

**City of North Saint Paul
September 1, 2020
Proposed Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

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 Erin Perdu, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Furlong requested the following amendments to the Agenda:

V. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS
Adoption of Affordable and Life-cycle Housing Goals

VI. PRESENTATION
Good Neighbor Award – Rachel Thompson

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 amended.

V. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Adoption of Affordable and Life-cycle Housing Goals

City Planner Erin Perdu reviewed the City's affordable and life-cycle housing goals for 2020-2030, which reflect additional Met Council calculations. She added the City has an affordable, income-restricted housing goal of 14-25 units, and a life-cycle housing goal of 100 units, at 8 units per acre. She noted life-cycle housing would not be income-restricted.

Ms. Perdu stated both ranges are consistent with the City's Land Use Plan as adopted in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. She added the numbers are not a requirement, but rather a range that the City will endeavor to enable between 2020-2030. She noted City Council adoption of these

goals is the first step toward eligibility for the Livable Communities Act funding cycle which begins in early 2021.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-093 Electing to Participate in the Local Housing Incentives Program under the Metropolitan Livable Communities Act.

VI. PRESENTATION

Good Neighbor Award – Rachel Thompson

Mayor Furlong stated he would like to present North St. Paul resident Rachel Thompson with the Good Neighbor Award. He added Ms. Thompson moved to North St. Paul in October 2019, and organized neighborhood events including a “little free foot shelf” that provided critical supplies to residents in need during the initial weeks of the pandemic. He noted Ms. Thompson also organized an Easter parade, and made and distributed face masks free of charge.

Rachel Thompson thanked the City Council for the award. She expressed her appreciation for fellow residents and City employees who have provided support. She added she is blessed and privileged to be a part of the North St. Paul community.

VII. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2020-094 consisting of:

- A. August 18, 2020 workshop meeting minutes
- B. August 18, 2020 regular meeting minutes
- C. August 18, 2020 HRA meeting minutes
- D. General accounts payable: \$1,133,676.39
- E. HRA accounts payable: \$63,173.22

VIII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl, 2750 Chisholm Avenue, stated he recently ran into a detour due to road construction at the intersection of 15th Avenue and Margaret Street, for which there were no signs and no forewarning. He added the crews at work were City employees, although the intersection construction was an Xcel Energy project. He asked why the Public Works Department is doing repairs for which Xcel Energy should be responsible. He asked why City employees are not working on patching potholes on other City streets, which were repaired early in the pandemic but did not last due to limited crews and equipment.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff worked with Xcel Energy to reconstruct the remaining portion of the intersection, covering their own costs. He added detour information was originally posted on the City’s website but was removed due to changes to the construction schedule. He noted the site is now re-opened to traffic as of this morning.

Mr. Duddeck stated he agrees that more maintenance overlays are required on areas that were patched in the spring.

IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated construction activity continues in the downtown area, and Margaret Street is coming together with curbing going back in place soon. He added the former dentist's office as well as the home on the corner of 5th Avenue and Margaret Street were both demolished in preparation for construction of a new 89-unit, 3-story apartment building with 3,000 square feet of ground-level retail and underground parking. He noted it is anticipated that 17,000 yards of material will be excavated and removed, which will mean a lot of trucks in the area.

Council Member Thorsen stated he received a question from a resident about construction-related noise, and whether the downtown project is exempt from the City Noise Ordinance. Mr. Duddeck stated no exceptions have been made, although some night work was necessary last week to complete water connections outside of business hours. He added sometimes it is necessary to do work and maintenance outside of regular business hours.

Council Member Thorsen stated there is an expectation that if you live near the downtown area, there will be noise and disruption from time to time, especially during construction months. He added many issues can have an effect on the construction schedule, and it is frustrating to deal with noise issues. He noted, however, it is a positive benefit to the community to have new development in the downtown area.

Mayor Furlong expressed his thanks to Jerry at Polar Lounge for allowing the City to install a web cam on their roof. He added there has been a lot of positive feedback from residents about the live video feed showing construction activity and progress in the downtown area.

Mr. Duddeck stated the 7th Avenue street project continues to make good progress, as well as the Anchor North site redevelopment. He added concrete floors are ready to be poured at the storage facility site. He noted a closing for the apartment complex property will hopefully be scheduled during the last week of September.

Mr. Duddeck stated, due to budgetary constraints that have resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic, 5 City employees were recently laid off. He added these lay-offs were strictly budget-driven, to ensure that the City can continue to provide core services to the community.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, September 3, 2020. He added the meeting agenda includes a continuation of the Zoning Updates discussion.

Council Member Petersen stated the League of Minnesota Cities met recently, and budgetary constraints were discussed. She added there is no plan to increase dues in 2021.

Council Member Petersen stated the Park & Recreation Commission met last week, and toured the new restroom at Rotary Park, which will be opening soon. She added potential plans for the south side of the House Park tennis court were discussed.

Council Member Thorsen stated the Economic Development Authority will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. He added the Business Association will meet at the American Legion on September 8, 2020.

Mr. Duddeck stated it is City Staff's intent to begin posting videos of City Council workshops online on the City's website.

Mayor Furlong stated a recent Finance and Budget meeting was held recently, attended by Mr. Duddeck, Council Member Thorsen, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, and himself, as well as Lynn, Vice President of Moreton Capital Markets. He added the state of the economy is not looking good for 2021. He noted, with interest rates at 0%, the City is limited in terms of potential investments.

Mr. Duddeck stated 0% interest rates represent a significant loss of revenue for the City, compared with past years. He added this is compounded by loss of revenue from utilities and City fees, which all adds up quickly. He noted all of this has created an unfortunate budget situation in 2021.

Mayor Furlong expressed his appreciation for the hard work of Finance Director Jason Zimmerman throughout the budget process.

Council Member Thorsen agreed, adding Mr. Zimmerman has expressed it as his duty to make prudent financial decisions on behalf of the City of North St. Paul.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen expressed her appreciation to Mary Rogers at Specialty Florists who has been making bouquets for delivery to residents at Polar Ridge and Ramsey County Nursing Home.

Council Member Peterson wished everyone a happy Labor Day.

Council Member Thorsen requested an update on the status of the School Resource Officer position for 2021, and whether that will change due to distance learning.

Mr. Duddeck stated that issue has been discussed and City Staff. He agreed to provide an update for the City Council.

Council Member Thorsen requested an update on the Bruggeman development on 17th Avenue.

Mr. Duddeck stated the developer was unable to provide all the requested information by tonight's meeting. He added the deadline that was placed on this item is September 15, 2020.

City Engineer Morgan Dawley stated the developer's submittal was received that day at 1:30 p.m. He added, to their credit, they have scheduled a team meeting for a virtual walkthrough of

the submittal, and it is expected that they will complete all conditions and requirements. He noted the virtual walkthrough will be helpful for City Staff in putting together a recommendation to be reviewed at the City Council's September 15, 2020 meeting.

Council Member Thorsen stated he would like to request regular status updates at City Council meetings regarding the Peacetime Emergency Declaration, which has been in place for almost 6 months. He added it will be helpful for the City Council to know how the situation is affecting North St. Paul.

Mayor Furlong stated he visited M/I Homes today with a potential buyer, and all the new units are sold. He added the units that are currently being built are on the market. He noted the developer is very happy with the outcome.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. 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 meeting at 7:12 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

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