

City of St. Paul Regular Meeting  
704 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, NE 68873

**Monday, May 18, 2020**

**Note: The format of this meeting is by teleconference. The meeting is being conducted in this manner in order to comply with social distancing guidelines, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and intended to follow the authorization of Executive Order No. 20-03 issued by Governor Rickett's on March 17, 2020.**

A meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska was held by teleconference on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., with a call-in telephone number (toll free) 866-899-4679 and Access Code 780-854-677. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman; City Council members: Brenda Klanecky, Ralph Kezeor and Jerry Thompson. Absent: Council member Katie Kowalski.

Mayor Berman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., announcing that the City of St. Paul abides by the Open Meetings Act; there is a current posting on the west wall of the City Council Chambers as required by Nebraska State Law; also available on the web at "Nebraska State Statutes §84-1407 through §84-1413; and at the link:

[https://nitc.nebraska.gov/documents/statutes/NebraskaOpenMeetingsAct\\_current.pdf](https://nitc.nebraska.gov/documents/statutes/NebraskaOpenMeetingsAct_current.pdf)

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.

The Council meeting began amid a lengthy discussion with Julie Gawrych (Youth Sports Secretary/Treasurer) and Rob Wegner (Baseball Commissioner) concerning the reopening of the youth baseball & softball summer sports program; this arises with the respect of the strict COVID-19 guidelines. The majority of the discussion was the importance of meeting health and safety measures and the uncertainty on who would enforce and maintain the COVID-19 guidelines. Concession stands are not allowed to be open at this time. Mayor Bergman stated that the American Legion Baseball teams can begin practice on Monday, June 1, with game play beginning on Thursday, June 18, 2020; this is subject to restrictions pursuant to the guidelines by Governor Rickett's. Dylan Woodgate stated that there would be no District or State baseball games this year; he also stated that other teams would be coming to St. Paul. Council member Thompson moved to approve the utilization of the fields regarding the youth baseball and softball; this comes with the exceptions of: (1) no use of the field restrooms unless someone is willing to enforce and maintain the COVID-19 guidelines and (2) no use of the City batting cage. After a period of silence, Mayor Bergman

asked for a second or an amendment to the motion. After another lengthy period of silence from the City Council members; Council member Klanecky asked if the City was going with all age groups concerning the motion. This would include all youth age groups with the exclusion of T-Ball. Julie Gawrych stated that the Coaches and/or the Youth sponsors will enforce and maintain the COVID-19 guidelines when practicing or playing ball. Mrs. Gawrych wants to make sure these kids have access to the fields regarding a camp or a place for small groups. Park Manager Randy Jerabek stated that entrance signs will be posted on Taylor Street and Howard Avenue that states "ENTERING AN AREA WHERE YOU COULD BE SUBJECT TO COVID-19". A risk and indemnity "waiver" will need to be signed by all coaches and children (parent to sign) prior to the practicing or playing of ball. This motion was acceptable by Julie Gawrych and Rob Wegner. Council member Klanecky seconded the motion. Council members Klanecky, Kezeor and Thompson voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Dylan Woodgate stated that Legion ball consists of the ages from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to High School seniors.

Council member Klanecky moved to close the St. Paul Municipal Pool for the 2020 season; this is due to the concern of COVID-19. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. A thank you will be conveyed to all lifeguards that were willing to work for the City Swimming Pool. A swimming pool closing ad will be placed in the Phonograph Herald.

Council member Thompson moved to approve Resolution 2020-6; whereas the City is waiving fence requirements identified in Ordinance 953, [Section 9.5.04 of the zoning regulations] to allow residents to install above ground private swimming pools, as a result of the St. Paul Municipal Pool being closed for the 2020 season. The waiving of the regulations will be on a temporary basis and be subject to residents applying and receiving approval for a "Temporary Swimming Pool" permit. This will be effective through the 2020 Labor Day holiday. Council member Klanecky seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kezeor introduced Ordinance #1008; vacating the alley in Block 64, Original Town; St. Paul, Howard County, NE; to reserve an easement on the property; and to provide for an effective date. Council member Thompson moved to waive the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1008 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. Council member Klanecky moved for final passage of Ordinance #1008, Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

American Legion Post #119 Commander Charles "Chuck" Schmid was present to request the utilization of Keno funds in the amount of \$22,100 regarding the construction of extending a storm sewer pipe in Block 64, Original Town. This would be for the beautification and safety of the area surrounding a new American Legion building. After a lengthy period of silence, the issue died based on a lack of a motion.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the American Legion Post #119 utilizing City dirt from the berm on Lot One (1) and Part of Lot Two (2), Block 64, Original Town regarding the improvements to a new American Legion building. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. Mr. Schmid thanked the Mayor & City Council.

Council member Thompson introduced Ordinance #1009; setting the compensation of the Officers and Employees of the City and to provide for an effective date. Council member Kezeor moved to waive the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1009 at three (3) different occasions, Council member Klanecky seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0. Council member Thompson moved for final passage of Ordinance #1009, Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kezeor moved to approve the April 2020 Treasurer's Report and the May 11, 2020 zoning permits. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Edward Thompson, City Electrical Commissioner was present to outline a review of the City's electrical rates. This is due to Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) passing on a wheeling and transmission rate increase to the City starting the billing month of June 2020. The increase in the wheeling rate will be .19 cents and the increase in the transmission rate will be .09 cents. The increase cost is approximately \$1,564 monthly; it will be a standard practice for HGRPPD annually to stay on top of the generation and transmission cost. The City will be absorbing the increase.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the American Legal Publishing "Internet Cost Agreement for Code of Ordinances". The agreement is to update and link the City Municipal Code to the City's new website that is being created by FOLK, LLC. The cost to convert the existing Code into a searchable format will cost a one (1) time fee of \$550; an annual hosting fee of \$450 annually; and the supplements of reindexing the searchable Code is \$1.50 per page. Council member Kezeor seconded the motion. Motion carried 3/0.

Next on the agenda for debate is the City billing for summer mowing of residential or commercial properties; this was tabled until the City could identify all owners on the Street Department list. Once the property owners have been identified, this will be placed back on the agenda for discussion.

After a brief discussion from the Mayor and Council, Chief of Police Paczosa will follow the same on-call policy as the other City Police Officers.

Mayor Bergman requested discussion on hiring a seasonal City Office employee to perform minor office and cemetery duties. After a prolonged period of silence, this was a moot point.

Mayor Bergman announced Kristie Fousek as the new City Payroll Clerk/Secretary; she will begin employment on Monday, June 1, 2020. The City Office would like to start Mrs. Fousek at \$16.12 hourly. After a brief discussion, Council member Thompson moved to approve Mrs. Fousek starting hourly wage at \$16.12. After another prolonged period of silence, the motion died for a lack of a second.

Chief of Police Paczosa reported on police business; Police Officer Trev Sharman entered the Law Enforcement Academy on Sunday, May 17, 2020.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updated the Mayor & City Council members on his well-being.

Mayor Bergman spoke on behalf of Utility Superintendent Helzer regarding the sanitary sewer progress on Howard Avenue.

Mayor Bergman updates included: (1) Tour De Nebraska is rescheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2020 to serve dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Civic Center (Don Sack 754- 8015); (2) City Clerk Beck transferred City savings funds to the City's ICS Accounts; this is to receive a better interest rate for the funds; and (3) Citizens Bank and Trust reduced the interest rates on the ICS Accounts.

Mayor Joel M. Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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**Date**

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**Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer**

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**Joel M. Bergman, Mayor**