City of North Saint Paul
May 26, 2020
Adopted Additional City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
Council Member Candy Petersen
Council Member Jan Walczak – arrived at 5:26 p.m.
Council Member Tom Sonnek
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, Electric Director Brian Frandle, Police Chief Tom Lauth, Public Works Director Nick Fleischhacker, Public Works Superintendent Ron Ritchie, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, Community and Administrative Services Director Debra Gustafson.

III. TOPIC(S)

A. Policy for Temporary Outdoor Customer Service Areas for bars and restaurants

City Manager Duddeck invited owners of the local bars and restaurants to have discussion relating to implementation of a temporary policy to allow them to utilize public rights-of-way to allow outdoor seating beginning June 1 during the Governor's current order. The City will do what it reasonably can to assist this to happen. Spokesperson for the bar owners was Kelly Jonas of Roddy's. There was discussion about aesthetics, glass versus plastic drink glasses, hours allowed for operation, restrictions on gating and location of tables, use of contiguous areas. The MLBA confirmed that the use of the indoor restrooms was allowed but with strict rules. Council was in consensus on authorizing this and it was referred to the special city council meeting for formal action. Staff will work with each of the bar owners on their submitted plans and requirements of the policy.

B. Food Truck Discussion

City Manager Duddeck stated that with all the events cancelled throughout the State he has been contacted by the local owners of Food Trucks requesting to operate in the City limits. Council was in general consensus of this. There was discussion about registering with the City, locations allowed to be used, and insurance/licensing requirements. It was recommended that this item also be taken up at the Special City Council meeting.

C. Updates

City Manager Duddeck noted that there continues to be negative activity on 19th Avenue. One of the residents has called a meeting and invited the council to attend. If all were to attend this would violate the open meeting law. Mr. Duddeck will determine just what the meeting's intent is. If all council chooses to attend it will be formally posted on the website.

Council Member Thorsen inquired if the Church of St. Peter was still in non-compliance now that the Governor updated the order regarding religious guidelines. Kari Erpenbach stated that with the amended order the church is now in compliance with their current plan.

City Manager Duddeck gave updates on the former BP Gas Station property, Uptown Commons and the new Vet's home.

Debra Gustafson gave an update on the park facility rentals. Currently they are cancelled through May 31st. Most likely the next phase will be to cancel through June 15th.

Council Member Jan Walczak joined the meeting at 5:26p.m. She inquired about the public using the beaches. City Manager Duddeck stated that the beaches are technically open but signs are posted to swim at your own risk as there are no lifeguards. There may not be any available until mid-July. Council Member Petersen indicated that Ramsey County Parks and Recreation are not hiring any lifeguards this summer.

Council Member Walczak inquired about a return to work plan for employees. Duddeck stated nothing formal is in place. Because the Governor has already extended the work at home order we need to wait and see what his next order entails. The League of Local Governments

Council Member Thorsen requested that staff work with the city attorney to draft an acceptable letter to be sent to the Governor in support of the local businesses.

Council Member Walczak inquired as to the role of the EDA, and stated she felt they could be more present and active to support our local businesses during this time and do some brainstorming to assist the local businesses. Mr. Duddeck stated the original intent of the EDA was to assist in redevelopment and development in the City. Now that there are several such projects happening their role is somewhat uncertain. Mr. Duddeck stated that the Business Association supports local businesses, but nobody has been able to have regular meetings.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, 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