

City of North Saint Paul
March 2, 2021
Adopted Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
Council Member Petersen
Council Member Cole
Council Member Wong
Mayor Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, City Planning Consultant Eric Zweber, City Attorney Soren Mattick, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Kevin Wick Retirement Recognition

Mayor Furlong expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to Kevin Wick for 36 years of employment with the City of North St Paul. He thanked Mr. Wick for his outstanding dedication and loyal service to the community, and offered best wishes for a long, healthy happy retirement.

Mr. Duddeck thanked Mr. Wick for his years of service. He added, over the years, Mr. Wick served the City in various capacities, including master electrician and Department head.

Mr. Wick thanked the City Council and City Staff. He stated he has enjoyed his years of employment with North St. Paul.

B. Rotary Club Award Presentation

Joe Stahlman, representing North St. Paul Maplewood Oakdale Rotary Club, presented the Paul Harris Fellowship Award to City Manager Scott Duddeck for his support and dedication to the Rotary Park project. He stated the Rotary Club, originally established in 1905 in Chicago,

recognizes members and non-members with the Paul Harris Award for their service to the community.

Mr. Duddeck thanked Mr. Stahlman and the Rotary Club for the award and expressed his appreciation for the work of its members. He added the Rotary Park renovations will be used and appreciated by many people, especially with all the redevelopment that is happening in North St. Paul.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Thorsen requested that Items G and J be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to City Business.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2021-027, as amended, consisting of:

- A. February 16, 2021 workshop meeting minutes.
- B. February 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
- C. February 2, 2021 closed meeting minutes.
- D. February 12, 2021 closed meeting minutes.
- E. February 16, 2021 closed meeting minutes.
- F. February 19, 2021 closed meeting minutes.0
- G. General accounts payable: \$762,930.67 – **Moved to City Business**
- H. EDA accounts payable: \$370.00.
- I. HRA accounts payable: \$18,643.20
- J. Settlement Agreement for former City Employees Fleischhacker and Nikituk -**Moved to City Business**

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Shawn Rivet congratulated new Councilmembers Wong and Cole and thanked them for their service. He stated he has been having water issues again, and he emailed City Staff last week. He expressed concern regarding the DNR survey, about which he has not heard anything. He noted he is getting frustrated because he does not get any communication or responses to his emails.

Mayor Furlong stated this issue will be discussed during a closed session tonight.

Mr. Duddeck stated Public Works staff worked to correct drainage issues last week in front of Mr. Rivet's house, the day before Mr. Rivet sent an email to City Staff. He added the work was completed.

Mr. Rivet stated he did not see Public Works employees and no work was completed. He added Council Member Petersen contacted him and told him she would forward his comments to Mr. Duddeck. He noted he texted a photo of the water level to Mayor Furlong.

Mr. Duddeck agreed to follow up with the Public Works Department. He added he will contact Mr. Rivet tomorrow.

John Schmahl, 2750 Chisholm Avenue, stated he would like to report his experiences with online meetings. He added he attended the Planning Commission meeting last week, which was not

online until 15 minutes after it started, and there were problems with the Parks Commission online meeting. He noted questions about these problems can be directed to the City Manager, and he hopes the City can get a handle on this.

Mr. Schmahl stated there have been problems with the microphones, which are usually addressed by the technician in the control room. Mayor Furlong stated that issue was related to a computer update, and the problem has been fixed.

Mr. Schmahl stated Council Member Peterson was online before the beginning of tonight's meeting and was visible to anyone who logged on. He added she was the only thing visible on the screen. He noted meeting attendees should be aware when their camera is on.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Clarify Lot Width and Setback Deviations with Planned Unit Developments

Eric Zweber, WSB Planning Consultant, reviewed a proposed Ordinance amendment to clarify lot width and setbacks within the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Overlay District. The proposed amendment would pull setbacks out, remove lot size and add lot width. A public hearing was held at last week's Planning Commission meeting, and a resident asked about a previous denial, and whether these proposed changes would have affected the outcome of that request.

Mr. Zweber stated the proposed amendments clarify language that is already in the Ordinance, and the City has always had the ability to grant deviations. The proposed language has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

Mr. Zweber stated the Planning Commission and City Staff recommend City Council approval of this Ordinance.

On Motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all Present Voting Aye (5-0), Motion Carried to Adopt Ordinance No. 796 Amending the North Saint Paul City Code of Ordinances Title XV, Land Usage, Chapter 154, Zoning Regulations, Section 154.008 Overlay Districts, Subsection (C) Planned Unit Development District.

B. Public Works Purchase Approval of 2022 Mack Granite 64FR

Mr. Duddeck reviewed a request for approval to replace a snowplow in the Public Works Department. The truck that is proposed for replacement is a 2007 Ford Sterling tandem hook truck, which has multiple uses. The proposed new truck is a 2022 Mack Tandem, with all related equipment, and the cab would be purchased through the State purchasing contract. Other components would be built and installed by another vendor, bringing the total cost of replacement to \$303,503, and, if approved tonight, the truck would be delivered at the end of 2021.

Mr. Duddeck stated the 2-year State purchasing contract will expire on March 31, 2021, and an 5% cost increase can be expected. The truck to be replaced has a \$35,000 trade value which can be put toward the purchase of the new truck, or the other option is to sell it via online auction. City Staff proposes to try that route first.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the Public Works Department Purchase of a 2022 Mack Granite 64 FR.

C. Approval of Encroachment Agreement

Mr. Duddeck reviewed a request for approval of an Encroachment Agreement, that was added to the Agenda today. He stated a resident requires the Agreement to be able to move forward with an estate sale for a 60-year-old home that encroaches on the property's drainage and utility easement. He added the 10-foot easement was solely on one property.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff recommends City Council approval of the Encroachment Agreement.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Encroachment Agreement for 2072 Mesabi Avenue, North St. Paul, MN 55109.

D. Consent Agenda Item G – General Accounts Payable

Council Member Thorsen requested clarification regarding invoices for WSB Associates from September-December 2020. He asked whether they were submitted late.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff is working to correct the internal funding code process for tracking invoices related to City projects. He added this process will allow the City to request additional escrow funds. He noted this will not be an ongoing issue.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Resolution No. 2021-028; General Accounts Payable of \$762,930.67.

E. Consent Agenda Item J – Settlement Agreement

On motion by Council Member Cole, seconded by Council Member Wong, with Council Members Cole and Wong and Mayor Furlong voting aye, Council Member Thorsen voting nay (4-1), motion carried to approve Resolution No.2021-029; Settlement Agreement for former City Employees Fleischhacker and Nikituk.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck reviewed ongoing development projects, including the storage building and Anchor View Apartments in the Anchor North redevelopment area. He added the apartment building site is being excavated and work on the foundation will begin on March 8, 2021. He noted Kwik Trip will begin construction on May 31, 2021.

Mr. Duddeck stated the building project in the downtown area is progressing, with installation of the roof and windows beginning in the next few days. He noted the concrete floor will be poured soon, for the below-grade parking garage.

Mr. Duddeck stated road restrictions will go into effect on March 4, 2021, and all streets will be limited to 4-ton per axle, unless otherwise posted. He added main roads and State roads have a 9-ton per axle load.

Mr. Duddeck stated the 7th street townhomes project will begin tomorrow, March 3, 2021, with demolition of two existing structures and excavation. He added the foundation for the first new townhome will be dug. He noted 7th Street is a 9-ton road.

Mr. Duddeck stated he recently gave a presentation on development projects in North St. Paul at the Rotary Club's on February 25, 2021 online meeting.

Mayor Furlong stated Mr. Duddeck presented a slide show that included a time-lapse video of the downtown redevelopment site at 7th Avenue and Margaret Street. He added it was fascinating to see redevelopment progress in the time-lapse video.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Cole stated the Parks & Recreation Commission had their monthly meeting on February 24, 2021 via Zoom. He added each Commissioner presented long-term improvement plans for their assigned park, which will be prioritized in preparation for a City Council workshop. He noted the Commission's next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Council Member Wong stated the Planning Commission met on February 25, 2021 to discuss the PUD amendment approved at tonight's meeting, and a planning training session was presented by City Attorney Soren Mattick. She added the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting will be held March 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Council Member Petersen stated the Minnesota Women in City Government will hold a panel discussion on April 23, 2021 regarding lessons learned by the pandemic. She added the meeting will feature conversations with local community leaders.

Council Member Thorsen stated the Business Association will meet March 9, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. He added the Economic Development Authority is scheduled to meet March 9, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the American Legion.

Mayor Furlong stated he joined the online Rotary Club meeting on February 24, 2021. He thanked Mr. Duddeck for doing a great job on the presentation. He congratulated Mr. Duddeck on receiving the Rotary award.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Duddeck stated the Police Commission will begin having quarterly meetings. He added meeting dates, times and agendas will be posted on the City's website. The Police Commission will meet next on June 1, 2021.

Mayor Furlong asked whether body worn cameras will be discussed.

Mr. Duddeck stated consideration of purchase of body worn cameras will be reviewed at the City Council's next meeting.

Mr. Duddeck stated repairs are being conducted on the HVAC system at City Hall, particularly rooftop units. He added the units themselves are fine but the electronic control sensors require replacement.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the School Resource Officer position will resume when students are back in school on March 15, 2021. Mr. Duddeck confirmed this, adding the contract has not been formally signed but the School District is committed to renewing the position. He added it has been discussed that the position could be renewed automatically, or at least in advance.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(c) to consider offers relating to the City's possible sale or lease of the Community Center Building
- B. The meeting will be closed as permitted by section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(c) to consider offers relating to the City's possible purchase of 2483 2nd Avenue.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to move into Closed Session at 7:25 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, Seconded by Council Member Wong, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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