

City of North Saint Paul
September 3, 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, Finance
Director Dan Winek, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works
Supervisor Randy Miller

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. 2025 Budget – Levy Budgets – Certified Levy Discussion

Finance Director Winek presented information regarding the maximum levy for 2025 and specified once a levy is certified, it cannot be raised but can be lowered if desired.

Mr. Winek discussed the 2025 levy calendar, proposed levy, property tax impact, proposed general fund budget, HRA and EDA levies, and alternate budget options. He summarized the 2024 and 2025 debt levy summary and noted there will be additional debt in 2025, 2027, and 2029, all related to street projects.

Mr. Winek stated the City is looking at a 9.88% levy increase for 2025. This estimate takes into account the increased cost of living, personnel cost, and potential future labor contract negotiations.

He reviewed the estimated property taxes for 2025 and noted a median-value home would see an approximate 1.5% increase in taxes with the proposed 9.88% levy increase.

Mr. Winek defined and described a market value exclusion and how that would apply to this tax levy increase. He reviewed the general fund budget by category, expenditures by category, and expenditures by department with the Fire and Police Department using approximately 59% of the budget.

Mr. Winek reviewed the proposed HRA levy changes and noted the EDA levy would remain the same for 2025. He proposed and summarized potential options to lower the levy but noted there still are unknowns with labor contract negotiations, the facility assessment report, and the park planning efforts. He stated if all of the options were to be approved, it would bring the levy down to 7.12%. He added final levy approval will not be made until the December 17, 2024 city council meeting.

Council Member Nordby inquired about any enterprise fund rate increases with this budget. Mr. Winek stated the only current rate increase is 2.5% for surface water.

Mayor Monge inquired about a gravel tax and franchise funds. Mr. Winek explained the gravel tax is a small aggregate tax amount the City receives and the franchise funds are already collected within the general fund with a small portion going toward the building fund.

Each councilmember discussed their thoughts on levy rates, with a general consensus agreeing to Mr. Winek's proposed maximum levy of 9.88%.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk