

City of St Paul Special Meetings
704 6th Street
St. Paul, NE 68873

- (1) 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. regarding the utilization of the City of St. Paul's American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds and (2) 6:31 p.m. to close regarding Community public input on the proposed City of St. Paul's 2021 – 2022 Budget

Monday, August 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

A special meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska was held at City Hall in said City on Monday, August 9, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Councilmembers: Katie Kowalski, Jerry Thompson, Chuck Schmid and 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) 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 called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. regarding the City of St. Paul's American Rescue Plan (ARP) fund utilization, along with voicing the "Pledge of Allegiance" and the "Open Meeting Statement" as required by NE State Statutes 84-1407 through 84-1414; Mayor Bergman also states that the City Council may vote to go into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by NE State Statute 84-1410.

The purpose of the meeting was to allow an open discussion between the Mayor, City Council and the community regarding the utilization of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.

Mayor Bergman voiced that the City has received half of the ARP funds in the amount of \$206,456.21; the other half will arrive approximately a year from now. The funds must be incurred and obligated by December 31, 2024, and be expended with all work completed by December 31, 2026. Mayor Bergman stated that the City will be accountable and fiscally responsible for the ARP funds, along with completing the required reporting and follow all ARP rules and regulations.

The Non-entitlement Units of Local Governments can utilize the funds regarding five (5) eligible uses:

- (1) Support Public Health Response: COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare and certain public health and safety staff;
- (2) Negative Economic Impacts: Respond to negative economic impacts to workers, families, small businesses, and nonprofits, or impacted industries and re-hiring of public sector workers;
- (3) Replace Revenue Loss: Provide for government services in the amount of revenue reduction experienced in the pandemic;
- (4) Premium Pay for Essential Workers: Additional support to those workers that bear the greatest health risks; with funds being able to be used retroactively back to January 27, 2020; and
- (5) Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: Necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, wastewater and storm-water infrastructure and underserved and unserved locations for new and expanded broadband access.

A lengthy discussion ensued between the Mayor and City Council members regarding the eligible uses which included: Storm-water drainage cleanout and improvements (ditch clean-out); Extend storm-sewer ditch to river (American Legion); Early childhood education; certain organizations impacted during COVID-19 such as the Food Pantry, Senior Center or Housing Authority; After School program or Civic Center to enhance childcare and development; St. Paul Fire and Rescue: radio's and supplies; St. Paul Swimming Pool and St. Paul Library (revenue loss - laid off workers); Hospital (public health response); the negative impact to local businesses in closing their doors during the pandemic; Broadband infrastructure; City cyber security;

Upgrading WIFI access to the downtown area; Hiring and purchase of equipment for Police Officers; Criminal Violence Prevention programs; Upgrading Police radio's, computers/laptops; tie Water Treatment Facility radio's into the new Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF); and Infill Housing.

After hearing no other comments from the audience, Mayor Bergman adjourned the American Rescue Plan (ARP) special meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Mayor Bergman called a special meeting to order at 6:31 p.m., to receive public input regarding the proposed City of St. Paul's 2021-2022 Budget; Mayor Bergman also announced the "Open Meeting Statement" as required by NE State Statutes 84-1407 through 84-1414.

Mayor Bergman opened the public comment hearing at 6:31 p.m., with voicing the proposed City valuation being approximately \$14,347,224.00, along with the budget time lines that need to be met by the City Council in approving the budget. Mayor Bergman also voiced each City Department Revenue, Expenditure and Net Cash Flow total, along with asking the City Council or audience if they had any questions or changes.

After a lengthy discussion with the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce (Barb Wroblewski) regarding the \$3,000 funding, Council member Kowalski moved to approve utilizing \$3,000 from the Keno fund to support the Chamber of Commerce for marketing and promotions. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. There was a brief discussion regarding the St. Paul Development Corp. cooperatively working with the Chamber of Commerce, so that there is no duplication in work from either side.

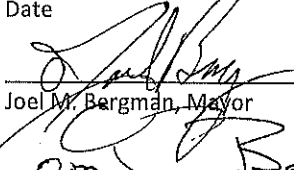
After a brief discussion on hiring two (2) seasonal employees for the Street Department and purchasing a new vehicle for the City Utility Superintendent, the Mayor and Council members agree unanimously to amend the budget to reflect the hiring and purchase. City Clerk Beck will amend the street line item to reflect the \$20,000 increase to the wages, and amend the General fund to increase it \$20,000 for the Utility Superintendents new vehicle; the funds will be expended from the Lights, Water, Sewer and Street Department's.

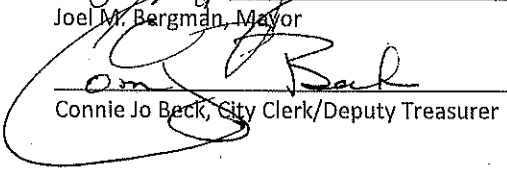
Also for discussion was to upgrade the St. Paul Police Departments equipment. Utility Superintendent Helzer stated that the Swimming Pool's water heater was no longer operational; an 80 gallon water heater has been purchased for approximately \$4,000 to replace the old one. A St. Paul Fire Department quick response vehicle was also briefly discussed. No action was taken.

Mayor Bergman closed the public comment period at 8:05 p.m.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the Special Council meeting at 8:05 p.m.

8-16-21
Date


Joel W. Bergman, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer