

City of North Saint Paul
August 19, 2025
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 Woods
Council Member McKenzie
Council Member Schweer
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Finance Director Daniel Winek, Community Development Director Ken Roberts, and City Attorney Jack Brooksbank.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2024-075 consisting of:

- A. July 15, 2025 workshop and regular city council meeting minutes
- B. August 4, 2025 emergency city council meeting minutes
- C. General Claims \$5,039,016.56
- D. HRA Claims \$14,780.61
- E. Special Event Permit – Fall Round-Up Parade **Resolution No. 2025-076**
- F. Special Event Permit – Legion Corn Feed **Resolution No. 2025-077**
- G. Building Permit Report – July 2025
- H. Resolution Accepting Donations – July 2025 **Resolution No. 2025-078**
- I. Approve Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 112; Bingo and Charitable Gambling **Ordinance No. 843**
- J. Approve North St. Paul Firefighters Relief Association Opting to Join the Statewide Volunteer Firefighter Plan (SV) **Resolution No. 2025-079**
- K. Approve 2544 19th Ave Drainage and Utility Easement

VI. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl expressed his confusion regarding the number of data breaches.

Kari Blees expressed her gratitude to the City staff for their prompt responses to questions and concerns, highlighting their patience and professionalism. She also thanked Finance Director Dan Winek for presenting a comprehensive overview of the city's financial situation, as well as the Council members for addressing the city's challenges and for actively listening to all the citizens of North St. Paul. She acknowledged and appreciated all the hard work they do for the community.

VII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Home Occupation Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

Community Development Director Ken Roberts presented this item and recommended changes to the ordinance. He clarified allowed, prohibited, and operations and conditions of home occupations. He added that the Planning Commission supported the proposed changes.

Mr. Roberts noted the proposed amendment changes would provide three levels of home occupations and examples of each. Level one occupation would be professionals working from home without customers or deliveries. Level two occupations could have an impact on neighbors with deliveries and have to be approved by City staff. Level three occupations contain the largest impact on neighbors, and approval is required by the City Council. Mr. Roberts also noted clarifications were made to language regarding performance standards, appeal process, and permitted hours of operation.

Mr. Roberts stated that all home occupations in the proposed ordinance will be subject to standards regarding incompatibility or disturbance to surrounding residents or businesses, secondary to residential use.

Mr. Roberts stated the proposed amendment includes existing and non-conforming occupations to remain and continue as non-conforming. He stated that the staff recommended approval and adoption of the ordinance.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about a potential conflict over hours of operation. Mr. Roberts stated this would happen on a complaint basis only.

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt the proposed Zoning Ordinance No. 846 as it Relates to Home Occupations.

B. Council Direction on Community Multicultural Outreach Center Feasibility Study and Grant Funding

City Manager Brian Frandle noted this is a continuation from a previous meeting where not all Council Members were present. He reviewed the information regarding the community center and the additional funding needed if the Council were to accept the grant funding.

Mr. Frandle read the entire resolution to provide detail and transparency. He clarified that if the resolution was approved, the contract with EAPC would be terminated and the City would decline both state and federal grant funding. He discussed the potential for reallocation of the grant funding toward a different project if desired.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the next steps if the resolution is approved. Mr. Frandle stated a legislator would work with him to get all necessary paperwork in order before the new legislative session begins, and then bring it back to the City Council for discussion on reallocation ideas if approved by the legislation. Mr. Frandle noted the reallocation of funds is not guaranteed, but stated the funding was a cash grant versus a bonding grant, which is easier to change.

Council Member Nordby inquired about the requirements of the alternative project if approved. Mr. Frandle stated that it has to be one single project, within the City, and cannot be in conjunction with any neighboring City.

Mayor Monge clarified the voting process and what each vote would mean.

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with Mayor Monge and Council Members Nordby, Woods, and McKenzie voting aye and Council Member Schweer voting nay (4-1), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025-080, Discontinuing the Community Center Multicultural Outreach Center Feasibility Study and Decline Current Federal and State Grant Funding.

VIII. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Frandle noted the blood drive on September 4th, which is open to the public. He discussed the cyber attack's current investigation status and added that it was a single event, did not spread, and did not come from St. Paul. The Electric Department had team training, and the Community Development Department is working on plans for an addition to Corwen Elementary School. He noted the Communications Department had to reschedule the movie night for this Thursday. He also noted a food shelf event to be held on Saturday, September 27th, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Mr. Frandle stated the Human Resource Department continues to work on the new software. The Police Department is fully staffed and will have a police foundation fundraiser pancake breakfast on November 2, 2025. The Public Works Department continues with the road reconstruction project and the removal of baseball fields at Casey Lake. The Fire Department completed hose testing.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Nordby noted that the Planning Commission is working on encroachment code violations.

Council Member Woods stated that the Arts and Culture Commission met and discussed that the Take Your Own Snowy Home projects are still for sale, and the electrical box at Veterans Park is now wrapped.

Council Member McKenzie noted the EDA will meet on September 9, 2025.

Council Member Schweer stated the Park and Recreation Commission will meet on August 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Frandle noted the student-built house is complete and will set up an open house soon.

X. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Nordby noted a resident's question regarding the PFAS lawsuit and whether any areas of North St. Paul were included and granted any settlements.

Council Member Woods thanked Chief Mallinger for allowing him to ride along during National Night Out.

Council Member Schweer attended the new officer swearing-in ceremony and thanked the Public Works Department for their quick clean-up efforts during the recent storms.

Council Member McKenzie attended the swearing-in ceremony also.

Mayor Monge attended the swearing-in ceremony and noted the friendly staff in the Public Works Department.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member Schweer, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk