

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

Monday, May 17, 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, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members 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 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.

Jason Brummund (719 Sheridan) was present to discuss pardoning his paving assessment in the amount of \$1,195, due to his property not abutting Howard Avenue; Mr. Brummund assumed he was paying for water and sewer. After a brief discussion on the City utilizing the "depth benefit chart" for many years, Council member Schmid moved to deny Mr. Brummund's request to pardon the assessment. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, Council member Thompson voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Mayor Bergman stated that Mr. Brummund should have contested this in the year "2014" when the District was created.

Brian Friedrichsen with Olsson was present to discuss the Nebraska Department of Environmental Energy (NDEE) Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) regarding the St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) upgrade; the approximate amount is \$5,371,650. Mr. Friedrichsen stated that the "CWSRF" loan and administration fee will carry a zero percent (0%) interest rate for the City of St. Paul. Also for discussion, is to add a new sewer flusher and vacuum into the loan, due to the City's equipment being outdated; this is an allowable expense per Mr. Friedrichsen. Mr. Friedrichsen also stated that the proposed engineering fees, loan amount, sewer flusher and vacuum can be discussed at a future meeting when the bid letting is complete. If the bid comes in higher on the WWTF project, the City can amend the original plan. Currently, Olsson wants to move forward on finalizing the WWTF loan documentation, therefore, Council member Schmid moved to approve accepting the zero percent (0%) loan interest rate and administration fee and moving forward with Olsson's plan. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) spoke on behalf of the City of St. Paul's American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocation in the estimated amount of \$390,000. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) is the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Mr. Friedrichsen stated that the ARP information is still unknown at this time; the State of Nebraska will be allocating the funds, with the City not knowing when they will receive the funds. The City will need to decide on how to utilize the funds by year "2024" and have the funds expended by year "2026". The Mayor and City Council members will have a public input session regarding the utilization of the ARP funds; this is for City transparency.

St. Paul Public School Superintendent John Poppert was present to discuss refinishing two (2) gym floors for the St. Paul Public School and also refinishing the gym floor for the St. Paul Civic Center; this is to reduce cost for both entities. After the discussion, Council member Kowalski moved to approve refinishing the St. Paul Civic Center gym floor with two (2) coats and paying the invoice amount of \$4,379.50 from the Civic Center Money Market fund. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mr. Poppert will notify the flooring company regarding the St. Paul Civic Center.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) May 3, 2021 Council minutes; and (2) May 17, 2021 disbursements. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

COR Management (Service)	800.00
Clearly (phone)	193.27
Homestead Bank \$495000 Wire Fee (Fee)	8.00
Dept of Revenue - Sales & Use Tax (tax)	13287.01
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1132.31
Banyon Data Systems (software)	3570.00
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	911.56
City of St. Paul Light (utilities)	8820.62
Core & Main (supplies)	226.85
Custer County Recycling (service)	51.60
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	135.00
Filtercare of NE (supplies)	153.40
Heartland Disposal (service)	5533.41
Homestead Bank (ACH fees)	34.60
Hometown Market (supplies)	2.48
Island Sprinkler Supply (supplies)	916.92
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1661.95
John Deere Financial (supplies)	127.25
Johnny's Lock & Key (repair)	168.00
LARM (insurance)	2244.86
Loup Valley Supply (supplies)	23.60
Menard's (supplies)	319.87
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	3621.59
Municipal Supply (supplies)	132.79
OfficeNet (service)	309.68
One Call Concepts (service)	35.74
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Overland Ready Mixed (concrete)	827.51
Phonograph Herald (publication)	937.18
RepCo Marketing (supplies)	41.80
RoadBuilders (supplies)	428.17
Scarborough Construction (repair)	580.00
Schaper & White (service)	247.92
Servi-Tech (lab)	207.00
SiteOne Landscape (supplies)	65.67

Smith, Kristy (supplies)	25.92
Steadfast Builders (curb grinding)	739.50
Trausch Dynamics (supplies)	2.04
United States Postal Service (postage)	460.00
Wells Plumbing (repair)	67.67

Disbursements May 17 Non-General

City of St. Paul Sales Tax Money Market	50000.00
Transfer to Sales Tax Checking (transfer)	
Keno: Loup Central Landfill Spring Cleanup (service)	234.46
REDLG: Crime Insurance (insurance)	1236.00
Sr Ctr: Amer. Fidelity & Life Safety (suppression system)	3345.44
Park: COR Mgmt Svcs (laptop)	550.00
Keno: LARM (fireworks coverage)	700.00
Schaper & White: Bed Head vs Levander (legal)	43.75
Civic: SE Smith & Sons (supplies)	3.49
Civic: Cardmember Services (fee, supplies)	21.48
Civic: Wells Plumbing (repair)	83.06
Civic: Entech Pest Mgmt (services)	170.00
Civic: Island Glass (repair)	405.00

Utility Superintendent Helzer was present to discuss the City of St. Paul Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) "Sub-Transmission Wheeling" rate adjustment regarding the line and transformation portion of the billing. The rate adjustment will begin the energy usage in the month of June 2021.

