

City of North Saint Paul
September 16, 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 absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger and Code Enforcement Mackenzie Foster

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPICS

A. Code Enforcement Review

Fire Chief Jason Mallinger and Code Compliance Officer Makenzie Foster presented this item, reviewed the 2025 code compliance numbers to date, and discussed the plan regarding proactive inspections, incomplete violations, ordinance changes, and legal options.

Mr. Mallinger stated there have been 164 code compliance violations entered by staff in OpenGov to date, with the most being tall grass/weeds violations.

Mr. Mallinger and Ms. Foster described the process of code violations, the timeline for violation correction, and continued interventions if the violation is not corrected. He explained the abatement process and stressed the importance of working and communicating with residents on code violations as often as possible. Mr. Mallinger further explained the legal intervention process if that is deemed necessary. He also noted that a citation would be a legal intervention option but would require assistance from the Police Department.

City Manager Brian Frandle inquired about potentially dangerous situations regarding code violations. City Attorney Jack Brooksbank stated it is dependent on the particular case, but would use the Police Department or request city staff to attend to it immediately, depending on the urgency of the need.

Mayor Monge suggested keeping residents updated on the code violation process if pertinent to them.

The City Council had a robust conversation regarding tree removal.

Mr. Mallinger discussed his approach to code violations and reiterated the importance of resident communication and education.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about the number of vehicles allowed on a property. Mr. Mallinger stated yes, there is a number, but if the property owner has a driveway, any number of vehicles are allowed on that driveway or hard surface, and it is based more on the size of the driveway or hard surface. Mr. Mallinger noted that if vehicles are parked on the street longer than 12 continuous hours, the 12-hour parking rule goes into effect, and that becomes a Police Department issue.

Mr. Mallinger stated that the ordinance changes are made to help city staff keep residents informed. He suggested creating a resident guide for new property and business owners and placing code compliance information in the city newsletter and on the city website.

Mr. Mallinger briefly discussed the “door-knocking” style violations for snow removal and tall grass/weeds violations due to the high volume of those violations. He stated this process would allow code compliance officers more time to work on other violations.

After questions from the City Council, Mr. Mallinger and Ms. Foster provided the following information:

- Leash laws are handled by the Police Department
- City does not have the authority to issue fines for code violations, but could draft a letter from a city attorney if needed
- Language regarding permanently installed fire pits is sufficient
- Ditch maintenance can be difficult to enforce due to utility easements and maintenance ownership
- Rental properties have stricter rules regarding compliance code violations and are easier to address

Mr. Brooksbank stated that code compliance violations are difficult to navigate because there is always a gap between what is enforceable and someone’s personal opinion regarding what is visually appealing.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Nordby, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (4-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk