

City of St Paul
Special Council Meeting Minutes

Public Input on City Special Projects

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska was held at the City Hall - 704 6th Street, St. Paul, NE in said City on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Bergman and Councilmembers: Brenda Klanecky, Ralph Kezeor & Jerry Thompson. Absent: Council member Kowalski.

Mayor Bergman opened the special meeting at 6:34 p.m., with announcing that the City of St. Paul abides by the Open Meetings Act, which is posted on the west wall as required by the 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.

An attendance sheet was signed for City record and also to acquire names and telephone numbers to perform stakeholder interviews.

Erin Eckerman, FOLK Branding Strategist was placed on a conference call regarding the City's branding and website development proposed timeline from January 2020 through May 2020. The future project meetings will consists of sharing ideas, receiving feedback, making changes and then approving the projects. City Clerk Beck will be reviewing the timeline meeting dates to accommodate the regular City Council dates.

Numerous people were in attendance to listen and voice their suggestions on the topics listed: **(1) Community Branding:** rebranding, incorporate what all St. Paul has to offer (the selling of St. Paul); want to achieve and develop a good end product for St. Paul; **(2) Website Development & Design:** be user friendly; maintenance to site; "link" social media and Facebook to site; **(3) Downtown Revitalization (DTR):** apply and prepare for the grant; the grant is in the amount of \$400,000, with a City match of 25%; the project would commence from 4th Street proceeding west to 9th Street on Howard Avenue; perform project in phases; expense of replacing bricks & what areas to utilize the bricks; and the importance of maintaining the City's utilities. The majority of the audience was in highly in favor of revitalizing the downtown area; **(4) Ballot question to increase the Local Option Sales Tax:** inquiring whether the City should go after a ballot question and the election timeline; possibly utilizing the increase for City infrastructure or developing areas in St. Paul. The majority of the audience was in favor of increasing the sales tax a half percent (1/2%) to be utilized for City infrastructure.

The next special meeting on this topic will be on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Civic Center (423 Howard Avenue).

There was no further business to come before this session of the City Council.

Mayor Bergman closed the special meeting at 8:05 p.m.

DATE: _____

Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer