

City of North Saint Paul
June 4, 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, Community Development Administrative Assistant
Chris Cherne, Finance Director Dan Winek, City Engineer Morgan Dawley,
Community Development Director Riley Grams, Police Chief Ray Rozales

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

Community Development Director Riley Grams introduced himself and gave a brief background on his education and work history.

Chief of Police Ray Rozales provided a brief update regarding the incident at Casey Lake Park on May 25, 2024. He noted no arrests have been made but there are several people of interest. He stated the BCA Violent Crimes Unit has taken over the case and North St. Paul is working with them as the investigation continues. He recommended closing the parks earlier and mentioned his concern about the upcoming 4th of July holiday.

City Manager Brian Frandle noted the Sergeant that was approved to be part of the BCA Violent Crimes Task Force is also currently working on this investigation.

Council Member Schweer inquired about a park patrol. Mr. Rozales stated the parks will be monitored as shifts permit.

Council Member Wong noted the large police presence and would agree to a closing time of sunset.

Council Member Nordby thanked staff for updating the City Council.

A. Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Project Updates: Kohlman Creek Flood Reduction Feasibility Study and Flood Preparedness

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item, shared the study, explained the job of the Watershed District, and provided a high-level overview from the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District. He noted the study areas, specifically the areas prone to flooding if an extreme rain event occurred and explained the benefits versus cost. He also noted the improvement would not burden the City financially, as the Watershed District would use its own funding. The Watershed District recommended constructing berms on the north side of PCU pond to divert water away and to increase the culvert size under County Road C.

Council Member Nordby inquired if the study would change flood plain boundaries. Mr. Dawley stated per FEMA, it would not change the flood plain boundaries but could change the flood area.

The main goal of this study was to communicate information to all of the municipalities' residents. Mr. Dawley suggested contacting Public Works if more questions arise.

Council Member Wong inquired about resident engagement and if there would be funding available for the resident communication part of the project. Mr. Dawley stated this can be discussed and researched further.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the legality of informing insurance companies. Mr. Dawley believed since it is not tied to FEMA, it would not trigger a response but suggested residents contact their insurance company if needed.

B. Community Center Next Steps

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and reviewed the process to-date including the release of the RFI.

Mr. Winek discussed the results of the RFI and stated the City received one valid proposal that met the criteria. He noted nine other interested parties had left voicemails but had not submitted formal proposals. He briefly reviewed the current proposal stating it would be a five-year commitment with an annual salary of \$60,000 with most hours occurring Monday through Friday and occasional weekend hours.

Mr. Winek discussed last year's and this year's budget as it relates to the community center. He also expressed concern regarding funding for the community center coming at the expense of the taxpayers.

Council Member Wong stated there is legislative and federal funding to help offset the cost of renovations but it would still leave the City to fund approximately \$1.7 million. She suggested looking at the public safety and other budgetary items to help.

Mayor Monge voiced his concern about the \$1.7 million gap and the potential tax increase.

Council Member Wong suggested looking into Foundations which provide funding for youth through public and private partnership, looking at alternative forms of funding, and the long-term benefit for the community.

Mr. Winek recommended hiring a project manager and Council Member Wong agreed with the hire.

Council Member Schweer inquired about the overall facility needs of City structures.

Mr. Winek commented on the bond letter requirements for the awarded dollar amount.

Council Member Cole suggested working through the bond letter line by line for more clarity and discussion. Mr. Winek stated this can be done at the next meeting.

The Council agreed to work through the bond letter, look at benefit versus cost, and to hire a project manager if the decision is made to move forward with the community center.

Council Member Nordby inquired about a deadline for the potential hire of a private consultant project manager. Council Member Wong noted the feasibility study may take some time and it was agreed upon at the last meeting to hire a private consultant.

Mr. Frandle stated he will bring a cost estimate and contract regarding the Kokoro volleyball team's usage of the community center gym along with any information from City Attorney Soren Mattick.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk