

City of North Saint Paul
February 16, 2021
Adopted City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

The February 16, 2021 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 Lisa Wong
Council Member Tim Cole
Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman, Communications Consultant Keri Erpenbach, Public Works Supervisor Ron Ritchie, Police Chief Tom Lauth

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Financial Transparency (Quarterly Finance and Project Reports)

Finance Director Jason Zimmerman started his presentation by introducing Kyle Stasica, Barb Huelsman and Taylor Lillie from the Finance Department. With many thanks, he acknowledged their efforts and hard work on the implementation of OpenGov.

Currently 2019 and 2020 data has been converted in an effort to bring forward these reports for Council presentation. Additional historical data will be converted as staff works with OpenGov on implementation.

In an effort to fully utilize the reporting tools, staff has created a “transparency portal” for financial reporting. Each link or “Story” on the portal was created using the OpenGov platform, which integrates text with embedded reporting and transparency tools. Reports on the portal include: 2021 budget, 2020 budget to actuals, cash and investments, debt, utility billing, 2020 street & utility improvements and project tracking for redevelopment sites.

Mr. Zimmerman shared his screen for an overview of the OpenGov Transparency Portal that will allow City Council, staff and community members to explore the City’s finances, budget and development projects online.

Mayor Furlong gave his appreciation to Zimmerman and staff for all their hard work, time and effort they've put into the transition.

B. Operational Updates.

Public Works Supervisor Ron Ritchie introduced himself to the new Council Members and gave department updates. The City has had 8 water main breaks so far this season (since October), 10 is the average per season. The crew has been out plowing 14 times and has gone through approximately 500 tons of salt. Updated on ash tree removals. There were 1600 trees to be removed and have 930 remaining. The plan is to remove 90 per year. Ritchie state that he and his crew are looking forward to Spring and with that will come the hiring of seasonal help.

Mayor Furlong thanked Ritchie for his time and updates.

City Manager Scott Duddeck commented that he is planning to ask each department head to a workshop meeting going forward to introduce themselves to the new Council Members and to give departmental updates.

Mr. Duddeck gave his appreciation to the Public Works and Utilities staff for working in the extreme cold weather we've had. He gave updates on water main breaks that have occurred and Anchor View is set to start work on March 1st.

Police Chief Tom Lauth commented on the continuing catalytic converter thefts mentioning that in 2019 there were 5 thefts and 1 attempt. 2020, 38 thefts and 5 attempts and so far to date in 2021, 5 thefts and 1 attempted. Council Member Wong mentioned that she has been approached by local residents asking what they can do to prevent this type of thefts. Chief Lauth commented that the best thing to do is to park the vehicle inside whenever possible.

V. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:17 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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