

City of North Saint Paul
January 16, 2024
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
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos,
Community Development Director Brandy Howe, Communications Staff Kari
Erpenbach, and City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Recognition and Appreciation to Outgoing EDA Members

Mayor Monge and City Manager Brian Frandle each read a congratulated and thanked EDA members Robert Dew and Tom Schifsky their years of service to the City of North St. Paul.

B. Park and Recreation Commission Annual Report

Park and Recreation Commission Chair Grachek and Vice Chair Greenlee-Karp presented the City Council with their accomplishments for 2023 and goals for 2024. Ms. Greenlee-Karp reviewed the mission and their member attendance for this upcoming year. She noted the highlights as the continuation of Hause Park, installation of City park signs, creation of Southwood Task Force, Music in the Park, Autumn Arts Festival, mural at Silver Lake, first little library on a neighborhood street, and the continued partnership with the Arts and Culture Commission.

Ms. Greenlee-Karp provided the following goals for 2024:

- Hause Park reconstruction and grand opening

- Continue to prepare the Open Space and Park Plan
- Select a consultant for Master Plans for McKnight, a downtown park and passive park
- Assist with continuation of successful community events and event responsibility
- Continue research into community gardens and skateboard parks

The City Council congratulated them for their success thus far and thanked them for their continued work and passion moving forward. City Council members suggested more information and communication on projects and needs of the Park and Recreation Commission.

C. Art and Culture Commission Annual Report

Arts and Culture Commission Chair Tom Sonnek presented their annual report. He noted the mission and their accomplishments in 2023. The accomplishments included two additional commission members and a student commissioner, paint-along events, art cart events, four utility boxes wrapped, completed the mural at Silver Lake, continued with Project Snowy, and hosted the Autumn Arts Festival along with Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Sonnek also added their goals for 2024 which include Project Snowy, additional utility wraps, develop community engagement opportunities focusing on diversity, and additional mural projects, art cart events and paint-along events.

The City Council thanked Mr. Sonnek and the Arts and Culture Commission for their hard work and success thus far.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-010 consisting of:

- A. January 2, 2024 workshop meeting minutes
- B. General Claims \$1,637,490.74
- C. HRA Claims \$20,843.35
- D. Project Snowy Purchase Agreement
- E. Building Permit Report – December 2023
- F. Resolution Accepting Donations – December 2023 ***Resolution No. 2024-011***

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl inquired about the lack of updates on the LexisNexis Program and expressed his frustration with the negative balance on the resolution and charges on his water bill.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Consideration of Development Proposal for 2329 17th Avenue E

Mr. Frandle reviewed the recommendation for the City Council to direct staff to prepare a purchase agreement and development agreement for a 10-unit 5-building housing development.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to direct staff to prepare a purchase agreement and development agreement for City Council consideration.

B. Fire Relief Funding/Benefit Increase Agreement between North St. Paul Fire Relief Association and the City of North St. Paul

Fire Chief Jason Mallinger introduced members of the Fire Relief Board and explained the benefit amount increase is due to different State requirements.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2024-012, Approving Fire Relief Funding/Benefit Increase Agreement.

C. Fire Relief Association Pension Increase

Chief Mallinger presented this item with no questions from the council.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2024-013, Authorizing an Increase in the Firefighters Pension from \$5,400 Per Year to \$6,800 Per Year.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle commented on the Fire Department's call for service over the weekend and noted Public Works will not be flooding ice rinks this winter due to the warm weather. The Electric Department gave an overview of an outage this past weekend in a neighboring city.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole noted the EDA did not meet due to a lack of a quorum.

Council Member Nordby noted the next Planning Commission meeting is February 1, 2024.

Council Member Schweer noted the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting is next week.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Nordby inquired about a 3-3 hockey game at the Fire and Ice Event.

Council Member Cole noted the Council will be presenters at the History Society on February 27, 2024.

Mayor Monge noted his meeting with legislators tomorrow regarding the walking path around Silver Lake.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk