

City of North Saint Paul
January 21, 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 Schweer absent
Council Member Nordby
Council Member Woods
Council Member McKenzie
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller and City Engineer Morgan Dawley

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. 2025 Street and Utility Improvements Project (City Project 25-01), Update on Project

City Engineer Morgan Dawley presented this item and provided information on reconstruction and street and utility projects. Mr. Dawley stated choosing a location for reconstruction and street and utility projects is a multi-year process partnering with the Public Works and the Finance Department. These projects can be coordinated with other outside departments (MnDOT, Ramsey County, Watershed District) and folded into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The first 10 years of the CIP plan involved invasive underground projects and are now trending toward pavement-type projects such as overlay and full street reconstruction. This plan and timeline will improve the overall quality and provide a longer life span for the City's roads.

Mr. Dawley showed project location sites for 2025 and 2027. He included sites for pond work, water main loops, and trail replacement. The 2025 and 2027 project locations were purposefully chosen to eliminate construction vehicles on new or renovated roads. He stated the projects will be phased in two different years to offset the cost due to the necessary additional storm sewer infrastructure.

Council Member Woods inquired about the lifespan of the current roads that are up for reconstruction. Mr. Dawley stated current roads up for renovations are over 50 years old. He explained the full reconstruction would include storm and sanitary sewer updates, water main and services construction, upsizing, surface improvements, and park and trail connections. Mr. Dawley also stated there will be upgrades to pedestrian ramps and sidewalks where necessary.

Council Member Woods inquired about the drivability of McKnight Road during the underground piping replacement process. Mr. Dawley the City will work with the contractor to eliminate usage on that road.

Mr. Dawley discussed water main replacement. Council Member McKenzie inquired about water main inspections at residential sites. Mr. Dawley stated that the city's inspections start from the street side and continue to the property line.

Mr. Dawley discussed design considerations including watershed requirements in 2025, tree removal in project areas, sidewalks, and adopted planning documents.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about snow removal on sidewalks in front of residential property and the closing of any baseball fields or parking lots at McKnight. Mr. Dawley stated residents are expected to clear snow on any sidewalk in front of their residence per City ordinance. He also stated there will be a discussion with the contractor to decide the best location to store materials.

Mr. Dawley discussed general project phasing. Project phasing and timelines will be communicated to residents as construction gets closer.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about a timeline for project bids. Mr. Dawley provided the anticipated 2025 construction schedule and the anticipated bidding schedule.

Mr. Dawley provided information on estimated costs and funding. He noted the estimated total cost is broken into different components with a total cost of approximately \$6.5 million. The Capital Improvement Plan states the project is slated to be funded through bond funds.

Mr. Dawley stated the importance of communication. The City has a dedicated phone line and email for comments, questions, or concerns. Communications Director Griemert will triage and redirect messages accordingly. Mr. Dawley also encouraged residents to reach out to city staff regarding any problem with the timeline.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about road width changes. Mr. Ritchie noted they are not planning to change or alter the width or curbline. Mr. Dawley noted the only change would require compliance with ADA if needed.

Mr. Ritchie noted once a project begins, the Public Works Department meets with the contractors weekly to address concerns.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (4-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk