

City of North Saint Paul
February 2, 2021
Adopted City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

The February 2, 2021 meeting was conducted by interactive TV under Minnesota State Statute 13D.02 and was also 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 5:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
Council Member Candy Petersen
Council Member Tim Wong
Council Member Lisa Cole
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, Communications Consultant Keri Erpenbach.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Operational Updates.

City Manager Scott Duddeck gave updates on current projects throughout the city. The closing of Anchor View occurred on Friday (January 29th). Initially construction was going to start right away, but with the cold temps for the next week, they will hold off for a couple weeks.

Downtown project is moving rapidly with the framing going up on the second floor and the roofing going up in a couple weeks.

7th Street Townhomes construction will be starting soon with the first model to be ready for the Parade of Homes this spring. The development will be complete with 18 twin homes to be constructed, as well as 3 single family homes.

The naming for the Downtown building of “Uptown Commons” is in the process of a name change. The proposed name change will be “The Sentinel Building”. The origination came from the first North St. Paul newspaper, “The Sentinel” and also the meaning of “Sentinel” being that of a guard standing watch.

Council Member Petersen commented on the recent catalytic converter thefts. A discussion was held regarding the issue. Mayor Furlong commented on a program that is being funded by Ramsey County in placing a Mental Health Counselor within City's to help with deescalating the crimes that could be mental health related.

Body worn cameras were a topic of discussion with Council Member Wong asking for the topic to be added back to a future agenda. City Manager Duddeck commented that there will be adjustments needed to the policy in upcoming meetings but we needed a policy in place in order to generate the purchase of the cameras right away.

Mr. Duddeck thanked Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach for her hard work on the City's online presence and web-based programs. He added residents are moving over to the online permitting process without any hesitation, and the program has been a huge success. He noted building permits are now available online.

Ms. Erpenbach stated the website links were switched over on Friday afternoon, and by Monday City staff were receiving online permit applications. She added City staff are working to document the process and have received positive comments about how easy the online tool is to use. She noted 90% of the City's permits are now available online.

Discussions were held on street overlays and the prioritization of roads, in addition to a shredding event, Spring cleanup, electronic recycling and a city-wide garage sale.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:19 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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