

City of North Saint Paul
August 20, 2019
Adopted Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong introduced Youth Mayors for the Day James and Ted Unger. He added the youths will serve alongside him as Mayors for the next two days. Mayor Furlong swore in the Youth Mayors. Mayors James and Ted Unger called the meeting to order at 6:31 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, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, City Planner Ryan Krzos, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, Parks Coordinator Keith Stachowski, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

IV. 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 submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

City Manager Scott Duddeck welcomed Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt.

Commissioner Reinhardt gave an update on the work of the Ramsey County Commissioners. She reviewed the upcoming County budget process, including public meetings, a parks workshop, and two scheduled public hearings: August 29, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse in St. Paul; and November 25, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at Maplewood Library. She noted public input and information is always welcome, and helps the Commissioners make informed decisions.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated Ramsey County residents can provide feedback and comments on the County website under www.opendata.ramseycounty.us. She added all input received on the website will be reviewed by all the Commissioners. She noted residents can also email, call or write the Commissioners, and her direct number is 651-266-8363.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated the County has decided to eliminate the environmental hauler rebate, which will be reflected in a lower County environmental charge. She added the County provides businesses with environmental educational materials for their employees as well as signage and bins to help transition to sustainability.

Commissioner Reinhardt stated the Board of Commissioners is committed to addressing inequities in services for Ramsey County residents. She requested input from the Mayor, City Council and residents of North St. Paul to ensure all residents have equal access to Ramsey County services.

Councilmember Sonnek whether there are indicators that County programs are making a difference in the lives of its residents. Commissioner Reinhardt stated the County has initiated a joint council with the court system to find solutions to juvenile justice issues. She added the Commissioners hope to address the issue of racial disparity in the County's jail inmates. She noted the number of youths in the juvenile detention center was reduced.

Commissioner Reinhardt encouraged the City Council to contact her with any questions or to request additional information.

Mayor Furlong thanked Commissioner Reinhardt for her presentation.

B. Constitution Week Proclamation – Karrie Blees

Mr. Duddeck introduced Karrie Blees and Pat Swanson, residents of North St. Paul and members of the Daughters of the Revolution, Nathan Hale Chapter.

Ms. Blees read a Proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2019 as Constitution Week.

C. Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Duddeck introduced Grayson Retzloff, a 17-year old resident from Boy Scout Troop #946 based at Presentation Church in Maplewood.

Grayson Retzloff thanked the City Council for considering his request for his Eagle Scout project. He added he lives in North St. Paul, and when he was deciding on his project, he wanted to give something back to his home community. He noted, for his project, he would like to build 2 benches to be placed along the path by Franklin Pond.

Grayson stated the proposed benches would give senior citizens a place to rest when they are walking near the pond. He added Public Works staff have indicated the City might be able to provide some funding for the project. He noted there is also a possibility that he can get funding from his Boy Scout Troop.

Grayson presented a draft design for the benches. He added they would not be anchored to the ground so they would be removable for shoveling and snow removal. He noted stationary benches would be difficult.

Keith Stachowski, Parks Coordinator, stated Grayson's proposed benches would be a nice addition for residents who walk on the path year-round, including students and senior citizens.

Grayson stated he could possibly get funding from his troop organization, but any City funding would be greatly appreciated.

Grayson stated the Eagle Scout project must be completed by the time he turns 18 in 6 months. He added he hopes to complete the benches this fall.

Mr. Stachowski stated this proposal is part of Grayson's bigger project involving planters at Polar Ridge. He added Grayson hoped to obtain City Council approval for the benches first.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Grayson Retzlaff's Eagle Scout project for construction of park benches to be located at Franklin Pond, and to approve funding up to \$300 for the project to be allocated from the Park Fund.

Council Member Walczak asked whether the Public Works Department would be involved in the construction and placement of the benches. Mr. Stachowski confirmed this, adding Public Works staff will determine the most efficient and safe way to remove snow.