In April 2021, Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) and the NE Electric Generation & Transmission Coop Inc. (NE G&T) performed a study to determine the "Wheeling Rate" for the City; after reviewing the numbers, they agreed to adjust the "Wheeling Rate". The current rate is \$1.09 for the line portion and \$0.90 for the transformation portion. The new rate will be adjusted to \$0.95 for the line portion and \$0.80 for the transformation portion. This will be a standard practice annually for HGRPPD to perform the study. The rates are being passed through HGRPPD to the City from the NE Electrical Generation & Transmission Coop Inc (NE G&T). The monthly cost savings to the City is approximately \$2,000.

Mayor Bergman provided a St. Paul Police Department staffing update that consisted of: (1) hiring a Police Chief, which was postponed until after the recall election; the Chief of Police candidate declined the position last Friday, May 14, 2021; (2) St. Paul Police Officer Trev Sharman submitted his resignation to the City; he will be employed with the Howard County Sheriff's Department beginning June 1, 2021. Mayor Bergman thanked Officer Sharman for his dedicated service to the St. Paul Police Department; (3) there are candidates that have expressed their interest in the St. Paul Chief of Police position and the Police Officer position. Applications will be open for both the Chief of Police and Police Officer position for a brief period; Mayor Bergman will also advertise the two (2) positions. Council member Kowalski moved to approve the City of St. Paul taking applications and advertising for the positions of Chief of Police and Police Officer. The hiring of the Chief of Police and Police Officer will be placed on the Monday, June 7, 2021 Council agenda for approval. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The prior Chief of Police and Police Officer applications will be kept on file for one (1) year. St. Paul Police Officer Sharman will continue to help the City on days off.

Mayor Bergman gave an update on the recall election results; those persons voting "NO" to retain Mayor Bergman were 221; those persons voting "YES" to remove Mayor Bergman were 213. Mayor Bergman will maintain his title as Mayor.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) the "2021" swimming pool and park sprinklers are ready for the season; (2) the Senior Center new LED Emergency lighting has been installed; (3) the Senior Center suppression hood system has been installed costing \$3,345.44; the City received a credit of \$1,500 from Midland Area Agency on Aging; (4) the Light Department employees will be painting the Quonset gray in color; this will save the City \$8,000 to \$10,000; and (5) eliminating the turkey vultures from roosting in the Park sycamore trees; Nebraska Game & Parks will supply the City with an effigy to deter the vultures from congregating in the park (an effigy is a fake dead animal that is hung in an area to deter a specific species).

City Police Sergeant Greenwalt extended his thank you and appreciation to all City Police Officers, Howard County Deputies and the Nebraska State Patrol for their help and assistance to St. Paul.

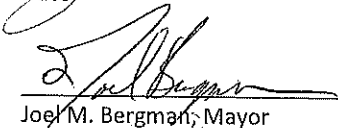
Council member Feeken stated that he received a telephone call from a resident to possibly change the Recycling Center dump hours on Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; there will be more discussion on this topic in the future.

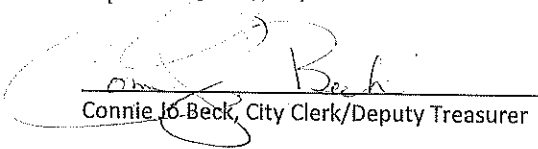
Council member Schmid complimented Park Commissioner Randy Jerabek on the great job he's doing on the City Parks and Ballfields. Council member Schmid also reported that the small flag pole in the Elmwood Cemetery Catholic section has been removed.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Update the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Municipality to be recognized as a participating jurisdiction; FEMA requires at least one (1) designated representative to participate in the planning process; the representatives for the City of St. Paul will be Utility Superintendent Helzer and Council member Schmid. The HMPs identify vulnerabilities, possible impacts and losses within participating jurisdictions to various natural and man-made hazards (e.g., flood, wildfire, winter storm, dam & levee failure, etc.); (2) The 2021 Virtual Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference will be held June 15-17, 2021 and June 22-24, 2021. A conference program and registration information will be emailed in the near future; (3) St. Paul American Legion Post #119 will be distributing poppy's on Thursday, May 27, 2021 (Barb Sack); (4) A "Notice of Nuisance" was sent by certified mail on Monday, May 10, 2021 to Todd Padrnos (1220 Farnum) regarding a nuisance at the 108 Howard Avenue apartments; Mr. Padrnos will have ten (10) days from the date of the notice (May 13, 2021) to abate said described nuisance; the due date is set for Monday, May 24, 2021 by 4:00 p.m. The Padrnos apartments were declared a nuisance at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021; (5) the City's Recycling Center hay bid is due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the City Office; (6) the Sales Tax LB 840 loan of Rock Hard 4 x 4 has been paid in full. City Clerk Beck will be making a payment on the St. Paul Civic Center loans in the approximate amount of \$156,000 to be approved on June 7, 2021; (7) the City has received \$108,893 in paving assessments for the Howard Avenue, Paul Street and Kendall East projects; the majority of the people are paying their assessments in full; and (8) the April 2021 Keno receipts.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Date June 7, 2021


Joel M. Bergman, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer