

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

**Monday, April 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 Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Jerry Thompson, Chuck Schmid & Mike Feeken. Absent: Katie Kowalski. 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 7:00 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 §84-1407 through §84-1414. Mayor Bergman also stated that the City Council may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by NE State Law §84-1410.

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. Also, any City patrons that are requesting "Public Records" or have "Questions or Concerns" in regards to the City, they need to be submitted in writing to the City of St. Paul, so that it can be addressed appropriately. These forms are available online, in a file folder on the back wall of the Council Chambers or at the City Office.

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.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Mayor Joel M. Bergman signing the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE) pre-application for State Revolving Fund (SRF) Assistance regarding the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Brian Friedrichsen with Olsson presented information on the State Revolving Fund (SRF) assistance. Council member Schmid requested that funding on the project not exceed twenty (20) years.

Brian Friedrichsen provided an update on the Sewer Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) project. Mr. Friedrichsen indicated that the State planning grant that the City applied for was denied, due to the planning portion of the project being almost 90% complete. The State will consider planning grants on other City projects.

Council member Schmid moved to approve reimbursing Secure Storage (Lowell Poland) for a street assessment in the amount of \$2,804.41. The assessment for Secure Storage located on the corner of "L" and 3rd Street (2014-2) included a portion of "L" Street that is in the City's Right-of-Way (R.O.W.). When the initial assessments were calculated for the District, "L" Street west of 3rd was shown as a closed street. It was originally thought that because of this closure the street Right-of-Way (R.O.W.) was vacated; the street has not been vacated. In this case, Secure Storage was charged an abutting front footage from the centerline of "L" Street to where the paving project ended further south on 3rd Street. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Thompson moved to approve Jared Rice hosting the annual Softball Tournament during Grover Cleveland Alexander (GCA) Days. Tournament times: Saturday, July 10, 2021 will be from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 11, 2021 will be from 8:00 a.m. to

3:00 p.m. Liability insurance will be covered by the GCA Day policy. The City Office staff will make sure all Certificates of Insurances are on file prior to the GCA Day events. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Council member Feeken requested verification of which entity the insurance policy is written for (Chamber, GCA Days Committee, etc.)

Council member Feeken moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) March 2021 Treasurers Report; (2) April 5, 2021 minutes; (3) April 12, 2021 zoning permits; and (4) April 19, 2021 disbursements. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

**Disbursements April 19, 2021**

City of St. Paul Checking - Library	29577.00
Transfer to Library ICS (transfer)	
City of St. Paul Checking - Ambulance	15254.00
Transfer to Ambulance ICS (transfer)	
Dept of Revenue Sales & Use Tax (tax)	13956.48
Piper Sandler (bonds)	91288.75
Clearlyfly (phone)	193.27
Advanced Climate Control (service)	488.54
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1229.13
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1682.23
BSN Sports (supplies)	311.50
Central District Health Dept (lab)	102.00
City of St. Paul Light (utilities)	9821.79
Custer County Recycling (service)	22.40
Danko Emergency Equip (supplies)	1460.12
Dinsdale, Tom Chevrolet (supplies)	119.60
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	1854.69
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	85.00
Goettsche, Roger (repair)	32.47
Hawkins (supplies)	153.54
Heartland Disposal (service)	5389.99
Homestead Bank (ACH fee)	28.80
Hometown Market (supplies)	170.00
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1480.33
Kelly Supply Company (supplies)	160.73
Midland Telecom (supplies)	102.60
Mid Nebraska Disposal (service)	3613.67
NE Municipal Power Pool (dues)	1134.10
Northrup Siding & Gutter (repair)	225.00
OfficeNet (service)	235.65
One Call Concepts (service)	24.97
Phonograph Herald (publication)	1349.32
Police Officer Association (dues)	45.00
Schaper & White (service)	3143.75
SiteOne Landscape Supply (supplies)	1273.43
Smith Welding (service)	6.80
TASC (fees)	110.76
Thiel Tire & Auto (repair)	59.82
Tommy Rene Printers (supplies)	472.85
US Post Office (postage)	460.00
Van Diest Supply Co. (supplies)	1436.60
Wilbert Memorials (service)	125.00
Woods & Aitken (service)	61.00

**Disbursements Non-General Fund**

City of St. Paul Elmwood Cemetery ICS to Elmwood Cemetery Checking (transfer)	27152.00
Dept of Revenue Charitable Gaming (tax)	4366.00
Civic: City of St. Paul Light (utilities)	918.01
Civic: Sarah Townsend (janitor)	300.00
Civic: Phonograph Herald (publication)	41.92
Keno: Phonograph Herald (publication)	54.00

Council member Schmid moved to approve placing \$200 into the TIF Money Market Account from the City General Fund; currently the March 2021 ending balance is \$919.91. The TIF Account should maintain a minimum balance of \$1,000; this is to avoid any Homestead Bank penalties. The account dropped below the minimum balance due to paying off CHS TIF early and a check order. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0. The general funds will be reimbursed once TIF funds become available.

Council member Schmid moved to waive the fence requirements for above-ground swimming pools (Section 9.5.04 of the Zoning regulations) for the 2021 season ending on Labor Day. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye. Nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Mayor Bergman indicated that the Interview Committee consisting of Jerry Thompson, Katie Kowalski, Joel Bergman and Scott Greenwalt interviewed four (4) potential Police Chief candidates. The committee recommends extending an offer of employment to an officer currently with the Omaha Police Department. It was suggested to offer the potential Police Chief a wage of \$31.25 per hour. The former Police Chief was earning \$31.60 per hour. Council member Thompson indicated that he was not willing to offer a starting wage that high. Council member Feeken suggested the decision to hire a new Police Chief wait until after the recall election results are known. Paul Tartaglia indicated that the current Police Department is short-staffed, that the officers are working long hours, and it is important to get a Chief on board in the near future. It was noted that this candidate would be retiring from the Omaha Police Department, and would receive health insurance benefits as part of his retirement package – and would not need health insurance from the City of St. Paul. This could result in a savings up to \$26,000 per year. Council member Schmid requested that the new Police Chief reside within the city limits.

Council member Schmid moved to approve extending an offer for the police chief position at a rate of \$29.25, with the rate increasing to \$31.25 after a six (6) month probationary period. Motion died for lack of a second.

Council member Thompson made a motion to renegotiate an offer with the potential police chief candidate and bring the issue to the May 3, 2021 City Council meeting for discussion and possible action. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Thompson & Schmid voted aye. Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 2/1.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) Sewer main repair work is being done at 3<sup>rd</sup> and "O" Streets; (2) Thank you to the Rotary group for donating four (4) bicycle racks for use at the ball fields and the pool; and (3) All sprinkler repair / grass seeding along Howard Avenue has been completed or will be completed soon.

City of St. Paul Police updates: (1) a Nuisance & Incident Report was submitted. (2) Officer Sharman and Deputy Tartaglia, as part of the SRT, assisted on an arrest without incident on a FBI warrant.

Council member updates:

- Council member Thompson: (1) Some of the driveway approaches along Howard Avenue have broken already. Consider cutting all driveway approaches and repair the broken ones. Matt Helzer indicated that the City is aware of this, and will be doing a walk-thru to get them all inspected within the one (1) year warranty period. (2) Spring

Clean-up was successful. Thank you to everyone involved in helping. Ten loads were taken to the landfill; and seven loads were collected for metal recycling.

- Council member Schmid: (1) Thank you to Jerry Thompson for coordinating the spring clean-up. Now it's time to work on nuisances, unlicensed and dismantled vehicles; and (2) The Police Department is doing an excellent job.
- Council member Feeken questioned the City policy on having non-City employees as passengers in the City's equipment, and whether the City's insurance would cover this.

Mayor Bergman updates: A concrete bench has been installed in front of the City office building in memory of Jessica Thompson; and he wants to commend the Police Department for doing a really good job these past months.

Public Comment Period - restricted to items on the agenda – None.

Public Announcements: (1) It is anticipated that the Senior Center will start serving meals at the Senior Center again beginning May 3, 2021; and (2) It is necessary to remove Mike Feeken's name as the contact for emergency alerts at the Civic Center.

Closed Session: Pending Litigation concerning Bed Head Coffee Co. vs. Levander.

Council member Feeken moved to go into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m. for pending litigation concerning Bed Head Coffee Co. vs. Levander. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go into Closed Session for pending litigation concerning Bed Head Coffee Co. vs. Levander. There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into Closed Session for pending litigation concerning Bed Head Coffee Co. vs. Levander. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Mayor Bergman adjourned the closed session at 8:22 p.m.

Council member Feeken moved to follow the recommendation of the City's attorney pertaining to the Bed Head Coffee Co. vs. Levander lawsuit. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

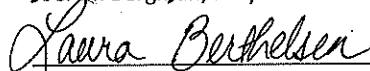
Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:23 p.m.

5-4-21

Date



Joel M. Bergman, Mayor



Laura Berthelsen, Acting City Clerk