

City of North Saint Paul
February 18, 2025
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 Nordby
Council Member Woods arrived at 5:17 p.m.
Council Member McKenzie
Council Member Schweer
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos and
Chief of Police Ray Rozales

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. Community Center Discussion – Jason Nordby

Council Member Nordby presented future goals/ideas for the community center. His two main ideas are divided into the building itself and its operation.

Council Member Nordby discussed the need for a one-level building with a new roof, HVAC system, separate entrances for the community center and library, and low maintenance.

Council Member Nordby suggested demolishing a portion of the building. He provided a picture of a proposed 170 x 118-foot structure on the current site. He provided information on the function and aesthetics of the proposed building.

Council Member Nordby suggested maintaining the library with a possible expansion to include the historical society.

Council Member Nordby described the increased parking and the potential green space at the old building site.

Council Member Nordby described generic, website-based, quotes to provide the city council with a ballpark price. The web-based estimate was approximately \$1.7-\$2.0 million. He also stated the request for proposal (RFP) top cost could be set at \$4.5 million to allow for cost

overruns while still maintaining the scope of the grant money and keeping the burden off of the residents.

Council Member Nordby discussed the operation of the building and offered ideas on sustainability throughout the required grant length of 25 years. He also stated his model would use the community center space approximately 16% of the time allowing the City to explore other short-term partnerships for the remaining 84% of the time.

Council Member Schweer agreed with the sustainability ideas, the open floor plan, and the opportunities for rental space.

Council Member McKenzie expressed his agreement with this plan.

Council Member Woods supported Council Member Nordby's community center proposal.

Mayor Monge appreciated the hard floor concept and the housing of the historical society next to the library.

Council Member Nordby also recommended installing large enough garage doors in the back to fit emergency vehicles if needed.

Council Member McKenzie suggested a prefab-built structure.

Mr. Frandle stated he would reach out to DEED also for more information.

B. Police Department Update

Police Chief Rozales provided an update on incidents and activities for 2024. He suggested a swearing-in ceremony date of April for new officers and promotions.

Police Chief Rozales provided statistics on investigations, calls for service, and reviewed police-related community events. He noted the investigations for 2024 were the highest they have been in five years. He also provided statistics for the 2024 BCA Violent Crimes Unit.

Police Chief Rozales outlined the staffing levels and the department's concerns. He is looking to retain a social worker in the department. Mr. Frandle stated he would look into partnering with Ramsey County regarding the embedded social worker.

Police Chief Rozales detailed the department's progress regarding its culture, people, and environment. He also reviewed new and updated processes, policies, training, and collaborations with other City departments.

Police Chief Rozales outlined recommendations for continued resident and officer safety within North St. Paul. He recommended the addition of a second in command, an additional community service officer, two additional patrol officers to fill power shifts, incentives for officer wellness/wellbeing, recruitment and retention, a crime analyst, and an embedded mental health crisis unit.

Council Member Nordby suggested a potential grant writer position or a grant writing contract to help offset the cost of these recommendations.

Mayor Monge and Police Chief Rozales provided a moment of silence on the first anniversary of the shooting in Burnsville.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, 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 / City Manager