

City of North Saint Paul
June 4, 2019
Adopted City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
Council Member Candy Petersen
Council Member Tom Sonnek (arrived at 5:18 p.m.)
Council Member Jan Walczak
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: Interim City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, City Engineer Morgan Dawley.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

City Manager Duddeck requested to add discussion related to 15th Avenue and Spirit Drive to the agenda.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Council Member Sonnek not present for the vote (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as amended.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Trash and Recycling update.

City Manager Duddeck noted that Ramsey County will most likely be increasing its tipping fees for 2020. This will allow the county to remodel its existing building, add sorting equipment, and energy programs. Staff will revisit the CEC charge.

The city would benefit from purchasing its own carts for trash and recycling. The Ramsey County recycling program will fund up to \$100,000.00 towards the recycling bins. The trash hauler would deliver, store and repair all carts, but the city would be the owner. The carts are guaranteed for 10 years. The money saved could be used to pay off the solid waste fund. Manager Duddeck would like to have this request come to the June 18th council meeting.

The current billing layout still needs to be revised. This is a work in progress.

B. Old City Hall Development update

City Manager Duddeck noted that council will vote at the regular meeting to reactivate the Design Review Commission (DRC). The DRC would meet on an as-needed basis on the same date as the Planning Commission. That way if there are items that need review and recommendation by both commissions the applicants only need to reserve one date instead of two. This would shorten the wait time on projects needing council approval.

C. Future Street Projects discussion

City Manager Duddeck and City Engineer Morgan Dawley brought up discussion related to the current and future street projects. Currently the city is on a six year plan (2014-2020). Staff has been tracking the progress of all city streets and certain streets deteriorate at different times. It is time to review the Capital Improvement Plan to determine if the city needs to reprioritize the list. There are areas that are in dire need of work but not scheduled for repair for years. Of note is the 7th Avenue downtown area, as well as Margaret Street from 7th Avenue to South Avenue. Dawley will work with staff to prepare a draft plan to bring to the council for consideration.

There was also discussion about reviewing the assessment policy. Manager Duddeck has spoken to the city attorney who is aware of another city eliminating the assessment policy and using a blanket fee for projects. Interim Finance Director Zimmerman noted that this action could have major impacts on the budget.

D. 15th Avenue and Spirit Drive

A letter will be going out to residents in the area of Spirit Drive and 15th Avenue on June 5th, preparing them for the upcoming street maintenance patching and resurfacing on 15th Avenue from McKnight Road west to Spirit Drive, ending at 17th Avenue.

E. Anchor Block area update

Morgan Dawley shared a letter from Ramsey County that supports the request for roadway improvements to McKnight Road, including additional turn lanes and a traffic signal in the Anchor Block development area. Dawley noted that Ramsey County was great to work with.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Duddeck shared a draft of an invitation for the proposed ground breaking of the house being built for Veterans at 2557 12th Avenue. Although council action has not been taken, the time frame if everything gets approved as planned is very tight. The ceremony can be cancelled, but it is important to get the date out now. Council approval would happen June 18th and the ground breaking would be June 20th.

City Manager Duddeck gave an update on the council chambers and meeting room technology upgrades. The cable commission would fund \$98,000, and the city would need to provide the rest.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:25 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Duddeck, City Manager