

City of North Saint Paul
February 6, 2024
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Police Chief Phil Baebenroth, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Communications Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. Ramsey County 2024 McKnight Road Mill and Overlay Project

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item and provided a quick overview of the two resolutions regarding McKnight Road and the surrounding streets. He briefly described the anticipated shoulders with and without a bike lane.

After questions from City Council, Mr. Dawley provided the following information:

- Approximately 1-2 parking spots for 30-35 single family homes and one group home in a two-block radius from Mohawk to Shawnee Drive.
- Group home parking would become difficult if parking was eliminated
- Concept of a center turn lane would help emergency services get to their destination quicker.
- Traffic flow and lane conversion outcomes have been very good in the past

Mr. Dawley expressed his opinion would be to create a multi-use shoulder to allow for parking and bike lane use when needed.

B. Consider Approving Joint Powers Agreement and Authorize Entering into a Partnership with the State of Minnesota BCA Violent Crime Reduction Unit

Police Chief Phil Baebenroth presented this item. He noted the increase in violent crime and expressed his support for this opportunity.

Mr. Baebenroth introduced Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Deputy Superintendent Scott Mueller and Special Agent in Charge Jake May.

Mr. Mueller provided background information on the Violent Crime Reduction Unit and noted the statewide partnership with a focus on enforcement detail within the seven-metro area. He reviewed high-level tactics, statistics, and other important personnel who will be a part of this Unit.

Council Member Wong inquired about the percentage breakdown of a proactive and reactive approach and why North St. Paul was chosen for this Unit. Mr. Mueller noted local agencies would call for assistance and the task force would do its own proactive work, especially as the Unit gets started. Mr. Mueller stated cities are chosen based on past relationships with the BCA, crime data per capita and location of “pass through” cities.

Council Member Nordby inquired about involvement from other departments across state lines. Mr. Mueller noted approximately half the task force will be federally deputized.

Council Member Wong inquired about the potential loss of an officer from North St. Paul to be a part of this task force. Mr. Baebenroth stated there is currently a pool of applicants to interview and hire to replace that officer.

Mr. Mueller stated there is support from the legislature to decrease the number of guns and drugs on the street. This task force will look at major crime, approach, and accountability.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no presentations.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk