

City of North Saint Paul
June 11, 2019
Adopted City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
Council Member Candy Petersen
Council Member Tom Sonnek
Council Member Jan Walczak
Mayor Terry Furlong

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

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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 presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

Set meeting schedule. Mayor Furlong inquired of the council if they would like to have these special work sessions more regularly. All were in consensus that every couple months works well. The next date was set for Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Following that they will occur every other month on the 2nd Tuesday opposite the EDA meeting dates.

Council reviewed the items discussed at the February 4, 2019 session. From those items the following remain active for ongoing and future consideration:

- A. Trash Hauling Plan.
- B. Legislative work for Highway 120 and Silver Lake Trail Connection. Need to keep on top of contacting Senator Wiger and Representative Lillie to bring to the Federal level.
- C. Budget process – to include street light fee discussion. First budget meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. with Finance Director Zimmerman.
- E. Membership in the Cable Commission.
- G. Utility Bill formatting – high priority.
- I. Problem houses in the city – high priority – code enforcement is working in conjunction with police department to create a mini-task force to proactively crack down on problem houses. Looking at utilizing the excessive consumption of services ordinance.
- J. Arts Commission. There was discussion related to possible murals on buildings throughout the downtown and business district.
- K. Chickens and bees. No recent inquiries have been made. This will remain a topic for future discussion.
- M. Property availability for student built housing.

Items not discussed at last session brought forward to this session:

1. Work from home policy. City Manager Duddeck has continuing discussions with the employees currently utilizing this work option.
2. Back drop for council chamber. This is a high priority and some ideas will be looked at.
3. Student Built Program/Property acquisition. This is an on-going priority. If there is no property available the program cannot continue.
4. Incentive for restaurant/coffee shop. The Economic Development Authority will pursue this item.
5. 7th Avenue from 1st Street to McKnight Road Improvement. High priority item. Will be going to WSB and then the City Council for feasibility study authorization.
6. Margaret Street between 7th Avenue and South Avenue. Redevelopment will handle some of the street repairs. Cost is factor.
7. Visual aesthetics of downtown and how to begin improvements, to include parks and all city property.
8. Review status of Public Safety Study (Fitch). Mayor Furlong stated that he looks to staff to use the study as a guideline and lay out recommendations for implementation.
9. Public Safety Director position (vs having a separate PD and FD Chief). Mayor Furlong stated that he looks to staff to use the study as a guideline and lay out recommendations for implementation.
10. Opioid Litigation. Many cities are on board. Council gave general consensus to get information for review.
11. Communication. The question was asked if the city has adequate staff for keeping up with the city's communication needs. It was requested that the website be better kept up to date and be more robust.
12. Communication to young families. This is part of number 11.
13. Communication from the EDA. The EDA agendas and minutes will be placed on the City website.
14. Software/Program updates. There is much more that can be done with technology. Incode is a top priority to either upgrade or replace.
15. Online permits, park rental payments, etc. This goes hand in hand with number 14.
16. Part-time seasonal help vs. contract for services. This concept is in discussion with staff. The focal point now is the cost of training new seasonal workers every year, and the difficulty in getting quality hires.

These items were not discussed and will be brought forward to the August 13th meeting:

17. Handicap parking by the Polar Lounge
18. Crittenden Memorial – parking spot
19. Driveway parking setback policy discussion so that code enforcement can deal with complaints. (this was brought up sometime back for us to discuss and make a decision on to be consistent on all streets since setbacks varied somewhat throughout town)
20. EAC – more of an educational, not policy, driven
21. Get a paved trail Southwood – grant possibility
22. Legislation wish list

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Council Member Thorsen inquired about the status of the trash contract. Council needs time to review it prior to it going to council for formal adoption. City Manager Duddeck indicated that

he is in negotiations with two companies and will have information and comparisons soon.

City Manager Duddeck noted that the water utility budget has major money constraints coming over the next several years. This will need to be a priority budget discussion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 8:15 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Duddeck, City Manager