

City of North Saint Paul
April 16, 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 arrived at 5:20
Council Member Nordby
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance
Director Dan Winek, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works
Supervisor Randy Miller, Communications Kari Erpenbach

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (3-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as amended.

IV. TOPICS

- A. Tom Spehn – Update on 2170 Eldridge Student Built House- removed from agenda
- B. Century College Design Students Presentation on 916 Student Built House Selections

Kathryn Harrington expressed her excitement with the latest collaboration with the City of North St. Paul. She described the contemporary modern inspiration and how the interior was designed and built around the granite countertop in the kitchen.

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie provided an update on tree removal and stated the irrigation system at Casey Lake is completed.

- C. 2025 Pre-Budget Workshop

Finance Director Dan Winek provided information in preparation for the 2025 budget. He discussed utility and property rate comparisons, discussed the 2024 priorities, and reviewed market values and taxes payable. He also explained the definition of tax capacity and provided a history of residential and commercial tax capacity.

Mr. Winek reviewed increases and decreases from several funds over the course of the last 20 years.

Mr. Winek recommended looking at capital needs, finding ways to create a balanced budget, and looking at other ways to generate revenue. He showed a preliminary look at 2025 expenditures and a brief 2025 budget estimate but noted departments heads have not provided any information yet. He suggested future discussions focus on initial reaction to the budget, parameters to establish the impact of the budget, and recommended levy percentage increase.

Mayor Monge suggested quarterly budget updates.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the \$1.1 million dollars transfer from the Electric Department to the street fund and why that was not in the presentation. Mr. Winek noted the information tonight was regarding the general fund.

Mayor Monge inquired about the high estimates of road projects. Mr. Frandle noted the increased costs of street repairs. The City Council discussed a higher tax levy percentage for street maintenance as the costs continue to increase.

Council Member Nordby inquired about tax disparity. Mr. Winek stated without the transfers, utility rates could be dropped but property taxes would be raised.

There was discussion regarding the current water appropriation lawsuit and how that would affect future surface water. Council Member Nordby suggested a future workshop meeting to discuss this topic.

Council Member Cole inquired about the decision in 2019 to pass a 0% levy and if that put the City in a more difficult financial state. Mr. Winek stated the 0% levy required a reduction of 4 FTE's but that is coming back up.

Mr. Winek stated developing a plan, like the capital improvement plan, and sticking to it will help get the City back on track financially.

Council Member Schweer encouraged department heads to create a list of wants, needs and desires and suggested a careful and thorough evaluation.

Council Member Nordby suggested Mr. Winek present areas where the City could tighten the budget.

Mr. Winek thanked the City Council for listening to the information and working on the budget early.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager /Clerk