

City of North Saint Paul
June 4, 2024
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:35 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
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Community Development Administrative Assistant Chris Cherne, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller and City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

City Manager Brian Frandle requested a change to the May 21, 2024 workshop meeting minutes stating Mayor Monge was absent and Council Member Cole was the Acting Mayor.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-062 consisting of:

- A. May 21, 2024 workshop meeting minutes
- B. May 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$502,288.66
- D. HRA Claims \$12,999.14
- E. 2024 Tobacco Sale License Renewals ***Resolution No. 2024-064***

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mayor Monge spoke regarding the incident at Casey Lake Park on May 25, 2024. He also noted the City is looking at changes to park hours.

John Schmahl expressed his concern about the incident at Casey Lake Park and recommended changes from City Council to help the Chief of Police better handle situations like this one.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2022 Street and Utility Improvement Projects (City Projects Nos. 22-02 / 22-03 / 22-04) – Accept Project and Approve Final Payment

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item and stated this is a closeout item with additional curb, gutters, and soil changes. He also noted it came in 6% under the revised contract amount.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2024-063, Approving Construction Pay Voucher No. 6 and Final for Bituminous Roadways, Inc., in the Amount of \$19,975.30 for the 2022 Street and Utility Improvement Projects (City Projects Nos 22-02 / 22-03 / 22-04).

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle stated the Electric Department had power restored to 160 homes within 90 minutes after a power outage and the underground wire replacement continues. The Public Works Department has removed 40 out of 50 emerald bore ash trees, continues to keep up with the grass mowing, and noted the student-built house is almost complete. The Fire Department continues to work on inspections and added June 29th is the fallen firefighter ride. Mr. Frandle noted City Hall began its summer hours and will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. through 11:00 a.m. He stated the City will stay on its current well water after a water appropriation agreement and the new Communications Coordinator position starts tomorrow.

Mayor Monge inquired about the continual cost of vandalism out at Casey Lake Park and suggested the possible use of porta potties if the vandalism continues. Council Member Wong inquired about citizens who encamp the bathrooms being escorted to a facility. Mr. Frandle stated the Police Department does this if the citizen so chooses.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the EDA meeting will be next Tuesday at 4:00 pm.

Council Member Nordby noted the Planning Commission's meeting is this Thursday with a workshop discussion on goal setting.

Council Member Schweer stated Hause Park is 70% completed and the next meeting is June 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Wong noted the Arts and Culture Commission will host the Snowy reveal this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and thanked Public Works for getting them arranged. Their next meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Nordby inquired about an emergency action to change park hours. City Attorney Jack Brooksbank stated a short-term change can be taken temporarily until an amendment to the ordinance can be officially adopted by City Council.

Council Member Nordby suggested a one-month executive order to evaluate until Council has time to discuss and draft an ordinance.

The Council discussed alternate park closing times. They also discussed possible solutions to current rentals and signage to inform residents of the new park hours.

Council Member Cole suggested a resolution on the park hours before the start of the 4th of July holiday and consistency across all parks and park buildings.

Mayor Monge stated next steps would be enforcement signs and communication with the Police Department and then looking forward to the fall and winter seasons' park hours.

Council Member Cole inquired about times of park bathroom vandalism. Public Works Director Ron Ritchie stated it varies. Mr. Ritchie suggested consistent park hours and to communicate that with current renters.

Mr. Ritchie noted with all of the rain, fields have been impossible to mow but it is evaluated multiple times a day.

Council Member Nordby suggested the placement of a rented mobile camera for the 4th of July holiday.

City Council consensus is to temporarily close all North St. Paul Parks at 10:00 p.m. with continued discussions on the topic of permanent park closures in the near future. Signs will be placed in all parks with the hours.

Council Member Wong stated June is Pride Month.

Council Member Schweer reflected on the Casey Lake situation and recognized staff and all of the law enforcement officials who came to aid in the situation. She also thanked Public Works for the clean up the next day. She added the Car Show is this Friday at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Monge expressed his appreciation regarding a blessing and prayer filled phone call from St. Pete's Church regarding the Casey Lake Park incident.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk