

**City of North Saint Paul
May 21, 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: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Interim Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, Deputy Fire Chief Dustin Kalis, Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Furlong requested the following addition to the Agenda:
-Consent Agenda Item O – City Council Retreat, July 11, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Community Service Awards

Mayor Furlong presented The Good Neighbor Award to Donald Bieniek.

Mr. Bieniek thanked the City Council for the award, and the people who nominated him. He added he will continue to clean storm drains, curbs and gutters, and remove snow.

Mayor Furlong presented Community Service Awards to Tyler Chesemore and Tyler Olson for their volunteer work through Lion's Gate Academy's Student Service Life Program.

Mayor Furlong presented a Community Service Award to Kathy Troendle for her volunteer work at Southwood Nature Preserve. He thanked Ms. Troendle for her dedication to restoring the preserve, facilitating field day projects for visiting school children, teaching naturalist classes, and many other volunteer efforts at Southwood Nature Preserve.

Ms. Troendle thanked the City Council for the award, and for giving her the opportunity to provide leadership and rewarding experiences at Southwood Nature Preserve.

Mayor Furlong presented the Legacy Award to Don Regan from Leroy, Minnesota. He added Mr. Regan was a resident of North St. Paul for over 60 years, and the founder of Premier Banks. He noted Mr. Regan has been a strong supporter of North St. Paul and has made tremendous contributions to the City.

Mr. Regan stated he and his wife Jeanne were members of the community for many years. He added he is proud of the City's leadership and the positive changes that will be happening with more new development projects than in the past 75 years. He noted he believes a new name should be chosen for the City that would encourage new residents, such as Silver Lake. He thanked the City Council for the great honor in receiving this award.

Mayor Furlong called a recess from 6:49 – 6:56 p.m.

B. New Fire Department Lieutenants: Jordan Wardell and Lamarr Stringer

City Manager Scott Duddeck introduced Interim Fire Chief Jason Mallinger and asked him to address the City Council.

Fire Chief Mallinger presented new Fire Department Lieutenants Jordan Wardell and Lamarr Stringer, promoted on May 1, 2019. He added both men have the leadership skills, training, commitment and dedication required for the position. He noted the firefighters' badges will be pinned by family members at tonight's meeting, a new Fire Department tradition. The lapel pins will be pinned by Mallinger and Deputy Chief Dustin Kalis.

Fire Chief Mallinger stated Lieutenant Lamar Stringer has worked at HealthPartners for 12 years, most recently as an Enrollment Representative. He added Lieutenant Stringer and his family moved to North St. Paul and have become a part of the community. He noted Lieutenant Stringer will be pinned by his mother and father Charles and Rita Stringer. Other family members in attendance were brothers Marcel and Dion, sons Anthony and L.J., girlfriend Kaitlyn, and godparents Bruce and Lizzy.

Fire Chief Mallinger stated Jordan Wardell has worked at Hennepin County Emergency Medical Services for 11 years. He added he is a paramedic, and currently serves as a Battalion Chief, and has had served 13 years of paid on-call service to the Fire Department. He noted Jordan is honored to give back to the community he grew up in. Lieutenant Wardell will be pinned by his wife Jamie. Family members in attendance are his dad, Bill Wardell, and parents-in-law, Jim and Stephanie Jensen.

Fire Chief Mallinger welcomed Jordan and Lamarr to the Officer Corps of the North St. Paul Fire Department. He added he looks forward to working with both men in the future.

Mr. Duddeck stated he left his position of Fire Department Chief to enter his new role as City Manager. He added it is exciting to welcome and honor the new Lieutenants who have experienced growth and stepped up to meet the challenges of this new opportunity.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Walczak requested that Consent Agenda Item F be removed and added to the Regular Agenda under City Business.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2019-050 consisting of:

