

City of North Saint Paul
May 5, 2026
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, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Community Development Director Ken Roberts

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation – Gene Berwald Day

Bill and Brian Berwald, son and grandson of Gene Berwald, along with City Council and City Manager Brian Frandle, read the proclamation and proclaimed May 5, 2026, as Gene Berwald Day in the City of North St. Paul.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member McKenzie, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2026-049 consisting of:

- A. April 21, 2026 workshop and regular meeting minutes
- B. General Claims \$545,715.71
- C. HRA Claims \$9,749.61
- D. Acceptance of the 2025 Financial Reports that were audited by the City’s Audit Firm of LB Carlson, LLP
- E. AFSCME Non-Essential Union Supplemental Agreement 2026

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl suggested further clarity on resolution language for the upcoming business item.

VIII. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Variance Requests – 2357 7th Ave E

Community Development Director Ken Roberts presented this item and stated that the City is the owner and the applicant. The variance is for the student-built house property, and the City is looking at subdividing the lot into two parcels. The requests are for lot width and driveway setback variances. He stated the variances are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. A public hearing was held on April 2, 2026, and the Planning Commission staff recommended approval.

Council Member Woods inquired about neighbor concerns. Mr. Roberts stated that traffic and safety were the only concerns.

Council Member Nordby noted that to get a variance, the applicant has to prove a hardship. He expressed his belief that City staff did not prove a financial hardship with the variance request.

Council Member Schweer stated that the land was originally slated for parks.

On motion by Council Member Woods, seconded by Council Member McKenzie, with Mayor Monge and Councilmembers Woods and McKenzie voting aye and Councilmembers Nordby and Schweer voting nay (3-2), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2026-050, Adopting Findings of Fact and Reasons for Approval for a Variance Application for the Property at 2357 7th Avenue East.

IX. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

City Manager Brian Frandle stated the Electric Department's staff is completing underground training, the Kwik Trip is working on the second car wash, and conduit is being installed. The Communications Department has been sharing construction updates and working on event prep for Saturday's city clean-up. The Finance Department is busy with interviews and the send-off party for Jackie on May 22, 2026. The Police Department continues to go through the sergeant applications and work with Motorola. The Public Works Department also continues with interviews and road and pond projects, a student-built house, winter damage, and softball field maintenance. The Fire Department's old engine will be reposted online, and the Community Development Department continues to work on the garbage and recycling interviews, and is working with applicants for the tree giveaway.

Public Works Director Ron Ritchie provided an update on the parking lot by Sidewinders.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Nordby stated that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for May 7, 2026, will not occur due to a lack of quorum.

Council Member Schweer stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission discussed extra space at McKnight field, noted the park clean-up day Saturday, May 16th, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and the city clean-up day will accept cash or check.

Council Member Woods noted that the Arts and Culture Commission will meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m.

XI. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member McKenzie thanked Communications and Community Outreach Coordinator Ava Greimert for the well-attended garage sales.

Council Members Nordby and Schweer thanked Mr. Frandle, City Attorney Jack Brooksbank, and Mayor Monge for speaking at the Senate regarding the request for water tower dollars.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Schweer, seconded by Council Member Woods, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Monge adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk