City of North Saint Paul
February 4, 2020
Adopted Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

North High School Auditorium
2416 11th Avenue

Members of the Jr. ROTC posted the colors.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 2:30 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, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Dan Fisher, Co-Chair of the Veteran's Memorial Park Committee

Presentation Veterans Park Committee

Dan Fisher, Veteran's Park Committee Co-Chair, presented an annual review of the North St. Paul Veteran's Park, for which planning began 10 years ago in the North St. Paul High School ROTC room. He added Veteran's Park is nearing its 5th year.

Mr. Fisher recognized Veteran's Park Committee members: Laurie Koehnle, North St. Paul Communications Director; Angela Strong, Events Coordinator; Mayor Furlong, City Council Liaison; Sandy Furlong, Treasurer; City Manager Scott Duddeck; Carl Hurtgen; Don Schroeder; Pat Swanson; Kerry Blees; Bruce Fabio, WebWolf Communications Director; the newest Board member, Jerry Kunze, who is an Iraqi War Veteran; Archie Vickerman representing the

American Legion; Brian Buesgens, U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant; David Wilkinson, U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant; and members of the Air Force ROTC Cadets, who maintain the park flags and serve during ceremonies.

Mr. Fisher recognized former Committee members, including Joe Zakruske, Tom Trost, Bill Crother, and Morgan Dawley, WSB.

Mr. Fisher stated 1300 pavers have been sold to support funding for Veterans Park, including events, interactive signage, installation of pavers, installation of new light poles, and a POW-MIA walk, to be planned and organized by Ms. Strong. A Veteran's Day memorial celebration was held on November 11, 2019, despite freezing temperatures.

Mr. Fisher stated Veterans Park planning for 2020 includes installation of 50 pavers, and the design and creation of a mobile podium. He added a permanent shelter is being considered for construction in the Park that would allow events to take place under shelter during bad weather conditions. He noted the Veterans Park will celebrate its 5th anniversary on August 15, 2020, and commemorative events are being planned.

Mr. Fisher stated the City received a development application from Minnesotans Concerned for Veterans and their building associate, Housing for Heroes, for a single-family home to be built on former EDA-owned property near Veterans Park. He added the home would be available to be rented by veterans and their families on a temporary basis up to 1 year.

Mr. Fisher stated the POW MIA remembrance walk will be held in September 2020, and the annual Veteran's Day ceremony will be held on November 11, 2020.

Mr. Fisher stated 2020 will be a busy and exciting year for local veteran's organizations, supporting the service and sacrifice of veterans through new pavers and amenities at Veterans Park, as well as potential development of a Home for Heroes near the park.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Furlong requested that Item E, Street and Utility Improvement Project, be pulled from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda as Item F, under City Business Items.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, <u>Resolution No. 2020-020</u> consisting of:

A. January 21, 2020 workshop meeting minutes.
B. January 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes.
C. General accounts payable: $680,921.71.
D. HRA accounts payable: $15,160.42.
~~E. 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project (Bid Package No. 1), City Project No. S.A.D. 18-01, Final Project Payment.~~ (Moved to City Business).

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl stated there has been a lack of activity around the wind generator, which has not been in operation in a long time. He asked whether City Staff has information on the wind generator.

City Manager Duddeck stated the blades were recently refurbished on the unit. He added other than that he is unsure the wind generator would not be back in operation. He agreed to follow up with the City's Electric Director.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Appointment of Sue Springborn to the Parks & Recreation Commission

Mr. Duddeck stated resident Sue Springborn has been nominated for appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission. He added Ms. Springborn is a lifelong resident of North St. Paul, and she has served the City in numerous commissions over the years.

Mayor Furlong welcomed Ms. Springborn and invited her to address the City Council.

Ms. Springborn stated she has lived in the City of North St. Paul for 73 years and graduated from North High school in 1963. She expressed the importance of getting involved and participating in local government. She encouraged young people to become a part of the political process at the local level.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-021 approving the appointment of Sue Springborn to the Parks & Recreation Commission, to complete the vacant term expiring on December 31, 2021.

B. Fire Relief Association Pension Amendment

Mr. Duddeck stated the Fire Relief Association's pension was adjusted in 2019 from $5,200 to $5,700, which went into effect on January 1, 2020. He added an error was noted after the forms were filed with the State of Minnesota, disallowing the increase as it is outside the maximum allowable lump sum. He requested the City Council's approval of reverting to the previous amount of $5,200.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-022 reverting the Firefighter Pension from $5,700 to $5,200.

Council Member Sonnek required clarification regarding the pension reduction. Mr. Duddeck stated the pension limit is set by State statute, and an accounting error resulted in an increase that was not correct. He added the fund performance was raised to $5,200 in 2016, and the fund balance supported that amount, so the City can revert to pension amount of $5,200.

C. 2557 12th Avenue Donation Agreement by the City to Housing First Minnesota Foundation

Mr. Duddeck stated a home for veterans and their families is proposed to be built across from Veteran's Park. He added issues related to the title have been resolved and City Council approval is required to give the City Manager the authority to work with the City Attorney to transfer property from the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to the Builder's Association (BATC).

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with the BATC as approved by the City Attorney.

Council Member Walczak asked whether the previous house design will still be used. Mr. Duddeck stated the design will not change, as building plans and permits have already been completed and approved. He agreed to provide the final plans for the City Council's review.

Mr. Duddeck stated the veteran's home is planned for construction in the spring, to be completed in August with a ribbon cutting that will coincide with the 5-year anniversary celebration for Veteran's Park in November 2020.

D. January 30, 2020 RWSCC Meeting Update by Cable Commissioner Terre Heiser

Terre Heiser, Cable Commissioner, reviewed the Ramsey-Washington Suburban Cable Commission's franchise agreement, which is overseen by a Joint Powers Board. He added a franchise agreement is required to allow the cable company to operate within the City right of way. He noted the City Council recently appointed him to be a representative of the City of North St. Paul on the Cable Commission.

Mr. Heiser stated he has many years of experience working with these types of issues with North St. Paul, most recently as an IT Manager with the City of Roseville. He added the Commission approved new air conditioner units and a financial auditing agreement at its last meeting and discussed the Commission's staff report on the response to the RFP that Comcast submitted. He noted, after review, it was determined that the RFP was not adequate to support renewal.

Mr. Heiser stated he requested an extension of the contract approval, to allow him time to get up to speed and fully represent the City of North St. Paul and extend the timeline. He added the Commission voted to request that each City do a preliminary denial of the franchise RFP. He noted this document will be presented for City Council review at a March 2020 meeting.

Council Member Thorsen stated the City of North St. Paul has been a member of the Cable Commission since the early 1980s. He added cable technology has changed, and Comcast's local fees are not consistent with other nearby cities. He noted, in addition, Comcast has indicated that their subscriber base is steadily declining.

Mr. Heiser stated a Cable Commission member asked him what the City of North St. Paul sees as its goal. He added he believes the ultimate goal is to ensure that the PEG fee is examined carefully, to determine why it is 2-3 times higher than other nearby communities.

Mr. Duddeck thanked Mr. Heiser for his report, and for his expertise and support in this effort.

E. <u>One-month Extension Agreement Between and Among the Members of the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission and Comcast of Minnesota to March 31, 2020.</u>

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff will continue to work on the Cable Commission franchise agreement, with the intent of providing a recommendation to the City Council within the next few months. He noted City Staff recommend approval of a 1-month extension of the Franchise Agreement between the Ramsey-Washington Cable Commission and Comcast to March 31, 2020.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve a 1-month extension of the Franchise Agreement between the Ramsey-Washington Cable Commission and Comcast to March 31, 2020.

F. <u>2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project</u> **(Consent Agenda Item E)**

City Engineer Morgan Dawley reviewed the proposed final payment to contractor for the 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project, in and around the Silver Lake area. He added the contractor was responsible for water main installation, sanitary sewer improvements and utilities. He noted agreements with the contractors have been finalized, and City Staff recommends City Council approval of payment.

Mr. Dawley stated the final contract amount was higher than that which was originally approved by the City Council. He added there were no change orders, but contingencies were added based on unexpected weather-related issues, as well as watermain segment breaks that occurred during the project but were not intended to be replaced. He noted the installation of new utilities limits future risk for the City, and the project overage is financed through the City's Water Utility Fund.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt <u>Resolution No. 2020-023</u> authorizing Final Payment for the 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated the City of North St. Paul had a record year for new development in 2019. He added $53 million in new building value was recorded in 2019, which is a City record. He noted it is anticipated that the City will easily exceed that record in 2020.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff and the City Council have been busy with planning and preparation for infrastructure projects, the 2020 street project in the downtown area, and McKnight road construction, as well as the Anchor Block site development.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City purchased a 10-acre parcel known as Anchor Commons, and initiated agreements with three developers for projects on the Anchor Commons site: a 3-story self-storage facility, 126-unit apartment building, and a retail business. He added the development agreements will be reviewed for potential approval at the City Council's March 17, 2020 meeting. He noted the property is being prepared for construction to begin in Spring 2020.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City Council recently approved a new apartment building for the old City Hall site, to be called Uptown Commons. He added City Staff are working on the development agreement, which will be presented to the City Council for approval at the February 18, 2020 meeting.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether there is an update on a potential convenience store/gas station on the Anchor Commons site. Mr. Duddeck confirmed that is a work in progress and an agreement is being sought.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission meets usually once per month on the first Thursday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. He added the meetings are open to the public and encouraged students and residents to attend. He noted the Planning Commission will begin meeting twice a month as development projects continue to keep City Staff and the Commission very busy.

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission's Thursday, February 6, 2020, meeting will include a Planned Unit Development review and public hearing related to rezoning of property at 2242 7th Street from R1 to R2. He added many residents of this neighborhood are opposed to this zoning change and will be in attendance at the meeting. He noted this is a good example of how community members can get involved and make a difference.

Council Member Sonnek stated agendas and meeting materials are available on the North St. Paul City website.

Council Member Petersen stated the Design Review Commission will present Property Awards at the City Council's February 18, 2020 meeting. He added the Property Awards are given to residents or commercial business owners who have significantly improved their homes or properties.

Council Member Petersen stated she plans to attend the upcoming League of Minnesota Cities conference. She added she is a League Board Member. She noted the conference will include a review of local collaboration with other entities, including School Districts.

Council Member Thorsen stated the North St. Paul Business Association's next meeting is Tuesday February 11, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. at the American Legion. He added the meeting will include a presentation from WSB on development projects. He encouraged students to attend the meeting. He noted the Business Association has an annual scholarship program for North St. Paul High School graduating seniors.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Sonnek thanked the Principal and staff at North High School, as well as the City Manager and City Staff, for making this meeting possible. He stated the best part about it is seeing the students who attended the meeting. He urged them to get involved in local government, and vote in the upcoming elections.

Council Member Walczak thanked North High School staff for inviting the City Council and hosting the meeting. She stated it is a great opportunity to share issues and developments within the City. She added she too hopes students will consider getting involved in City government.

Council Member Petersen thanked North High School for hosting the meeting. She added it's great to see all the young faces in the audience. She wished them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Council Member Thorsen thanked the school and its staff. He added he was in the North High School graduating class of 2002. He encouraged students to get involved in local government.

Mayor Furlong stated four City Council Members are former graduates of North High School and are happy and excited to be back. He thanked the school staff and students who attended the meeting, which has been a very rewarding experience.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

City Manager Duddeck encouraged residents to attend the Business Association meeting on February 11, 2020, which will feature a review of development projects within the City of North St. Paul, including the M&I Homes'100-unit townhome development, and 125-unit apartment complex. He added developer representatives will be at the meeting to provide information, answer questions and receive feedback and comments. He noted information will be provided on efforts that will be made to ensure the History Cruzers Car Show is not affected by construction and development during summer 2020.

Mayor Furlong thanked North High School Principal Greg Nelson and teacher Tom Hagel for their support in making this meeting a success. He thanked the students who attended, adding hopefully they will be inspired to get involved in local politics.

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 3:41 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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