- A. May 7, 2019 workshop meeting minutes
- B. May 7, 2019 regular meeting minutes
- C. General accounts payable: \$1,126,327.47
- D. HRA accounts payable: \$41,207.39
- E. Be Active! Be Green! Recycling Program Application to Ramsey County. **Resolution No. 2019-051**
- F. ~~MnDOT Cooperative Landscaping Agreement~~ - **Moved to City Business**
- G. Appointment of alternate member to the Police Civil Service Commission. **Resolution No. 2019-053**
- H. Declaration of Police Department surplus equipment to be retired for public auction- 2009 Ford Crown Victoria black and white squad car. **Resolution No. 2019-054**
- I. Declaration of Police Department surplus equipment to be retired for public auction- 2004 Harley-Davidson motorcycle. **Resolution No. 2019-055**
- J. Application for a Charitable Gambling Permit to conduct lawful gambling in the form of Raffles by The Sons of The American Legion, Post #39 on July 21, 2019. **Resolution No. 2019-056**
- K. Application from Maplewood Moose Lodge #963 for a Charitable Gambling Permit to conduct off-site lawful gambling at Sidewinder's, 2573 7th Avenue, North St. Paul. **Resolution No. 2019-057**
- L. Public Works Employees, Teamsters Local 320, approval of labor contract. **Resolution No. 2019-058**
- M. Police Sergeants, LELS Local 298, approval of labor contract. **Resolution No. 2019-059**
- N. Non-union employee COLA and Wage Adjustment. **Resolution No. 2019-060**
- O. City Council Retreat, June 11, 2019 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Bob Zick expressed his opposition to the handling of the recent School Board Referendum. He added the election was held on a Tuesday which manipulates voters. He noted the referendum puts pressure on families who are financially drained.

Mr. Zick stated he agrees with the comments of Don Regan regarding renaming the City. He suggested "Black Bear Woods". He added the City could have an ordinance preventing the killing of bear cubs by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR).

Mr. Zick stated the City's utility bill late fee should be changed to a percentage of the total bill rather than a flat fee of \$10. He added Excel Energy uses this format, and the City should be consistent with that practice. He asked the City Council to include this in their discussion regarding City fee rates.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Agreement for professional services with Rainbow Tree Company for the treatment of Emerald Ash Borer

Mr. Duddeck stated the proposed contract with Rainbow Tree Company does not include widespread treatment of ash trees. He added the City Forrester would determine treatment of individual trees. He noted the proposed contract will be a benefit for the City's residents, as it provides contract services at a discount rate for treatment of trees on private property.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether the City Forrester will make all treatment determinations. Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker stated the health of the tree must be determined, and the City Forrester has that knowledge. He added the decisions will include factors such as tree value, canopy retention and area landscape.

Council Member Sonnek asked how tree value is measured. He added he knows this contract offers a temporary solution and the City will continue its emerald ash borer policy. He asked what the budget will be, and whether a maximum funding will be placed on treatment costs.

Mr. Duddeck stated the process has been discussed by City Staff in great detail. He added the Rainbow Tree Company contract would be a resource for residents to take advantage of discount pricing, but they are not bound to use the contract. He noted the treatment plan allows the City to buy some time to review the situation in greater detail.

Mr. Fleischhacker stated the proposed agreement with Rainbow Tree Company gives residents the opportunity to treat boulevard trees themselves at a reduced cost.

Council Member Walczak stated the City's policy for many years has been that trees will not be treated. She expressed concern about how the proposed agreement will be perceived by residents. She asked how high-value trees are determined. She noted the canopy on Margaret Street is almost entirely ash trees, and very few of them are high-quality trees.

Mr. Fleischhacker stated the City Forrester rates trees on quality, size, age and other factors. He added the City's policy states that trees may be treated in the interests of canopy retention, and to delay the onset of emerald ash borer.

Council Member Walczak asked whether the City could remove and replace trees at intervals rather than spending money on treatment of diseased trees. She asked whether there is a cost estimate for treating diseased trees, as this could become a budgetary matter. She expressed concern that the agreement goes against City policy. She asked why the City is pursuing this policy, and whether the City Forrester has the authority to decide which trees will be treated.

Council Member Thorsen stated he views the proposed agreement with Rainbow Tree Company as another tool that will allow City residents to treat boulevard trees themselves. He added the issue of what is a high-value tree is not what this is about, but rather giving homeowners the freedom and ownership to treat trees rather than have them removed. He noted he does not believe the proposed agreement is a departure from City policy, as the City will continue to remove trees when road construction and utilities projects occur.

Council Member Petersen stated the proposed agreement provides an option for residents at no cost to the City, so it is a win/win situation.

Mayor Furlong agreed, adding that treating trees will buy more time to deal with emerald ash borer infestation.

Mr. Fleischhacker stated there could be substantial decline in the health of the City's ash trees. He added having this agreement in place will help the City retain trees. He noted trees are easier to remove when they are green.

Council Member Sonnek stated the agreement with Rainbow will allow the City to control the budget and spread the cost rather than replacing the trees all at once.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with Council Members Petersen, Thorsen, Sonnek and Mayor Furlong voting aye, Council Member Walczak voting nay (4-1), motion carried to authorize execution of an Agreement with Rainbow Tree Company for treatment of emerald ash borer.

B. MnDOT Landscape Agreement

Council Member Walczak requested clarification regarding the Landscape Agreement with MnDOT. She asked whether the agreement pertains to the two planters as previously discussed. Mr. Duddeck confirmed that the agreement is specifically related to elevated planters, as well as special bedding materials and plantings for the elevated planters.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to Approve Minnesota Department of Transportation and City of North St. Paul Cooperative Landscape Agreement and Resolution No. 2019-052 to Add Landscaping to Highway 36.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated Excel Energy construction has begun, and City Staff are working with Excel on detours and traffic mitigation, including installation of “local traffic only” signage.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the asphalt sidewalks would be replaced with concrete. Mr. Duddeck confirmed this.

Mayor Furlong asked how long the project will affect local traffic, including congestion on Century Avenue. Mr. Fleischhacker stated the Century Avenue project will be completed concurrently with the south area, which is a very significant project with detours and traffic control changes.

Mr. Duddeck stated information on the projects is available through a link to the Excel website on the City website. He added the Excel link has an option to subscribe for daily notifications.

Mr. Duddeck stated there were two water main breaks in the City that day – at Park Row between 19th Avenue and 20th Avenue, and Holloway Lane between Betty Jane Court and Parkway Drive.

Mr. Duddeck stated maintenance overlays are planned for Spirit Drive and 17th Avenue, to include patching existing potholes, edge mill along the curb and overlay of the entire street.

Mr. Duddeck stated the seal coat and crack fill maintenance project in the City Hall parking lot will begin as soon as possible.

Mr. Duddeck stated the first Car Show of the season will be held Friday, June 7, 2019. He added City Staff are planning the Annual Public Safety Open House that same evening at City Hall.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Petersen stated the Ramsey County League of Local Government will be hosting a Spring Fling on May 30, 2019 at Bent Distillery, 1744 Terrace Drive, Roseville.

Council Member Petersen stated the Park and Recreation Commission will meet on May 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. She added this is their last meeting at City Hall for the summer, as they will be on the road in June.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended the Scholarship Awards Nights at both Tartan High School and North High School.

Council Member Walczak stated, regarding Parks & Recreation Commission meetings that will be held in the City’s parks, whether notice can be given to more than just residents within 350 feet of the park. She added the neighborhood parks are used by many people who do not receive notice of the meetings.

Mr. Duddeck stated the notification area can be broadened, but that will increase the cost. He added City Staff rely heavily on social media and the City website to get information to interested residents.

Mayor Furlong stated a notification could be added to the City newsletter. Mr. Duddeck agreed.

Council Member Thorsen stated he would support including it in the newsletter but not increasing the mailing, due to budget concerns.

Council Member Thorsen stated the Economic Development Authority (EDA) met on May 14, 2019. He added the EDA is focused on re-engaging with local businesses through retention visits, and a questionnaire is being planned.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen stated she and Mayor Furlong visited the new adult day care business in Polar Plaza. She added it is a great venue, and they have already begun providing services. She noted additional information is available on their website.

Council Member Petersen stated the Citywide Garage sale was a huge success.

Council Member Petersen wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Council Member Petersen stated she plans to attend the 33rd Annual Birthday Party for the Women Candidates Development Coalition of Minneapolis on Thursday, May 21, 2019. She added the event will honor Maplewood resident Nicky Villavicencio, who will receive the Lucy Hahn Political Courage Award.

Council Member Petersen encouraged residents to attend Memorial Day services at local cemeteries.

Council Member Thorsen stressed the importance of updating the Capital Improvement Plan and Parks Improvement Plan.

Mayor Furlong stated the Snowman kiosk was installed last week and is now open. He added a kiosk will be added at Veterans Park in the next few weeks.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, Seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

The City Council's next Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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