

City of North Saint Paul
April 21, 2020
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
Council Member Jan Walczak
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Electric Director Brian Frandle, Police Chief Tom Lauth, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Supervisor Ron Ritchie, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Bonding for the 2020 Street Project and the Downtown Development and Street work.

Finance Director Jason Zimmerman reviewed a report regarding the Pre-Sale Summary for Issuance of Bonds: \$6,555,000 *Taxable General Obligation Tax Increment Revenue Bonds, Series 2020A1* and \$1,980,000 *General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2020B1*. The Council has under consideration the issuance of bonds to finance (i) capital and administrative expenditures within the City's Tax Increment Financing (Redevelopment) District No. 4-8 (the "Series 2020A Bonds") and (ii) waste water, municipal water, and surface water system improvements (the "Series 2020B Bonds"). Zimmerman requested and received preliminary authorization to allow time to prepare documents and bid out for the bonds.

B. Discussion on pro-rating the liquor license due to Covid.

On March 16, 2020, Governor Walz issued executive order 20-04. This order prevents bars, restaurants, and other establishments from serving food and beverages on-site for the time being. The burden on local businesses, especially those with on-sale liquor licenses is immense. The City, through Minn. Stat. §340A.480, subd. 5, has the authority to give pro rata refunds for any time that the business is unable to carry on the licensed business.

On Friday, April 17, 2020 Governor Walz signed a bill that allows restaurants to temporarily sell wine, hard seltzer, cider, and beer with takeout food orders. (SF 4489). The new law went into

effect on April 18, 2020. This new law is a small reprieve from the financial devastation these businesses face because they cannot sell liquor on-sale.

It was recommended the City Council forward to the regular April 21st council meeting for formal consideration a request to authorize refunds on liquor license fees to be pro-rated from March 17, 2020 until the restrictions for on-sale liquor sales are lifted. In addition, these refunds would be in the form of a credit for the 2020-2021 license fees, with an option to make monthly installments rather than one lump sum.

C. Discussion on amending the 3.2 liquor license.

Council discussed the on-going issue of the availability of 3.2 beer. Because of the difficulty in procuring 3.2 beer, holders of the 3.2 license are losing a lot of business. The issue at hand is that the State Statute language has not been changed, and city liquor licensing is mandated by State Statute. A change to the City Ordinance would allow for a lowering of the fee for Sunday Sales licenses that allow for strong beer and wine, rather than just 3.2 beer. There was discussion of lowering the On-sale fee for Sunday sales to allow 3.2 licensees to obtain and sell strong beer. This will be brought to the Council at the May 5th meeting for consideration.

D. Operational Updates.

Operational updates were heard from Tom Lauth, Jason Mallinger, Brian Frandle, Nick Fleischhacker, Ron Ritchie, Jason Zimmerman, and City Manager Duddeck.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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 6:22 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

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