

City of North Saint Paul
February 17, 2026
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, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, Public Works Supervisor Randy Miller, City Engineer Morgan Dawley Police Officer Ayrton Yozamp

III. 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.

IV. TOPICS

A. Public Works Department: 2025 Year in Review and 2026 Outlook

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie presented and reviewed the Public Works Department's goals and services provided. The goals are as follows:

- Maintain public works core services to the highest level
- Great pride in work
- Work completed in a timely manner
- Increase in proactive work than re-active

Mr. Ritchie provided an update on the 2025 road projects and stated they an average yearly asphalt usage is 500 tons. He described the current Pavement Management Project, noting that crack sealing is done every other year.

Mr. Ritchie provided an update on the parks. He stated that amenities and their subsequent maintenance continue to increase. He noted the enhancement of park buildings, a new playground at Polar Park, a Gaga ball pit, and upgrades to the Casey Lake Utility and Soccer Field.

Mr. Ritchie discussed water usage, maintenance, watermains, and fire hydrants. He stated street utility projects require Public Works staff to work with contractors. He stated that residential

water meter replacement will begin in two to three years due to meters and radios reaching the end of their battery life. He also added that the Public Works Department tests water daily, flushes hydrants, replaces fire hydrants, completes lead service line inventory annually, performs well maintenance and upgrades, rebuilds manholes, turns gate valves, and handles unpredictable watermain breaks. Mr. Ritchie provided an update on the water chlorination progress and stated the water will continue to be treated with chlorine until otherwise noted. He emphasized that the water is safe to drink and use.

Mr. Ritchie provided information on the sanitary sewer system, noting the current maintenance of 46 miles of sanitary sewer with 4 lift stations. He summarized the sewer cleaning schedule and stated that the updates of the SCADA system will help monitor lift stations and wells, monitor systems, increase efficiency, and cut down on electrical costs. He summarized the sewer cleaning schedule.

Mr. Ritchie provided a brief review of the student-built house and noted the change in program partnership. He stated the coordination of subcontractors for help with utilities, excavation, foundation, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, sheetrock, taping, floor covering, etc.

Mr. Ritchie detailed the forestry work and the MN DNR grant to aid in the removal of ash trees and the replanting of new trees across the city. He stated there are approximately 35 trees currently marked for removal that will finish up the grant money. He noted the addition of a new bucket truck.

He provided a list of upcoming projects that include a new water tower, upgrading the mapping to ensure the creation of correct maps and records, timely city building maintenance, water meter replacement, and lead service line identification and replacement.

Mr. Ritchie expressed his thanks and appreciation to his staff for their hard work and dedication to the City.

City Manager Brian Frandle expressed his thanks to the Public Works Department for its dedication and budget-conscious decisions.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with all present voting aye (5-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk