

City of North Saint Paul
September 3, 2024
Approved Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, and City Attorney Soren Mattick.

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.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Constitution Week

City Manager Brian Frandle read the proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2024 as Constitution Week.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-092 consisting of:

- A. August 20, 2024 workshop meeting minutes
- B. August 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$780,163.34
- D. HRA Claims \$1,443.44
- E. EDA Claims \$1,228.00

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl noted the lack of notification to residents that City Council was no longer providing Zoom for the public to make comments.

Recess to Housing and Redevelopment (HRA) meeting and Reconvene to Open Session

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to recess the City Council meeting to HRA meeting at 6:36 p.m.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to reconvene the City Council meeting at 6:38 p.m.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. 2025 Street and Utility Improvements Project (City Project 25-01), Report on Estimates and Authorize Final Design

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item and provided a review and scope of infrastructure improvements and previously authorized preliminary design and estimate updates. Mr. Dawley discussed location, street reconstruction and underground infrastructure life cycle. He noted the request to upgrade the storm sewer system from Ramsey County Watershed District with the strategy that it would be completed in 2025 instead of 2027. He also indicated the previous sanitary sewer improvements were completed in 2022 and showed the replacement of watermain and noted the need for an additional connection loop from Buhl Avenue to the dead end.

Mr. Dawley described projected cost estimates. He noted WSB put together a proposal for final design and professional services with authorization from City Council that would kick off tomorrow with bidding to go out in January or February of 2025. Once a bid is approved by City Council, Mr. Dawley will provide another updated cost estimate.

Council Member Nordby inquired if residents had been notified regarding the new sidewalks. Mr. Dawley noted the open houses in 2019 and 2020 discussed this and will be providing additional updated information in the upcoming phase.

Council Member Nordby inquired about possible solutions to the water quality concern at the dead-end during construction. Mr. Dawley stated a flushing hydrant will temporarily help flush out stagnate water and the proposed loop will be a more permanent fix.

Mayor Monge inquired if this is common practice for cul-de-sacs. Mr. Dawley stated it depends on the number of houses and the age of the pipes.

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to authorize WSB Professional Services Proposal for the 2025 Street and Utility Improvement Project (City Project 25-01).

B. Office of the State Auditor (OSA) – City Attorney Discussion

City Attorney Soren Mattick presented this item and noted the report was conducted by the Office of the State Auditor regarding North St. Paul's spending practices. He provided a high-level update of the report. He stated the City cooperated with the report and corrected the problems that were mentioned. He noted policies that were in place were not consistently being followed. Mr. Mattick stated the City has provided education on those policies and created a zero-tolerance policy requiring documentation on all spending. He added there was not any evidence of inappropriate expenses and added some of it occurred during the pandemic.

Mr. Mattick stated the report is closed and was forwarded to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the responsibility of City Council to oversee that city staff is following policy. Mr. Mattick stated it is not the job of City Council to oversee that. He stated it has been finalized and is closed.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle met with department heads and noted the 15th Anniversary Ceremony for Fallen Officer Richard Crittenden is this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Seppala and 7th Avenue. He added the Police Department had three applications and interviews were held last week. He noted the Autumn Arts Festival is September 14, 2024. The Electric Department continues to clean up from the storms and the Fire Department has been busy with 168 calls for the month of August. Public Works continues to work on the ash tree removal and the mill and overlay on Margaret Street was completed before school started.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the EDA will meet on September 10th at 4:00 p.m.

Council Member Nordby noted the Planning Commission will meet this Thursday.

Council Member Schweer stated the Park and Recreation Commission met last week and discussed HGA Architects completing studies on three areas and have been advised to bring plans to the attention of City Council.

Council Member Wong noted the Arts and Culture Commission will be meeting tomorrow focusing on the Autumn Arts Festival.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Schweer thanked everyone involved in the OSA audit.

Council Member Cole expressed his appreciation to Public Works for all of their work throughout the summer.

Council Member Nordby noted the countdown to the Fall Parade is on the website.

Council Member Wong noted her attendance at the State Fair and the Cypher Side Dance School performances along with a North St. Paul resident taking 5th place for their bread.

Mayor Monge thanked the Electric Department and noted the memorial on Saturday by the Police Department to recognize fallen officer Crittenden.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the City's labor negotiation strategy related to the City's negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Works (IBEW), Local 160 (Supervisory Unit), Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union, Local 320 (Public Works and Clerical), Law Enforcement Labor Services, Local 211 (Patrol) and Local 298 (Sergeants), and AFSCME Council 5 (Essential and Non-Essential) unions.

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to recess the regular meeting and go into closed session at 7:28 p.m.

Mayor Monge called the closed session to order at 7:37 p.m.

Mayor Monge adjourned the closed session at 8:01 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the regular city council meeting at 8:02 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk