

City of North Saint Paul
August 17, 2021
Approved City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Member Wong

Staff: Interim City Manager Brian Frandle, Deputy Clerk Jennie Kloos, Finance Director Dan Winek, Communications Kari Erpenbach, City Attorney Shana Conklin

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. 2022 Budget Discussion

Interim City Manager Brian Frandle stated this topic was added to the agenda as a carryover from the budget meeting on August 16th to give the city council members added time for additional questions or discussions concerning the 2022 budget.

Council Member Thorsen stated he is wanting to waive his city council stipend for 2022.

Mayor Furlong stated that in the recent EDA meeting, it was requested to add city staff to the EDA. Mr. Frandle suggested waiting until the new City Manager was hired as to any changes regarding staffing for the EDA.

Finance Director Winek stated that the next steps in preparation of the upcoming budget meeting will be to meet again with all department heads, addressing questions on budgetary line items and staffing levels. Included with that would be the discussion on part-time staffing within the Community Development department.

B. Ordinance Pertaining to Gambling

City Attorney Shana Conklin presented information that was originally presented to the City Council on April 20, 2021, regarding a draft ordinance that would update North St. Paul's City Code Chapter 112 related to gambling.

Ms. Conklin stated that the purpose of returning to the discussion is to clarify what the ordinance currently regulates and what the new ordinance would be doing for the city. In general, gambling is often licensed through the State of Minnesota so there is a separate licensing taking place concurrently to any city licensing. To simplify, the city is focusing on what's called lawful gambling under state law, which generally means charitable gambling. The only organizations that are generally applying for these permits through the city are what are to be considered charitable organizations. Charitable organizations are religious in nature, fraternal, or non-profit organizations.

The draft of the ordinance is designed to update the current existing framework to comport with state law and make sure we are updating the city ordinance accordingly. The city does have additional options to consider anytime we are implementing this type of ordinance. An example would be that the city has the option to impose a gambling tax up to 3% on these charitable gambling organizations.

Discussion was also had on the "trade area" which includes the municipal boundaries of North St. Paul, Oakdale, Maplewood and all other areas within the ISD 622 boundary. The general question is whether or not to mandate that the funds be expended in that trade area as part of the ordinance. Currently the ordinance mandates that 50% of the proceeds from any gambling event needs to be spent in that community area, which is in the ordinance currently. Mayor Furlong stated that 50% of the proceeds is working for North St. Paul currently and sees no need for change.

The next step would be to simplify the ordinance and place on City Council agenda for approval.

Council Member Thorsen asked to revisit Topic A to discuss parking within the city. According to the July EDA meeting minutes, parking within the city was discussed. With all the redevelopment within the city Mr. Thorsen agrees that parking is an issue and would also like to address current parking lots and improvements to these spaces.

Mayor Furlong agreed and stated that the North St. Paul parking lot discussion will continue with future EDA meetings and would look at adding it to the WSB findings on current needs, bids and working on getting a schedule in place.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Cole, with all present voting aye (4-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:12 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Brian Frandle, Interim City Manager/Clerk