

City of North Saint Paul
July 6, 2021
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted at City Hall in the Council Chambers, and also via Zoom.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, Accountant Kyle Stasica, Public Works Supervisor, Ron Ritchie, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Communications Consultant Kari Erpenbach.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

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

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)/ State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF)

Accountant Kyle Stasica presented information requesting approval to submit the request to the State of Minnesota to receive the first half of the Local and State Fiscal Recovery Funds. The City of North St. Paul is listed as a non-entitlement unit and therefore, must request the funding from the State of Minnesota.

The use of funds must be decided by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

Morgan Dawley, City Engineer informed council on information he's been hearing from other cities and their intended use of the funds to be used for utility improvements to help supplement their Capital Improvement Plans or other Enterprise funded utilities.

B. Silver Lake Aerator Maintenance Responsibilities

Mr. Dawley gave an update on the Silver Lake Aerator maintenance responsibilities. Ramsey County, City of Maplewood, Valley Branch Watershed District and the City of North St. Paul have been in conversations over the past two years regarding the ownership, operations and maintenance of the aerator, which is currently owned by Ramsey County and is located in Joy Park.

Ramsey County is proposing a joint effort, by agreement yet to be drafted between the two cities and the watershed to replace the current maintenance arrangement handled entirely by Ramsey County. Ramsey County is proposing a lump sum payment to North St. Paul in the amount of

\$10,000 to cover approximately two years of operations and maintenance cost if North St. Paul takes over ownership and maintenance.

Valley Branch Watershed District and Maplewood staff have agreed to split the electrical costs for the aerator. North St. Paul would not have to pay any electricity. North St. Paul would invoice both agencies annually for their contribution to covering the electric costs for the pump and aerator.

Mr. Dawley mentioned the next steps in terms of engagement would be continued discussions and a drafted agreement by the City Attorney. Consensus is to continue to leverage our potential role of lead agency for additional funds from Ramsey County and potentially Maplewood.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Ray Rozales, Interim Police Chief gave a brief update regarding the Police Department. Mr. Rozales gave an update on continued criminal damage being reported at the parks and park shelters.

Body worn cameras have been implemented to full capacity and have beneficial in incidences occurring within the City.

The new Tasers are in and training will begin in the near future.

Council Member Wong inquired if Mr. Rozales would further discuss the restructuring within the department? Mr. Rozales stated that the department currently has 14 patrol officers, 2 full duty Sergeants and 1 acting Sergeant. The department is currently short staffed which requires officers to accumulate overtime. The main concern is getting staffing levels up to where they need to be and reducing some of the overtime. Mr. Rozales stated that he would like to be able to add a total of 4 additional officers by mid-2022.

VI. 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 workshop meeting at 6:21 p.m.

/s/ Terrence Furlong, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Brian T. Frandle, Interim City Manager