

**City of North Saint Paul
October 1, 2019
Adopted Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Walczak 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 Sonnek
Acting Mayor Walczak

Absent: Mayor Furlong

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

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2019-128 consisting of:

- A. September 17, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
- B. General accounts payable: \$393,448.85.
- C. HRA accounts payable: \$2,035.23.
- D. Agreement between the City of Saint Paul and the City of North St. Paul to continue receiving federal grant-funded enhanced traffic enforcement. Resolution No. 2019-129.
- E. Application for a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License AND an Application for a Charitable Gambling for Exempt Permit for the North Star Scouting Memorabilia, Inc., North St. Paul. Event to be held Saturday, November 16, 2019. Resolution No. 2019-130.

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

There were no comments.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Receive Feasibility Report for 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project SAD 20-01/Set Public Improvement Hearing/Set Assessment Hearing for November 5th at 4pm.

City Engineer Morgan Dawley reviewed this agenda item related to public improvements for two areas: 7th Avenue E between 1st and 3rd Streets N, and the Casey Lake area. He added City Staff is recommending moving forward with the 7th Avenue project, but not the Casey Lake project, primarily for financial reasons.

Mr. Dawley requested the City Council's consideration of the feasibility report, set public hearings for public improvements and special assessments for the City Council's first meeting in November 2019, which will be held at 4:00 p.m. that day.

Mr. Dawley stated the project includes improvements to the alley between 2nd and 3rd Streets, complete replacement of water main and manhole covers, and improvements to stormwater capacity and aging infrastructure, and bringing the system up to date to improve drainage issues. Gaps in the trail and sidewalk connection to the park will be improved. Compliance with Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District regulations will be required.

Council Member Sonnek requested clarification regarding necessary stormwater improvements. Mr. Dawley stated additional stormwater capacity is required for Shawnee Drive from McKnight Road to the park, as well as some side streets. He added the neighborhood was identified as having flooding problems, and localized draining issues would be addressed.

Mr. Dawley stated the Intersection of South Avenue E, 7th Avenue E and 3rd Street N is proposed for a future intersection improvement, and a potential roundabout concept is being considered. He added this concept, which includes two small roundabouts and has a smaller footprint than one large roundabout, is considered appropriate by Ramsey County. The roundabout concept and construction will be considered further in 2020, for potential construction in 2023 or later.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether there is an example of a dual roundabout. Mr. Dawley agreed to provide examples of dual roundabouts. He added it would be unique in Ramsey County as well as the City of St. Paul.

Acting Mayor Walczak asked whether the parking lane would end before the roundabout. Mr. Dawley confirmed this, adding striping will be important for helping drivers navigate the roundabout, and it will be necessary to remove on-street parking from that location. He added sidewalk and pedestrian access improvements with a center island refuge are a benefit to roundabouts.

Mr. Dawley stated overall project cost of approximately \$9.2 million is based on increased road construction costs, as well as the Watershed District requirements that need to be met. The streets and sidewalks portion of the project will likely be eligible for Municipal State Aid funding.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the project costs would change if the special assessment policy were to be changed. Mr. Dawley confirmed this.

Deputy Clerk Mary Mills stated the public improvement and assessments hearing will be held at the City Council's November 5, 2019 meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Dawley stated, regarding assessments, single-family homes are levied over a 15-year period. Information regarding deferment options is available at City Hall, and applications must be received by December 5, 2019.

Mr. Dawley stated City Staff recommends City Council approval of three Resolutions related to the 7th Avenue reconstruction project: receive feasibility report; set public hearing; and order preparation of assessment roll and set assessment hearing.

Acting Mayor Walczak asked why the project area does not extend to 4th Street intersection, or approximately 200 additional feet. Mr. Dawley stated the project includes improvements to certain cross streets to connect drainage, and additional footage on 7th Avenue was outside of the scope of the project. He added the logical stopping point is where the storm sewer will be connected.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-131 authorizing receiving the City Engineer's Feasibility Study ordering preparation of plans and specifications and calling for a Public Hearing on the 2020 Street Reconstruction Project.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-132 declaring costs to be assessed and ordering preparation for proposed assessments for 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-133 calling for and ratifying assessment hearing for the 2020 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

City Attorney Conklin requested an amendment to the motion clarifying payment dates.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to approve an amendment to Resolution No. 2019-133 that assessment payments will be allowed from November 6, 2019 – October 31, 2020.

B. Purchase of 2242 1st Street

City Manager Scott Duddeck reviewed the potential location of a stormwater treatment and flood mitigation area, proposed to be located at property at 2242 1st Street. He added a Purchase Agreement for \$165,000 has been included in the meeting packet for the City Council's review and consideration, with a closing date of October 14, 2019.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether it will be a dry retention pond area. Mr. Dawley stated the exact design and function of the stormwater treatment area have not been determined. He added survey work and borings will be required, although engineers have evaluated the site and determined that it is a good location to facilitate water drainage improvements.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-134 approving Acquisition of Real Property at 2242 1st Street N.

C. Anchor North Commission Sales Agreements

Mr. Duddeck stated sales agreements are for two commercial properties on the Anchor Block north site. He added a 5% brokerage fee is included for each property, and City Staff recommends approval of the agreements.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve Sales Agreements for Two Commercial Properties on the Anchor Block North Site.

D. Cable Commission Termination Letter/Cable Franchise Agreement with Comcast

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff is requesting City Council approval of notice to be given to the Cable Commission regarding the City's removal from the Joint Powers Agreement, as discussed at a recent Work Session. Notice must be received by the Cable Commission by October 14, 2019, although membership would not be terminated until December 31, 2019.

Council Member Petersen stated she has been involved with the Commission for the past 8 years. She added she will support the resolution.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-135 Approving Withdrawal from the Cable Commission Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Duddeck requested the City Council's consideration or tabling of an Ordinance granting cable tv franchise to Comcast. He added this issue can be reviewed at an upcoming City Council Work Session.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to table consideration of Cable TV Franchise Agreement to no later than the City Council's first meeting in December 2019.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated Lillie Newspapers have ceased operations effective September 30, 2019. He added a new official City newspaper must be named for purposes of notification. He noted City Staff are recommending the Star Tribune based on circulation and cost per line.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-136 approving the Minneapolis Star Tribune as the legal newspaper for the City of North St. Paul.

Mr. Duddeck stated construction at the Anchor Block north site has been delayed due to weather. He added contractors are ready to begin construction.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Fire Department Booya will be held Sunday October 6, 2019.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission's next meeting is scheduled for October 3, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. He added the Commission will be discussing a parking ordinance amendment as well as a revised proposal for a townhome development at 17th Avenue E and Delaware Avenue that has been discussed at the last few Planning Commission meetings.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended the League of Minnesota Cities retreat in Duluth recently, which was a good opportunity to get to know the other Board Members.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended final policy meetings with Metro Cities and the League of Minnesota Cities, at which Local Government Aid (LGA) and fiscal disparities were discussed, as well as the gas tax, which could happen next year.

Council Member Petersen stated the Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring "Trick and Treat Trail at Casey Lake Park on October 26, 2019.

Council Member Petersen stated a possible Dog Park near the McKnight Tennis Courts was discussed but is not considered sustainable. She added the Commission will continue to review this issue.

Council Member Petersen stated the Design Review Committee will meet on October 3, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., before the Planning Commission meeting. The Committee will be reviewing award nominees for home and commercial improvements.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen stated she recently saw the former Mayor at City Hall. She thanked Acting Mayor Walczak for doing a great job tonight.

Acting Mayor Walczak stated the Inaugural Veterans Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day is planned for Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. Special guests include Governor Tim Walz, local veterans and veterans' suicide prevention advocates.

The City Council's next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

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 Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Mayor Furlong absent (4-0), Acting Mayor Walczak adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

/s/ Jan Walczak, Acting Mayor

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