Mayor Furlong asked whether there will be a plaque on the benches. Grayson stated a plaque might be added on the backs of the benches.

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated, for purposes of clarification, Grayson is building the benches for the City, and the City is not making a donation to an organization. He added the money that is being allocated to Grayson will be used to buy supplies for building the benches.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Duddeck requested that Consent Agenda Item N be pulled for discussion.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with Mayor Furlong abstaining from Items I and L, with the rest of the City Council voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution No. 2019-101 consisting of:

- A. July 16, 2019 workshop meeting minutes.
- B. July 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
- C. July 30, 2019 special council meeting minutes.
- D. General accounts payable: \$4,117,054.34.
- E. HRA accounts payable: \$36,492.74.
- F. Schedule additional budget workshops for September 4th and September 11th at 5:00 p.m.
- G. Special Event Permit for the 2019 Church of St. Peter Fall Festival, Saturday and Sunday, September 21, 2019, 4:00 p.m. to September 22, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. **Resolution No. 2019-102.**
- H. Special Event Permit from Neumann's Bar and Grill to hold the Nuemann's Fest on Saturday September 14, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. **Resolution No. 2019-103.**
- I. Special Event Permit for the Silver Lake Improvement Association's Wine Tasting at Silver Lake, Friday, October 11, 2019. **Resolution No. 2019-104.**

- J. Application for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License AND an Application for a Charitable Gambling for Exempt Permit for the Church of St. Peter, North St. Paul. Saturday, September 21 and Sunday September 22, 2019. **Resolution No. 2019-105.**
- K. Application/Request from Neumann's Bar & Grill, North St. Paul, for a temporary extension of their on-sale liquor license to include a portion of their paved parking area. Saturday, September 14, 2019. **Resolution No. 2019-106.**
- L. Application for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Silver Lake Improvement Association, North St. Paul, for Wine Tasting to be held Friday, October 11, 2019. **Resolution No. 2019-107.**
- M. Application for a Charitable Gambling Permit to conduct Excluded Bingo by the Knights of Columbus Council #4967 for an event on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at the Church of St. Peter, North St. Paul. **Resolution No. 2019-108.**
- N. Authorize ad for bid for the Anchor Block North Site Grading Improvement Project. (City Project Number) CPN 19-01. **Moved to Item IX.D**

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl stated he supports eliminating bulk pick-up because of misuse of the program. He reviewed the notice he received with trash hauler fees, which includes a Ramsey County CEC charge in fine print at the very bottom. He requested that residents be made aware of the actual rates including taxes and charges. He noted he is unable to read the small print.

Mr. Duddeck stated the fees list was consolidated to fit onto a 1-page mailer and the font is smaller.

Mr. Schmahl stated the descriptions, fees and charges should all be the same front and boldness as the price so there are no surprises.

Mr. Schmahl stated the Minnesota Solid Waste Management Tax is listed on the mailer as a "sales tax", which it is not. He added State Statute requires that the solid waste management tax is included on the bill.

Council Member Thorsen stated City Staff has worked diligently to get the list of fees updated and made available so every item that is subject to sales tax is noted, and all rates are listed separately. He added it is a formatting issue, to fit all the information on one sheet of paper and save costs. Mr. Duddeck agreed, adding it is a 12-point font which is widely used and easily readable.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Approval of Construction Pay Voucher No. 3 and Final for Geislinger & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$57,509.40 for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Improvements.

City Engineer Morgan Dawley stated City Council authorization is required for Construction Pay Voucher #3, the final pay voucher for the 2016 Lift Station Improvement project. He added the

project has been complete for a few years, but there was a delay on the part of the contractor in providing the necessary paperwork.

Mr. Dawley stated City Staff recommends City Council acceptance of the final contract close-out.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-109 to approve Construction Pay Voucher No. 3 and Final for Geislinger & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$57,509.40 for the 2016 Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Improvements.

B. Application for a Minor Subdivision – Debra Fairbanks, located at 2060 Margaret Street N.

Ryan Krzos, WSB, stated he is filling in for Erin Perdu, who is on vacation. Mr. Krzos reviewed an application for a minor 2-lot subdivision from applicant Debra Fairbanks regarding her property at 2060 Margaret Street. The 1-acre parcel is zoned R-1 single family residential, and there is one single-family dwelling on the lot. The proposed division would create a new development site. The proposed lots exceed lot size requirements and are consistent with the R-1 designation for the site. Access to the new development site would be from Belmont Lane.

Mr. Krzos stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of this request at their August 1, 2019 meeting, and City Staff recommends approval.

Council Member Sonnek stated he attended the Planning Commission meeting at which this application was discussed. He added the driveway access to Belmont Lane would cut across the front yard of an adjacent property, within the right of way. The neighbor did not attend the public hearing or meetings, and this issue was reviewed by the Planning Commission twice.

Council Member Sonnek stated the applicant has been assessed for Belmont Lane street reconstruction and therefore has a right to access from Belmont Lane. He added he supports this request.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-110 approving an Application for a Minor Subdivision located at 2060 Margaret Street N. as recommended by the Planning Commission.

C. Application for a Conditional Use Permit amendment for Blia Adult Day Care, located at 2090 11th Avenue E.

Mr. Krzos reviewed a request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment to expand an adult day care originally approved by the City Council in March 2019. The applicant, Blia Adult Day Care, hopes to expand into portions of adjacent tenant spaces to provide expanded recreational facilities.

Mr. Krzos stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of this request at their August 1, 2019 meeting.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-111 to approve the Conditional Use Permit Amendment for Blia Adult Day Care, 2090 11th Avenue E. as recommended by the Planning Commission.

D. Authorize ad for bid for the Anchor Block Commons Site Grading Project. (City Project Number) CPN 19-01.

Mr. Dawley reviewed a motion from the Consent Agenda authorizing advertisement for bids for the Anchor Block site. He added this would include grading and site preparation so work can begin on the site in 2019.

City Attorney Mattick clarified that this action will not authorize award of contract.

Mayor Furlong asked whether recent rainfall is having an effect on the project. Mr. Dawley stated there could be a delay, but the project timeline is still planned based on normal weather patterns.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to Authorize ad for bid for the Anchor Block Commons Site Grading Project (City Project Number) CPN 19-01.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated the new trash hauler contract will go into effect on September 1, 2019, with the first date of service on September 4, 2019 due to the Labor Day holiday. He added new containers are being delivered to homes in North St. Paul, and additional information is available on the City website, in a direct mailer, on Facebook, and on a flyer that will come with each container.

Mr. Duddeck reminded residents to use their current container until the August 27, 2019 pick-up, and leave their container curbside where they will be picked up. He added residents can begin using their new containers on September 4, 2019.

Mr. Duddeck expressed appreciation of the use of the southeast parking lot at Target as a staging area for delivery of containers.

Mr. Duddeck stated, with regard to street projects, the Silver Lake Area street project been ongoing, and residents are frustrated. He added the end of the project will be the reclamation of 19th Avenue from Helen Street N to 120, which will be happening this weekend. He noted the next phase will be completed this fall.

Mr. Duddeck stated residents' access to their United States Postal Service (USPS) mailboxes has been an ongoing problem in the project area. He added mailboxes have been relocated to 18th Avenue to a well-lit area with security camera monitoring. He noted there has been discussion regarding the use of secure mailboxes, and resident input is requested on this option, which is highly recommended by the USPS.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Excel Energy gas main replacement project continues, and Public Works crews are working daily with Excel crews. He added Excel has been very responsive in working with the City to complete repairs.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Council Chambers' cable equipment will be upgraded to high-definition capability after Labor Day. He added the process will take two weeks, and at least one meeting will be televised using portable equipment.

Mr. Duddeck stated he plans to attend a meeting regarding the Anchor Block development with Mr. Dawley the next day.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission continues to meet twice a month, 1st and 3rd Thursday, at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Council Member Sonnek stated the most recent Planning Commission meeting included a public hearing regarding a potential townhome development on 17th Avenue and Delaware Avenue. He added there was a large turn-out and many residents spoke against the proposed development and expressed concern about issues that are misconceptions. He noted, for example, residents expressed frustration that by the time a decision is reviewed by the Planning Commission or City Council, it is a formality and a decision has already been made. He stressed that this is not the case.

Council Member Sonnek stated most of the residents were not supportive of the proposed project. He added he understands the difficulty inherent in a big change, but many of the reasons were based on misconceptions.

Council Member Sonnek stated the next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Council Member Peterson recently attended her first two meetings as a Board Member of the League of Minnesota Cities. She added the Board is involved with 853 different cities and has a budget of \$11.5 million. She noted she is enjoying her time on the League Board.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended a Metro Cities Revenue Policy Review meeting earlier that day, at which the issues of homelessness, implied consent, economic policy and the gas tax were discussed. She added the meeting was attended by a representative from Governor Walz's office.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended a Metropolitan Council meeting, at which she spoke with Susan Vento, the new Commissioner for District 11. She added Ms. Vento expressed an interest in coming to a North St. Paul City Council work session or meeting to address the City Council.

Ms. Petersen stated the Summer Splash event did very well this year, making approximately \$8,000 for the summer lifeguards.

Mayor Furlong asked Mr. Dawley to provide an update on the ongoing street reconstruction projects.

Mr. Dawley stated two neighborhood Open Houses are planned to review 2020 potential project areas. Both Open Houses will be held from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at City Hall. The first Open House is scheduled for August 21, 2019 to discuss 7th Avenue from 1st Street to 3rd Street, for which a feasibility report was authorized by the City Council early in 2019. He noted the second Open House is planned for August 28, 2019 to review a potential project in the Casey Lake neighborhood and determine whether to move forward.

Mr. Dawley stated the recent large amount of rain has had some effect on project timelines. Pavement management projects initiated in 2018 on Helen Street N from 17th Avenue E to 12th Avenue E/Castle Avenue E were completed. He added roadway improvements near North High School were completed by August 15, 2019 which was the City's goal.

Mr. Dawley stated the Silver Lake Area reconstruction project was originally intended to be a 1-year project, with contracts for underground utilities and streets reconstruction. He added valuable community engagement resulted in renovation of sidewalks and the addition of trees, which facilitated a 2-year time frame. He noted the length of this project has been difficult for residents.

Mr. Dawley stated the Swan Avenue/Poplar Avenue loop in the Silver Lake project area is the narrowest roadway in North St. Paul, and road construction has been problematic and frustrating for residents. He encouraged residents to use the construction hotline to contact Jason Keyser, the contractor representative. He added Mr. Keyser is always available to answer questions and provide support for residents.

Mr. Dawley stated City Staff is working on an enhanced communication email update that will provide more detailed information for concerned residents. He added that will hopefully be coming out this week.

Mr. Dawley stated curb and gutter in the Phase 1 project area will be completed on schedule, by the end of next week, and Phase 2, reclaiming pavement, will begin by August 19, 2019. He added potential paving in Phase 1 areas will begin mid-September. He noted the City has indicated that October 2019 is the substantial completion date for all areas and the contractor appears to be within that time frame.

Mr. Dawley stated residents will be able to use their driveways by the end of the week. He added it is important to wait until the cement on the driveways is cured. He encouraged residents to have patience and requested the City Council's support for the contractor and their workers.

Mayor Furlong thanked Mr. Dawley for the update.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen thanked all the National Night Out party hosts in North St. Paul. She wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Sonnek, Seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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