

City of North Saint Paul
August 19, 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
Council Member McKenzie
Council Member Schweer
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, and City Engineer Morgan Dawley

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member McKenzie, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

IV. TOPICS

A. 2026 Budget – Continued Discussion on CIP

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item. He stated this is a continuation of the last City Council's budget discussion.

Mr. Winek discussed the 2026-2035 CIP and its funding sources. He explained that to afford the proposed 2026-2035 CIP, the City will need to increase the levy by approximately 6.01% each year until 2035.

Mr. Winek provided recommendations to increase the streets, parks, and asset preservation levies to afford what is in the proposed CIP. He also added that the Enterprise fund will require a rate increase beginning in 2027.

Mr. Winek explained the CIP by category, noting that the community center is a big cost to the facilities category.

Council Member Woods inquired about the needed or deferred maintenance to all of the City's facilities. Mr. Winek stated that the facilities are going to be placed on a regular maintenance schedule to allow for a better budgeting process in the future. He expressed his appreciation to the department heads for being aware of budget items and where money can be saved.

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie provided details on the current facility needs, including the HVAC system and roofing needs. Mr. Ritchie discussed the need for affordability and timing with large projects.

Council Member Woods clarified that the Public Works building will receive a new HVAC and roof in 2031 with an estimated cost of \$3.9 million.

Council Member Nordby inquired if the new water tower will be fully funded by all three water funds. City Engineer Morgan Dawley stated yes and noted the need for a larger capacity water tower.

Mr. Winek discussed the capital technology fund and the cycle of computer replacement.

Mr. Winek also provided information on the Park Fund, noting the Park and Recreation Commission's ten-year plan totaling approximately \$7.2 million would require a levy increase, which is not currently in the budget.

Council Member Schweer inquired about sidewalk reconstruction or rehabilitation. Mr. Dawley recalled that a sidewalk plan was in the previous CIP and will be carried over to the current CIP.

Council Member Schweer inquired about the extra \$200,000 budgeted for 2026 and if it could be reallocated for another sidewalk. Council Member Nordby suggested discussing it with the Parks and Recreation Commission to receive feedback on where the money could be better served. Council Member Schweer noted she will bring it back to the commission for discussion.

Mr. Winek briefly discussed the Natural Resources fund, which allows for budgeted dredging and maintenance every year. Mr. Dawley briefly discussed the aerator process, location, and the importance of this type of pond maintenance.

Mr. Winek discussed the utility infrastructure and added that meters will need to be replaced soon.

Council Member Nordby inquired about residents installing their own meters. Mr. Ritchie noted he is unsure of how valuable it would be to the City. Council Member Woods inquired about the interest level for EV charging stations and if that could be taken off of the budget until it becomes a larger interest or need. Mr. Frandle noted there has not been much interest.

Mr. Winek discussed the equipment budget, noting the police interceptor schedule. This cycle has increased to vehicle rotation every 6 years. He also discussed the other city's equipment needs, including the Fire Department's ladder truck. Fire Chief Jason Mallinger provided information on the need for the ladder truck and stated safety was the biggest concern with the 1982 ladder truck. He recommended the early purchase of the ladder truck in 2028 versus 2030 due to continued rising costs with a savings potentially equivalent to \$350,000.

Mayor Monge inquired about the resale of the old ladder truck. Mr. Mallinger stated there may be a potential market for them.

Mr. Winek provided a short definition of fiscal disparities as they relate to the budgeting process. He also reiterated that the proposed 2026 budget would achieve the levy of 6.01% without utility rate increases.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager/ Clerk