidents as an educational tool. He also stated the verbal warning given is in line with the Lights on Program to turn traffic citations into learning opportunities.

Council Member Wong expressed her concern regarding transparency and the approach taken.

On motion by Council Member Cole, and seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all members voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve participation of the North St. Paul Police Department in the Toward Zero Death Grant Agreement.

D. Park Rental Policy Amendment (formerly Consent Agenda Item P)

Council Member Cole requested this item be pulled and stated he will not support the Park Rental Policy as presented. Council raised concerns about rental fees, damage deposits and park hours. Staff was directed to gather additional information to consider the item at a future

meeting. The delay in approval will also delay the park reservations available to residents for 2024 that typically are available on December 1st.

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting nay (0-4), motion failed to adopt a Resolution Amending the Park Rental Policy.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle stated the Fire Department continues to look at a new fire engine, Public Works completed street sweeping, and the roof is on the student-built house.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Wong stated the Arts and Culture Commission discussed current projects and noted the amount of completed work done this year.

Council Member Nordby stated the Planning Commission met the first Thursday in November, discussed a denied variance, recommended a change to the plan, and welcomed a new member to the commission.

Mayor Monge met with the EDA and noted some changes to the EDA board and its mission.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Nordby discussed the Christmas Tree Project. He expressed his gratitude toward Rachel Thompson for her hard work with this project and suggested participating in this project. Information can be found on the City's website. He also requested that further discussion regarding officer discretion be added to a future workshop.

Council Member Wong wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and thanked City staff for all of their hard work.

Council Member Cole noted the Veteran's Memorial event was moving and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Monge wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager/ Clerk