

City of North Saint Paul
May 19, 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 absent
Mayor Monge

Staff: City Manager Brian Frandle, Assistant to the City Manager Jennie Kloos, Public Works Director Ron Ritchie and Finance Director Dan Winek

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. 1st Quarter 2026 Budget Update

Finance Director Dan Winek presented this item and provided a high-level overview of the 2026's 1st quarter financial position regarding the general and enterprise funds.

Mr. Winek described the general fund revenues, stating the general fund is slated for an approximate surplus of \$130,000. He explained each department's first-quarter revenues and expenditures and noted that the collection of property taxes will be delayed by a few months this year.

Mr. Winek noted the interest income base has not been budgeted, which allows the City to accumulate money into the fund balance or use it to lower rates for residents. He updated the Council on the Solid Waste Fund's RFP process and stated the City is in contract negotiations with a new company.

Council Member Woods inquired about the value of paying down the Fiber Optic Fund. Mr. Winek stated the only way to generate new revenue would be to raise rates from other departments or transfer money from another fund. He recommended leaving it as is.

Mr. Winek briefly discussed the proposed tax levy increase of 6% and added that any excess funds over 70% of the general fund could be put into streets, parks, or buildings. Mr. Winek provided a more detailed explanation of the Fiber Optic Fund's loan process.

Council Member Nordby inquired about clarification regarding the Fiber Optic Fund's financial position. Mr. Winek explained that the Fiber Optic Fund has no cash in it, but totals out as a zero balance with a cash advance from other funds.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about additional fiber optics going through conduits for additional revenue. City Manager Brian Frandle stated the City has tried and will continue to do so if possible.

B. Net Position and Cash

Mr. Winek presented this item and explained the location of the change in the net position. He looked at the fund balance as it relates to assigned, unassigned, restricted, or unrestricted funds. He showed the beginning and ending cash balances and the unassigned amounts in each department.

Council Member Woods inquired about the difference between unassigned and restricted funds. Mr. Winek explained that the unassigned and the cash component are due the bond and that the cash will reflect the bond money that has not been spent as of year-end.

C. Electric Utility Power Adjustment

Mr. Winek presented this item and detailed how placing a cap on the power adjustment for the summer months would equalize the rates and help residents with utility bill costs. He defined what the power adjustment is and how it is calculated. He explained how the loss in revenue would be absorbed and how to adjust for that in the future. He stated the rate has always been structured to cover six cents, but is currently exceeding that.

Mr. Winek proposed a pilot test to take effect this summer. He noted the proposed revenue loss and stated that the Electric Department will be able to absorb the loss. He noted that after the pilot run, the City Council and City staff can revisit it and propose any changes at that time.

Mayor Monge noted the last rate increase was in 2022.

Council Member McKenzie inquired about whether it will be in effect by the June billing. Mr. Winek stated that, yes, residents will see it take effect on their July billing because the City's usage bill comes out a month behind.

Council Member Nordby inquired about whether the proposed power adjustment will create a utility rate increase in 2027. Mr. Winek stated there is no proposed rate increase.

Mr. Winek provided information on the Ramsey County market summary for properties and discussed the loss of the penny. He provided information on the surrounding cities' billing regarding the loss of the penny. He suggested that the residents' bill will show no cents amount, and the extra charge will be a continual credit to their utility bill. He stated that if a resident moved out of the City, the resident would receive a check for the credited amount.

Mr. Winek provided staffing updates and retirements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council Member McKenzie, seconded by Council Member Nordby, with all present voting aye (4-0), meeting is adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

/s/ John Monge, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Brian Frandle, City Manager / Clerk