

City of North Saint Paul
April 15, 2025
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Monge called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Nordby
Council Member Woods
Council Member McKenzie
Council Member Schweer absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, and Public Works Superintendent Randy Miller

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. 1st Quarter 2025 Budget Update (General Fund & Enterprise Funds)

Finance Director Dan Winek presented a first-quarter update for the approved \$10.4 million 2025 budget.

Mr. Winek described the various departments that make up the general fund and where they stand financially. He noted the Police Department's overtime budget will continue to be monitored.

B. Planning, Support, and Fiscal Responsibility

Mr. Winek presented this item and wanted to celebrate the achievement of the City's bond rating increase from an AA to an AA+. He expressed his gratitude for the conservative approach to fiscal responsibility from City staff and Council.

Mr. Winek introduced concepts and information regarding the upcoming 2026 budget. He presented the first look at a potential 5.6% levy increase based on the capital improvement plan. He briefly discussed strategies to use when working on the 2026 budget and provided a governmental fund debt comparison to the City of Mounds View.

City Manager Frandle suggested setting goals for 2026, such as no utility rate increases, prioritizing needs, and maintaining current staffing levels.

Council Member Woods inquired about potential opportunities beyond the levy increase. Mr. Winek stated that grant and potential cannabis monies may be something the City can look at. He also described the financial status of the country and how it will or won't affect funds.

Mayor Monge inquired if the current estimated levy increase for 2026 will be a steady rate for each year moving forward.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about the bond process. Mr. Winek stated that principal and interest bond payments are paid each year on February 1st and principal payments every August 1st.

Council Member Nordby inquired about bond rating opportunities to help with prior debt and suggested a discussion on the sales tax moratorium. Mr. Winek stated that the increased bond rating provides the City with a lower interest rate, and stated they can have an in-depth conversation regarding the sales tax moratorium at a later date.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (4-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk