

**City of North Saint Paul
December 2, 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 arrived at 5:17 p.m.
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, Community Development Director Ken Roberts, 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. Discussion to Set the City, HRA, and EDA Final Levies

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and reviewed the 2026 general fund budget, 2026-2035 CIP changes, and the 2026 proposed levy and tax impact. He also stated that the CIP is the driving force behind the levy increase.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about previous levies from Ramsey County and whether future levy amounts from Ramsey County can coincide with the City's levies. Mr. Winek stated that aid from the pandemic helped Ramsey County's residents with programming and housing assistance, but that aid has stopped, and now has to be supplemented from somewhere. Mr. Winek stated he stays focused on the City's needs.

Mayor Monge stated his approval of the levy amount and expressed his satisfaction with the multiple discussions with department heads, the City Manager, and the Finance Director during the budget process.

Council Member Schweer discussed the use of the \$300,000 funds from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Council Member Nordby inquired about a comparison metric regarding various cities' past levies. Mr. Winek stated that the use of a comparison metric is difficult because each city is different in its needs, but he could provide a different metric if desired.

Council Member Nordby inquired about cost savings with a biannual budget versus an annual budget. Mr. Winek noted there would be minimal savings, and the budget would still have to be looked at each year for potential changes.

Mayor Monge thanked Mr. Winek for his guidance and long-range financial planning.

B. Discussion on the Proposed 2026 Fee Schedule

Community Development Director Ken Roberts presented this item and included an updated fee schedule for approval at the next city council meeting. He highlighted the major changes as follows:

- City processing fee to be waived for any fee under \$25
- Building permit and inspection fees will reflect state law requirements
- Remove outside theater and taxicab license from business license
- Change special event vendor license to a mobile food vendor license
- Update contractor license language due to the approved changes in July
- Additional fees to the Electric Department
- Updated Park and Recreation rental fees
- Removing alcohol deposit and adding a standard \$100 alcohol fee for Casey Lake and Hause Park
- Electric Utility adjustments

Mr. Roberts stated many of the changes were recommended by consultants, Rum River and noted there are no planned changes to the planning and zoning fees.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about the inspection timeline for Rum River. Mr. Roberts stated the timeline is approximately 24-48 hours from the time of the call.

Mr. Roberts noted resident concerns regarding park fees. He stated the City's fees are lower than surrounding municipalities.

Mr. Winek noted this will be presented at the next city council meeting for final approval.

C. Update on Water Quality

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie and City Engineer Morgan Dawley provided a brief overview of the water quality situation, stating that it is a coliform bacterium. He stated the Minnesota Department of Health continues to work with the city to clear up the water by injecting chlorine into the water system for a period of two months to flush out the bacteria.

Mr. Ritchie explained the daily bacteria testing process as well as the daily testing for chlorine levels. He emphasized that the water is safe for all water uses and there is no public health concern.

Mr. Dawley reiterated that there is no evidence of other bacteria in the water, and they continue to follow the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health. He stated residents will continue to smell the chlorine, but that it is at a safe level.

Mayor Monge expressed his frustration with the Minnesota Department of Health's ten-day time lapse before inspection of the water.

Mr. Ritchie noted he will provide an estimated cost after everything is completed, but that he expects it to be minimal.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk