

City of North Saint Paul
January 2, 2024
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Nordby absent
Council Member Schweer
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, Communications Kari
Erpenbach, and City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. History Cruzers Car Show

History Cruze representatives Bob and Bruce requested approval for the 31st annual History Cruzers Car Show. They noted the cost and their generous donations to various entities in North St. Paul. Mr. Frandle inquired about parking. They noted there will be signs at various locations indicating parking availability and will set up a meeting with Police Chief Phil Baebenroth before spring to discuss further.

B. Planning Commisison Annual Report

Planning Commission Chair Patrick Blees provided the Planning Commission's annual report. He reviewed the work of the Planning Commission over the past year and will continue to review and make updates the Comprehensive Plan as it applies to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance during 2024. He thanked Brandy Howe and staff for all of their hard work.

Council Member Wong inquired about membership of the Planning Commission. Chair Blees noted they will have 3 new incoming members and one outgoing member.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wong requested that Consent Agenda Item F be moved to City Business.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-001 consisting of:

- A. December 19, 2023 workshop meeting minutes
- B. December 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$591,116.30
- D. HRA Claims \$351.72
- E. History Cruzers Memorandum of Understanding Between the Car Show and the City of North St. Paul for their 2024 Show Operations and Dates
- F. 2024 City Council Appointments **Moved to City Business**
- G. 2024 Annual Resolutions
 - Investment Committee ***Resolution No. 2024-003***
 - Official Depository ***Resolution No. 2024-004***
 - City Attorney Retainer ***Resolution No. 2024-005***
 - Legal Newspaper for Publications ***Resolution No. 2024-006***
 - Acting Mayor ***Resolution No. 2024-007***
- H. Replacement of Meter Reading Equipment of the Water Tower
- I. Public Works Surplus Items
- J. Approve a Donation from North St. Paul Fire Department Relief Association
Resolution No. 2024-008

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl expressed his continued frustration with the LexisNexis program and noted a signed resolution that covered the non-levy budgets was not in the packet. City Manager Brian Frandle took note of his concerns.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Berwald Property Conveyance

Mr. Frandle provided a brief overview of the information presented at the last City Council meeting and added recommendations from Timber Ghost Realty and the Ramsey County Assessor's Office.

Council Member Wong inquired about the appraisal and proper documentation regarding this property value. She also inquired about the option to use a value per square footage as a base amount when abutting parcels are present.

Mr. Frandle noted the realtor from Timber Ghost Realty was an outside independent realtor. Council Member Schweer added the appraisal would have added cost the City and City Attorney Soren Mattick indicated at the previous meeting the information provided from Timber Ghost Realty and the Ramsey County Assessor's Office would be sufficient documentation.

Mayor Monge noted the property would not contain an easement because no one can get to the property but the abutting property owner.

Council Member Wong expressed her concern and uncomfortableness that a value has not been placed on this piece of property and the potential issues with audits and future record keeping processes and procedures.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with Mayor Monge and Council Members Cole and Schweer voting aye and Council Member Wong voting nay, (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2024-009, Approving Conveyance of Real Property.

B. 2024 City Council Appointment

Council Member Wong requested this item be pulled to discuss Committee and Commission lists. She inquired about the standards or by-laws and current or open seat positions for the Police Civil Service Commission. Mr. Frandle stated he would get that information to her. Council Member Cole believed the Police Civil Service Commission follows the same procedures as any other Commission and when a member's term is up and does not renew, it is at the discretion of the Mayor who gives an interview and makes the appointments accordingly.

Council Member Wong also inquired about the potential of a Planning Commission member to sit on the HRA committee for consistency. City Attorney Jack Brooksbank stated he will look into this matter stating he was not sure if a Commission or Committee member can be on two. Mr. Frandle will bring the information back to City Council.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2024-002, Approving City Council Appointments to Commissions and Committees for 2024.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle noted the removal of Christmas decorations. The Finance Department will have auditors at City Hall next week. Autopay is up and running, and the department has received some feedback on the new credit card fees. The Electric Department is getting ready for the inventory process. The Fire Department had a record 1,694 calls for service in 2023.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole noted the next EDA meeting is Tuesday the January 9th at 3:00 p.m.

Council Member Wong stated the Arts and Culture Commission meets tomorrow and are looking for a youth commissioner and one additional voting position.

Council Member Schweer noted Parks and Recreation will meet on January 24th at 6:30 p.m. and noted the passing of Cathy Troendle who was a big advocate for Southwood Park Preserve.

Mayor Monge stated the Planning Commission meets this Thursday.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Wong wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Monge thanked Council Member Wong for her job as Acting Mayor in 2023 and noted Council Member Cole will be Acting Mayor for 2024.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager/ Clerk