

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

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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 19, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Councilmembers Katie Kowalski, Jerry Thompson, Chuck Schmid & Mike Feeken. Absent: None. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Phonograph Herald, a legal newspaper published in said City and County. Notice of the meeting was also posted in four (4) public places. Notice of this meeting was communicated in the advance notice. All proceeds thereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Bergman opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and 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.

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.

Randy Hellbusch from the NE Rural Water Association (NeRWA) and Sewer Commissioner Bill Gregoski, was present and provided a "Sewer Rate Information Sheet" regarding a discussion of a City sewer rate study to sustain the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) east of St. Paul. The estimated cost of the facility is \$5.5 million, but the sewer rate study from Mr. Hellbusch is based on a \$6 million project. Topics of discussion included: (1) the WWTF annual operation and maintenance costs; (2) loan payment information on \$6 million at a 2% interest rate for a 20 and 25 year loan; (3) raising City sewer rates in a three (3) year phase period according to the 20 and 25 year loan; (4) an information sheet displaying other Nebraska communities sewer rates from their major improvements; and (5) utilizing sales tax (ballot question) to assist with the funding of the WWTF. Council member Schmid moved to approve implementing the City sewer rate increase regarding the WWTF in a three (3) year phase period based on the 25 year note; the sewer rate ordinance will become effective March 1, 2021. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The WWTF engineering fees will be absorbed by sewer reserves; this will take the City to the bidding phase. An ordinance will be approved at the Monday, February 1, 2021 Council meeting.

Next agenda item for discussion was regarding the "Mutual Law Enforcement Assistance Agreement" involving the creation and the administration of a Central Nebraska Special Response Team (SRT). The response team will consist of four (4) counties: Howard, Nance, Sherman and Valley, along with St. Paul being the only City participant. In attendance to explain the process of the SRT efforts were Howard County Deputy Paul Tartaglia and City Police Officer Trev Sharman. Also in attendance was Valley County Deputy Dan Howard. Mr. John Thiel from the audience questioned why St. Paul needs an SRT. Howard County Deputy Tartaglia answered Mr. Thiel's question. The SRT team is a joint effort that consists of multiple "Agency's" to assist in mutual aid for such calls, but not limited to; high risk or high threat warrants, search and rescue, high risk emergency calls and the need for backup in a timely manner. The responses will range on a scale from a single member response up to a full team, depending on the severity of the circumstances. Other topics of discussion included: (1) Safety of the county and communities (2) training (4-8 hours monthly) and training cost; (3) the

utilization of personnel and equipment purchase; (4) placing other Officers or Deputy's on-call when the SRT's leave their original post; (5) each Agency is responsible for their own Law Enforcement, Liability and Workman Compensation insurance; and (6) language detailing that each Officer should operate under their respective Agencies policies and procedures. The item was tabled until the hiring of the City Police Chief. City Council member Schmid stated that extra training is good for the safety of the community and county.

**Consent Agenda Items:**

Council member Kowalski moved to approve: (1) Treasurer's Report - December 2020; (2) Council Minutes - Monday, January 4, 2021; (3) Disbursements - Tuesday, January 19, 2021; and (4) Zoning minutes - Monday, January 11, 2021. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

**Disbursements January 19, 2021**

COR Management (Agreement)	800.00
Dept of Rev: Sales & Use Tax (Tax)	14963.97
Clearly (telephone)	198.84
Aurora Coop (fuel)	892.32
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	2141.62
Central District Health Dept (service)	102.00
Christensen Insurance (insurance)	1801.59
City Lights (utilities)	10521.38
Gore & Main (supplies)	251.36
Custer County Recycling (service)	18.20
Dick's Repair (repair)	75.07
Heartland Disposal (service)	5413.38
Homestead Bank (ACH fees)	29.40
Hometown Market (supplies)	142.05
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (service)	70.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	155758.03
Howard Greeley RPPD (supplies)	232.33
Hydro Optimization & Automation (service)	426.00
Jarecke Motors (repair)	749.37
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1810.48
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	3632.50
Municipal Supply (supplies)	31.22
NE Dept of Envir. & Energy (licenses)	300.00
NE Recycling Council (membership)	150.00
OfficeNet (supplies)	299.41
Olsson (engineering)	30716.45
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Phonograph Herald (publish)	613.81
Powerplan (supplies)	143.49
Schaper & White (service)	864.58
Servi-Tech (lab)	125.60
Sparq Data Solutions (service)	3000.00
St. Paul Public Schools (supplies)	1336.05
TO Haas Tire Co (repairs)	38.70
Tommy Rene Printers (supplies)	71.35
United Healthcare (insurance)	20244.44
US Post Office (postage)	570.00
Utilities Section of League (conference)	165.00
Vogel Auto Repair (repairs)	267.00
Woods & Aitken (service)	60.00

**Non-General Disbursements**

Civic: Charter Spectrum (Internet)	166.96
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Schaper/White (Legal)	393.75
Civic: Kasson, Sandra (Janitor)	330.00
Civic: Heartland Disposal (Service)	80.00
Civic: Chamber of Commerce (dues)	30.00
Civic: LARM (insurance)	55.86
Civic: City of St. Paul (utilities)	1192.28
Civic: SE Smith & Sons (supplies)	16.39
Civic: Cardmembers Services (supplies)	55.96
Civic: Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	85.00
Civic: Homestead Bank Loan (Fred Meyer Pledge)	5000.00
Keno: Dept Rev Charit Gaming (Oct-Dec 2% Gross)	4283.00
Homestead Bank (sales tax)	768.30

Street Commissioner Jamie Klanecky was present to discuss the condition of the City's 1979 F7000 Dump Truck - Vehicle #10. The truck has acquired numerous problems with the steering, starter system, light wiring system, and a major power steering leak. Mr. Klanecky stated that the piece of equipment is not worth the money to fix; funding was placed in the 2020-2021 Budget to replace the Dump Truck. The item was tabled, due to utilizing the Firehouse Garage in Palmer, NE to obtain a repair estimate.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the on-call pay for the City part-time Police Officers; the on-call pay will consist of: (1) Officer receives two (2) hours of regular pay when one (1) Officer covers calls the entire day (15 hours of on-call time); (2) for Holiday's, Officer receives three (3) hours of regular pay when one (1) Officer covers the entire day (15 hours of on-call time); (3) when Officer is called out when "on-call", the pay is regular pay for hours worked (two (2) hour minimum); and (4) any "on-call" time that an Officer has under the 15 hours shall be paid at a rate of \$2.00 per hour. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

There was a brief discussion regarding the attendance for the League of NE Municipalities 2021 Virtual Midwinter Conference that will be held in February 2021. City Clerk Beck will contact the League of NE Municipalities regarding the conference cost in attending one (1) or two (2) classes of the conference. City Clerk Beck will then notify the persons interested in attending.

Council member Feeken moved to approve transferring \$50,000 from the City Sales Tax Money Market account at Homestead Bank and deposit into the City Sales Tax checking account at Homestead Bank; this is to pay disbursements. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Thompson moved to approve transferring \$100,000 from the City Utility Billing ACH account at Heritage Bank and place in the Light 50%; Water 25%; and Sewer 25% ICS accounts at Citizens Bank & Trust to receive a higher interest rate. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The "COPS Hiring" grant is \$125,000 in federal funds over a three (3) year award period. The three (3) year local cash match required for the award will be \$66,773. In the fourth year, the City absorbs 100% of the Police Officer wages, health insurance and benefits. The award began July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2023. On Tuesday, September 8, 2020 the "COPS Hiring" grant was denied, due to limited funds in the budget and the City needing the funding to construct a new Wastewater Treatment Facility. On Friday, January 8, 2021, City Clerk Beck received an email from Michael Coates - Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding the "COPS Hiring" grant funds. Mr. Coates stated that the funds are still pending and available in the amount of \$125,000 for the City of St. Paul. Therefore, the item was placed back on the agenda for discussion, due to the City having two (2) new Council members that were installed December 7, 2020. Mayor Bergman received information from Mr. Coates that a grant manager was to be

assigned to the City regarding the grant; that hasn't occurred. Mayor Bergman is still awaiting a call from the grant manager. Mayor Bergman stated that the "COPS Hiring" grant can only be utilized to increase the current allotted manpower of an Agency, fill a vacancy created by a layoff or a predicted layoff due to a budget shortfall. The grant cannot be utilized to supplement a current vacancy within the Department. Council member Schmid voiced his concerns regarding the budget funding and that the City doesn't generate enough tax's to support another Police Officer. The item was tabled.

The Police Chief hiring advertisement was placed in the NE League of Municipalities and Essent magazines, along with the NE Law Enforcement Training Center website. Deadline to submit applications will be February 2021.

Police Sergeant Greenwalt reported on police business.

Council member Schmid reported: (1) the City is at its maximum levy; (2) the City needed to raise the sewer rates; (3) the City cannot afford any more mandates; and (4) need continuity between the City, County and the NE State Patrol.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Special meeting on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.; (2) Lien at 416 3rd Street (Matt Kenny) was paid in full and released; (3) Fred Meyer made his final funding pledge to the St. Paul Civic Center in the amount of \$5,000; the funds were place on the Civic Center Pledge loan; balance went from \$104,115 to \$99,115; and (4) no events are scheduled at the Civic Center due to Covid.

Public Comment Period: Brenda Klanecky questioned who was going to interview the new Police Chief; Mayor Bergman stated that any of the Council members can be involved, along with possibly bringing in an outside Law Enforcement Officer to interview.

For Public Announcements: Eugene Killinger questioned an item on the Monday, November 16, 2020 agenda. City Clerk Beck stated that there wasn't a Council meeting, due to not having a quorum; Council member Klanecky and Kezeor were absent. The item will be addressed by Utility Superintendent Helzer and City Clerk Beck.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Jan. 19, 2021  
Date

[Signature]  
Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

[Signature]  
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer