

City of North Saint Paul
October 15, 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, Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator Ava Griemert, City Attorney Soren Mattick

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. The meeting will be closed pursuant to Section 13D.03

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 Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union, Local 320 (Public Works and Electrical), Law Enforcement Labor Services, Local 211 (Patrol) and Local 298 (Sergeants).

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to recess to the closed session at 5:18 p.m.

Mayor Monge reconvened the workshop meeting at 5:33 p.m.

B. 2025 Internal Service Funds and Other Budgets

Finance Director Dan Winek provided a high-level overview of the 2025 internal service funds and the event budget. He noted the facility assessment has been received and will make adjustments to the CIP and prepare that for the next workshop meeting. He briefly discussed revenues, expenditures, and an increased or decreased budget for each of the five different departments within the internal service funds.

Mayor Monge suggested a future discussion on an IT remote position.

Mr. Winek provided a brief overview and 2025 projects for each of the other funds. He added this information will also be provided during the CIP discussion.

Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator Ava Griemert presented information on the 2025 proposed City event budget. The proposal included the changes to the 2025 event budget.

Ms. Griemert also laid out her plan regarding the implementation of events. She recommended approving the event budget, assigning commissions to each event and approving the “no funds” list of events.

Council Member Wong inquired about feedback from commissions regarding designated events. Ms. Griemert noted she plans to meet with each commission in January and go over requirements and expectations.

Council Member Wong also inquired about potential hesitation from existing commissioners. Ms. Griemert stated communication with commissions is key and framing the request as an extension of what commissioners are already passionate about will help ease any potential hesitation.

Council Member Schweer inquired about potential pushback with newer events. Ms. Griemert stated she believes she will be able to have success with the level of communication she has already provided.

Council Member Nordby inquired about events there were not listed. Ms. Griemert stated she would look into those events.

Mayor Monge thanked Ms. Griemert for her hard work.

Council Member Wong inquired about the revenue component of the Community Center and what would be feasible for revenue. Mr. Frandle noted the necessary updates would be costly if the Community Center was to open for potential revenue.

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie described the failing equipment and the necessary fixes required to get through this winter without any damage to the building. He added his department has not made any fixes or updates to the building until there is a plan for the building.

Mayor Monge expressed his concern about the initial cost investment to get the Community Center running and habitable.

Council Member Wong expressed her belief that the Community Center is an asset to the residents and suggested putting money into the building.

Council Member Schweer suggested moving forward with the feasibility study but wait to update the building.

Council Member Wong noted the building would be worth more with the updates if the City chose to sell it.

Council Member Cole added the Community Center is not in a condition to be utilized and recommended additional funding towards repairing what is already there.

City Council discussed potential revenue sources within the Community Center and costs of necessary upgrades to start earning revenue.

Mayor Monge recommended looking at the feasibility study results before any changes are made.

Council Member Nordby requested clarification whether money for McKnight Field had come before the Council. Mr. Winek stated it will be coming to City Council during the CIP discussion at the next workshop meeting.

Mr. Winek also added the upgrades and repair costs to the Community Center will be added to the CIP in preparation for the next workshop meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Wong, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk