

**City of North Saint Paul
December 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 absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, and City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation - Sue Springborn Day

Sue Springborn was honored as a lifelong resident and dedicated much of her life to the community and the City of North St. Paul. City Council declared and proclaimed December 3, 2024 as Sue Springborn Day in the City of North St. Paul.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-125 consisting of:

- A. November 12, 2024 special city council minutes
- B. November 19, 2024 workshop meeting minutes
- C. November 19, 2024 regular meeting minutes
- D. General Claims \$1,715,866.69
- E. HRA Claims \$16,654.32

- F. Approval of Labor Contracts between the City of North St. Paul and IBEW (Supervisory) and AFSCME, Local 2725 (Essential) and (Non-Essential) 2025-2027 Union Negotiations Contract
- G. Zoning Text Amendment as it Relates to Fences **Ordinance No. 834**
- H. City Hall Closure – Employee Recognition Event
- I. Authorize Execution of Encroachment Agreements at 2329 17th Avenue East
Resolution No. 2024-126

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Dave Nelson provided recommendations for clearing snow out of snowblowers and encouraged residents to snow blow their snow away from the street. He also encouraged the City Council to look at residents who change oil and do not discard it properly.

John Schmahl discussed the dumping of concrete base material onto the street. He also suggested looking into permitted brush burns.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Truth-in Taxation Hearing – 2025 Tax Ley and Budget

Mayor Monge opened up the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.

Mike Manthey expressed his concern regarding his high tax levy increase. Mr. Winek encouraged him to contact the Ramsey County Assessor's Office for further assistance.

Greg Bothwell inquired about clarification on the tax value increase for homes in North St. Paul. Mr. Winek clarified it is not a decision made by North St. Paul, but rather by Ramsey County, and each home will not have the same percentage increase due to each home having a different value. Mr. Bothwell also inquired about the differing property assessments for similar homes next to each other. Mr. Winek suggested reaching out to Ramsey County Assessor's Office and filing a petition, if desired. Mr. Bothwell inquired whether or not the City eliminated special assessments. Mr. Winek stated yes, special assessments have been eliminated.

John Schmahl expressed his frustration with the change in the homestead credit.

Council Member Schweer noted there is an open meeting on December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Hailey Brown Community Center for property tax information.

Mr. Winek stated property tax changes occur for various reasons. These reasons could be changes in market values, levies at various jurisdictions, debt issuance, special assessments, voter-approved referendums, changes in State and Federal mandates, changes in aid and revenue from State and Federal governments, and State legislative changes.

Mr. Winek presented what a truth in taxation notice looks like and explained the homestead market value exclusion. He also showed the potential property tax impacts, provided additional information for Ramsey County Assessor's office, homestead deadlines, and exclusion programs.

Mayor Monge closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Discussion to Set the City, HRA and EDA Final Levies

Mr. Winek stated his appreciation regarding residents' comments. He noted the next City Council meeting agenda will contain resolutions of all the levies and approval of the Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Member Cole recommended transferring the penalties from the Electric Department to the General Fund, reducing the HRA by \$39,000, and deferring the building maintenance request which would put the levy at 9.1%.

The City Council agreed with these recommendations. Mr. Winek stated he will bring the updated information back to the next City Council meeting for approval.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle stated the Electric Department has been equipment testing and the Communications Department is excited about the upcoming Holly Jolly Night. The Finance Department has been busy with budgets and next year's audit. The Public Works Department completed street sweeping and is putting up ice skating rinks. They are also finishing up work on the tree grant and the grant for Hause Park improvements. The Fire Department noted the chassis is complete on the new fire engine. The Community Development Department continues to work on the cannabis ordinance and new resident welcome kits.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the EDA will meet on December 10, 2024.

Council Member Nordby noted the Planning Commission meets in two days and will hold a public hearing on the adult-use cannabis ordinance.

Council Member Schweer stated the Park and Recreation Commission will meet on January 22, 2025.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Cole encouraged residents and City Council members to search for additional streams of revenue. He also inquired about a formal request that the feasibility study award be voted on and placed as an agenda item.

Mayor Monge noted he is looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday at Holly Jolly Night.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A.** The meeting will be closed pursuant to Minn Stat. 13D 05 Subd. 3 (a), to conduct a performance review of the City Manager Brian Frandle.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), Mayor Monge recessed the meeting at 7:44 p.m. to go into the closed session.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk