

City of North Saint Paul
April 4, 2019
Adopted Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong 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 Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Walczak
Council Member Sonnek
Mayor Furlong

Staff: Interim City Manager Scott Duddeck, City Attorney Scott Monge, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

Xcel Energy Gas Main Project Update

City Manager Scott Duddeck stated a significant gas line project will take place beginning in Spring 2019 that will greatly affect the North St. Paul community. Duddeck introduced Jake Sedlacek, representing Xcel Energy, and invited him to address the City Council.

Mr. Sedlacek, Community Relations Representative, Xcel Energy, stated he is based out of Xcel's Newport office at 3000 Maxwell Avenue. He introduced Gas Engineer Conrad Miller and Project Manager David Butler. He stated the Northeast Metro Natural Gas Project will be completed in three separate phases. He added the system revitalization is required as pipes in the ground have come to the end of their useful life and must be replaced. He noted this project will continue the safe and undetected operation of serving gas for the upper metro area.

Mr. Sedlacek stated the project will encompass the area from Century Avenue to South Avenue to White Bear Avenue to Rice Street. He added Phases 1 and 2 will be completed in 2019, after feedback from City Staff. He noted this has been a collaborative process, with input from the

five cities that are affected as well as Ramsey County, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, and Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Mr. Sedlacek stated the gas line will be replaced by new welded pipe in the trench and followed by restoration of pavement. He added the project will begin in May 2019, moving from east to west, and a few staging sites have been identified. He noted road detours will be signed, and local staff have flagged areas of concern including underground electrical facilities. He stressed the importance of awareness and consideration of local events and the community in general.

Mr. Sedlacek stated City Staff have been helpful and supportive, and project information will be posted on City communication sites. He added a project website is live (www.xcelenergymetrogasproject.com), and provides a project overview, schedule, details of outreach efforts, and a link to sign up for email notifications. He noted website lists an email address for questions or comments as well as a telephone hotline for the project.

Mr. Sedlacek stated a project Open House is planned for April 17, 2019 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center.

David butler, gas project manager (County Road B); Ben Hach, Century Avenue project manager; and Jake Sedlacek, community relations manager.

Council Member asked whether the project on Highway 120 will extend to Stillwater Road. Mr. Sedlacek confirmed this, adding the new line will terminate there. He added Century Avenue to White Bear Avenue will be completed as part of this year's project.

Mr. Sedlacek introduced David Butler, Gas Project Manager for County Road B and Ben Hach, Project Manager for Century Avenue.

Mr. Duddeck asked whether an emergency response plan is in place. Mr. Miller stated the existing pipeline will be taken out of service before construction so it will not be a hazard. He added contractors understand that emergency access must be available for first responders. He noted residents with special needs will be identified to ensure access for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Duddeck stated the gas line that will be under construction is a delivery line and not a service line. He added there will not be any disruption of service. Mr. Miller confirmed this, adding it is not anticipated that customers will be impacted during this process. He noted there may be a few areas where gas service will be shut off temporarily.

Mayor Furlong asked whether a new road will be constructed. Mr. Duddeck stated the trench will be approximately 6 feet wide, so only one lane will need to be reconstructed. He added it will be mill and overlay, and only the section of the road with the trench will be replaced. He noted pedestrian crossings will be updated along the way to comply with ADA standards.

Mayor Furlong asked whether the project will coordinate with Highway 36 closures, and possible closures on Century Avenue. Mr. Sedlacek stated the closure of Century Avenue is not anticipated as there will still be 2-way traffic on Century Avenue.

Council Member Walczak asked whether there will be room for 2-way traffic on South Avenue. Mr. Sedlacek stated there will not be enough room for two lanes, but this will not affect public safety and local traffic access. He added signage will be posted that indicates “Roads Closed – Local Access Only”.

Mr. Miller stated construction on roadways and intersections will be managed with the least amount of impact to neighborhoods.

Mr. Duddeck asked whether the City Ordinance related to construction hours will need to be reviewed. Mr. Miller stated construction will occur during the normal hours provided by the City. He added City Staff will be consulted if a special case arises and additional hours are needed.

Council Member Walczak asked whether the Fire Department has a plan in place for dealing with emergency response during this disruption. Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff have been planning for this event for a long time.

Furlong thanked the Xcel Energy team. He added the most important thing will be getting information out to the community.

Mayor Furlong requested clarification on garbage pick-up. Mr. Butler stated the contractor collects the trash cans and brings them to a central location where the trucks can reach them. He added this depends upon the area and project segment.

Council Member Walczak asked whether the project will be completed one section at a time, so streets will not be torn up the whole time. Mr. Butler stated the plan is to have three crews stationed who will work each area and tie it in before moving to another area. He added, with this method, approximately 100-120 feet of pipe per day is the anticipated pace. He noted progress updates will be provided to City Staff and residents throughout the project.

Mr. Duddeck requested clarification regarding the depth of the trench. Mr. Butler stated the average depth is 4 feet but may be as much as 12 feet in places.

Mr. Duddeck stated many residents have had problems with their pipes freezing, possibly due to the high diameter gas main running near water pipes. Mr. Butler stated insulation on the gas line running near water services will be insulated with sand.

Mayor Furlong thanked them the Xcel Energy representatives for their informative presentation.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Duddeck requested that Consent Agenda Item F, Annual Renewal of Youth Service Bureau, Inc. Contract be tabled until the full contract can be reviewed by the City Council.

Council Member Sonnek requested the following correction to the Resolution related to Consent Agenda Item D (page 41 of the Meeting Packet): delete “Chase the Snowman 5K” and replace with “Pub Crawl”.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2019-034 consisting of:

- A. March 19, 2019 workshop meeting minutes
- B. March 19, 2019 regular meeting minutes
- C. General accounts payable: \$334,804.55
- D. Special Event Permit for Pub Crawl on Saturday, April 27, 2019
- E. Application for a Charitable Gambling Permit to conduct lawful gambling in the form of Raffles by the North High School All-Night Senior Party Parent Booster Club (NHS-ANSPPBC) on April 27, 2019, in downtown North St Pau.
- ~~F. Annual Renewal of Youth Service Bureau, Inc. Contract (Tabled to future meeting)~~

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl requested an update on the 2020 Capital Improvement Project (CIP), which has been planned since 2012. He added he has not heard any project specifics. He added City Staff does not know which streets will be addressed.

Mayor Furlong stated that issue has been discussed for inclusion on the City Council’s schedule.

Mr. Schmahl requested an update on a July 2018 fiber optic project undertaken by the previous Interim City Manager in connection with Hamline University,

Mr. Duddeck stated the class projects were undertaken and six different proposals were presented to City Staff. He agreed to provide copies of the completed assignment.

Mr. Schmahl expressed concern about bulk pick-up trash collection. He stated he recently saw the trailer full of household goods, and later saw the same goods in the boulevard. He added it will be a problem with the gas line is under construction.

Ethan Johnson requested information about reconstruction of the alley behind his home on 1st Avenue. He added he and his neighbors have been maintaining the alley. He asked what the process is for getting it fixed.

Mr. Duddeck stated a neighborhood petition can be submitted to the City, and improvements will be considered if support is received from the majority of property owners on the alley. He added the full cost of improvements would be assessed to the property owners.

Mr. Johnson stated there are only 3 neighbors that use the alley. He added homes in the middle of the block do not use the alley as they do not have garages behind their homes. He noted those residents will not want to pay for alley improvements.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff can review this issue. He agreed to follow up with Mr. Johnson.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Small Cell Wireless Facility R-O-W, Ordinance No. 780

City Attorney James Monge reviewed proposed amendments to the City Ordinance related to small cell wireless facilities in the City right of way. He stated the proposed changes address conditions for the location of small wireless facilities in the right of way as required by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He added reasonable requirements are proposed for aesthetic reasons, and to protect the City and the right of way.

Mayor Furlong requested clarification regarding small cell technology. Mr. Duddeck stated new wireless technology requires antennae that are closer together and lower to the ground. He added this will provide more opportunities for higher wireless capacity.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Ordinance No. 780 amending the North St. Paul City Code of Ordinances, Title IX, General Regulations, Chapter 94, Streets and Sidewalks.

B. MNSPECT Building Code Fee updates

Mr. Duddeck stated the City's Fee Schedule requires amendments to the format and updated fees to include those specified in the MNSPECT Building Services contract that was recently approved by the City Council. He added there are no fee increases with the exception of the building permit fee, which was increased to a minimum of \$80.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve updated Building Code permit inspection fees and implement those into 2019 municipal fee schedule as presented.

C. Amended Fee Schedule Ordinance No. 781

Council Member Thorsen stated the City Council had discussed elimination of the street light fee at a recent Council retreat. He added Mr. Duddeck indicated he would review this issue with the electric Superintendent. Mr. Duddeck stated that fee generates a significant amount of money for the City. He added this item will be reviewed during the 2019 budget process.

Council Member Walczak requested that City Staff correct the following error: Page 106 of the packet, Section 110.01(E)(1), Contractor Licenses, last line reads: "When a licensee or permittee is required to have in force a policy of insurance, the policy shall". Mr. Duddeck agreed to amend the text.

Mr. Duddeck stated the proposed Ordinance amendment rescinds Ordinance 778 to include to include fees for small cell wireless facilities that was approved by the City Council at tonight's meeting.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Ordinance No. 781 adopting 2019 Revised Municipal Fee Schedule and rescinding Ordinance No. 778 to include fees to process small wireless facility applications and update building code fees.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated projects approved at the City Council's last meeting are under way, including activity across the street from City Hall. He added environmental work and soil borings are being competed on the development sites.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City of North St. Paul was the subject of a recent positive article published in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* newspaper that generated numerous calls of interest in the community.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission will meet Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers. He added a public hearing will be held related to a City Ordinance enabling pawn shops and eliminating pay day loans. He invited the City Council to attend.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff is requesting the Planning Commission's consideration of holding two monthly meetings to address development activity during the busy summer months.

Mayor Furlong asked whether City Staff has received any word on DHRC. Mr. Duddeck stated they have not received any information but are working to get that re-engaged.

Council Member Walczak stated she had nothing to report.

Council Member Peterson stated Council Member Petersen stated the annual Egg Hunt will be held April 20, 2019 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at Casey Lake, with 10,000 eggs.

Council Member Petersen stated School District 622 Community Education and North St. Paul Parks and Recreation are co-sponsoring Polar Explorers Summer Fun Program. She added the following sessions are planned:

- June 11, 2019 – Forest Frolic at Southwood Nature Center with Naturalist Cathy Troendle
- June 25, 2019 - Bike Clinic with Gateway Cycle at Gateway Trail
- July 9, 2019 – Science and Slime at Hause Park
- July 23, 2019 – Pinata in the Parks at Hause Park
- August 6, 2019 - Lego Amusement Park Adventure at Casey Lake Park

Council Member Petersen stated the Citywide Garage Sale will be held May 16-18, 2019. She added sale maps will be available at City Hall. She noted registration is free and open to the public on the City's website or at City Hall.

Council Member Thorsen stated he had nothing to report.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen expressed condolences to Jerry Bayers, owner of Polar Lounge, who recently lost both parents on the same day.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff a pre-construction meeting with M&I Homes is scheduled on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

Mayor Furlong stated residents can contact City Hall if they have potholes that need to be filled. Mr. Duddeck stated residents can also fill out an online contact form under "Report a Problem" or download the phone app to receive text messages. He added this information is available on the City website.

Mayor Furlong requested consideration of supporting the District 622 Stars Award by buying a table at the upcoming banquet so the City Council can attend. He asked whether this would need to be approved as a budget item. He noted the cost is \$500 per table.

Mr. Duddeck asked whether the City Council Members would be interested in attending the Award Banquet.

Council Member Petersen stated her family provides scholarships to both North and Tartan High Schools. She added North St. Paul is the only city that is not involved in funding the banquet. She noted the other cities that participate have funding from charitable gambling, which North St. Paul does not.

Mayor Furlong stated funding from the City of Oakdale comes from their Police Department.

Mr. Duddeck stated notice would need to be given if the City Council Members all attend the banquet. City Clerk Mary Mills stated the event would need to be posted that the Council Members would be present at a function but no City business would be conducted.

Mayor Furlong requested that this issue be discussed at the City Council's May 2019 meeting.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Walczak, Seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Scott A. Duddeck, Interim City Manager