

City of St. Paul Regular Meeting
704 6th Street
St. Paul, NE 68873

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska was held at City Hall in said City on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Councilmembers: Brenda Klanecky, Ralph Kezeor & Jerry Thompson. Absent: Council member Katie Kowalski.

Mayor Bergman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., thanking the public for attending and announcing that the City of St. Paul abides by the Open Meetings Act, which is posted on the west wall as required by Nebraska State Law. Mayor Bergman also stated that the City Council may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by State Law; this was followed by the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Individuals who have appropriate agenda items for City Council consideration should complete the "Request for Future Agenda Items" form located at the City Office. If the issue can be handled administratively without Council action, notification will be provided. If the item is scheduled for a meeting or study session, notification of the date will be given.

There was an opportunity for individuals wishing to provide input on any of tonight's agenda items. Those individuals were asked to reserve time to speak.

Kelly Stevens, Stevens Land Surveying presented a plat map regarding information on land ownership and the conditions on the ground concerning all of Block 47, Original Town. JoAnn Urbanski, Roger Finnigsmier and Virginia Schenck were in attendance to answer any questions regarding the Jim's Truck Stop property. Utility Superintendent Helzer stated that there are no utilities of any kind present in the alley and any of the names that Mr. Kelly provided on his deed list does not affect vacating the alley. Council member Thompson moved to approve vacating alley proceeding north and south in Block 47, Original Town (Jim's Truck Stop). Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. An ordinance will be considered and approved on Monday, February 3, 2020.

A lengthy discussion also ensued with Kelly Stevens (Stevens Land Surveying) in obtaining a clear title on the ownership of Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Seven (7) and Eight (8), Block 47, Original Town (Jims Truck Stop). This item was tabled until Mr. Kelly contacts the State of Nebraska concerning any problems with the US Hwy 281 right-of-way (ROW). Once the City receives the answer from Mr. Stevens, then the City will move forward in completing clear titles and possible property transfers to the remaining lots.

Council member Klanecky moved to approve Olsson's (Project#019-0034) submittal letter, along with a check regarding a review fee costing \$118.97 to be submitted to the Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS). The letter states that the City is planning to abandon a four (4) inch water main and relocate the main with a six (6) inch water main between Grand Street & Howard Avenue and between US Highway 281 & 3rd Street (Elstermeier Greenhouses). The estimated construction cost of the project is \$3,794.51. Council member Kezeor seconded the

motion. Motion carried 3/0. Any time a water main or line is moved, it is required by NE State Statute to go through the DHHS process.

Council member Klanecky moved to approve the Treasurer's Report on December 2019 and the zoning permits on Monday, January 13, 2020, with the stipulation that zoning permit #2020-1 needs to have a State Fire Marshall approval permit attached to the zoning application. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kezeor moved to approve the City's 2018-2019 Financial Statement transfers into the sinking funds involving the (1) Ambulance \$22,194; (2) Cemetery \$38,284; and (3) Library \$16,116. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Klanecky moved to approve the St. Paul Police Dept. advertising for a full-time City Police Officer, due to Police Officer Coghlan resigning on January 28, 2020. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Klanecky moved to go into closed session at 7:52 p.m. regarding personnel. Chief of Police Paczosa was invited to attend the closed session. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go into closed session for personnel. There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into closed session for personnel. Motion carried 3/0. Mayor Bergman adjourned the closed session at 8:19 p.m. Council member Klanecky moved to approve a starting wage of \$17 per hour for a non-certified police officer and if that officer becomes certified and meets the probationary period time, then an extra \$1 will be added to the wage, making it \$18 per hour. If a law enforcement officer has been certified through the academy, then the wage would be based off their experience. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kezeor moved to approve the St. Paul Police Dept. hiring a part-time police officer to fulfill the vacancy while hiring for a full-time police officer position. The pay rate will be \$20 per hour, with no benefits. Council member Klanecky seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

The police officer on-call pay was tabled until the remaining police officer wages has been discussed.

There is a special meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public input regarding the Downtown Revitalization (DTR) improvements, community branding, welcome sign and a local option sales tax. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates included: starting the third phase of the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) project; scanning the City's utility location cards and uploading to the GIS system; updating the GIS system as changes occur to the properties; and the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit letter from Patrick Ducey, Environmental Specialist from the NE Dept. of Environment & Energy (NDEE) concerning the City's ammonia levels.

Chief of Police Paczosa submitted an "Incident & Nuisance" report, along with reporting on

applying for a “cop” grant and the purchase of a police SUV vehicle.

Mayor Bergman updates included: (1) Hastings Keno reimbursed the City \$2,000 for the 2018-2019 keno audit; (2) Howard County Medical Center paid in full the 1% administration fee of \$2,500 regarding the Rural Economic Development Loan Grant (REDLG) project. The funds were placed in the REDLG Account; (3) Utility E-Billing module saved the City \$600; (4) Diamond Engineering reimbursed the City \$1,378 for pole damage; (5) Utility Superintendent Helzer and Lonnie Stewart installed an antenna at the St. Paul Senior Center; and (6) reported on the City Lottery Tax Return 51C Form numbers.

For public announcement, Mayor Bergman reiterated the special meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the community branding, website development, Downtown Revitalization (DTR) and the local option sales tax.

Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Date

Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

Joel M. Bergman, Mayor