City of North Saint Paul
September 8, 2020
Adopted City Council Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

The September 8, 2020 meeting was held via Zoom and complied with all requirements of Minnesota State Statute 13D.021.

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 Jennie Kloos, Public Works Superintendent Ron Ritchie, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach, Police Chief Tom Lauth, Fire Chief Jason Mallinger, City Engineer Morgan Dawley

III. TOPIC(S)

A. Utility Budget Discussion

Finance Director Zimmerman presented Council with information which included 2021 rates, budgets and debt planning for water, waste water and surface water funds. In conjunction with the General Fund budget and levy, staff has begun the process of discussing utility rates, budgets, debt, and capital outlay. In an effort to streamline scenario modeling for Council consideration, staff is seeking Council input on the current viability of the approved five-year plan, the potential for rate adjustments, and the use of reserves to fund debt service and capital projects for water, waste water, and surface water funds

An in-depth discussion occurred between Mayor Furlong – Council Members, City Manager Duddeck, and City Engineer Dawley regarding street overlay vs. reconstruction. Mayor Furlong summed up the conversations, noting that the consensus is to continue with the over lay of street projects for a few more years rather than a full street reconstruction or a hybrid depending on many variables of the street and infrastructure condition.

Council Member Thorson mentioned that similar to last year, he would agree to not raise fees on utility rates. Mr. Zimmerman suggested setting rates for the future to be able to have a sustainable model to work with and asked if Council was interested in outsourcing to have a feasibility study done. The most recent study was completed in 2013. Mr. Thorson questioned what the actual benefit of having a study done and what the end result would be?

City Manager Duddeck touched on the replacement of the north water tower in the future (the smaller of the two towers, holding 300,000 gallons of water compared to the south water tower that holds 500,000). City Engineer Dawley also agreed and would also recommend replacing the water tower rather than maintaining.

IV.OTHER BUSINESS

City Manager Duddeck updated the Mayor and Council on a few topics for discussion/ updates:

- Due to the consent decree that extends the deadline to accept mail ballots received through the mail up to 7 days following Election Day, we will only be able to canvass on 11/12 or 11/13. Consensus is to change the November 6th date to Thursday, November 12th, time TBD.
- Due to COVID-19, Mr. Duddeck is recommending to cancel National Night Out, reschedule for October 6th, 2020. Mayor and Council also agree to cancel for this year.
- Signs have been randomly posted on the drop off mailboxes by an unknown with the message that "mail will not be picked up until October 14th". According to the postal post master, this is a hoax and mail continues to be picked up normal hours.
- Projects are moving along well. The demo of the last building on 7th Ave East has been completed.
- Confirmation of Kwik Trip building has been confirmed with the closing on the property with council approval set for November and construction to begin Spring 2021.

V. 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 6:27 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

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