

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

Monday, January 3, 2022

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, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members 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) 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.

Gary Hinrichs, Certified Public Accountant with Dana F. Cole & Co. provided an audit presentation regarding the City of St. Paul's Financial Statement for year ending September 30, 2021. Mr. Hinrichs stated that this was an unqualified audit, which represents a clean audit report; expenditures were within the approved budget limits. Council member Kowalski moved to approve the 2020-2021 Financial Statement from the City Auditors, Dana F. Cole & Co., Ord, NE. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the City of St. Paul's 2020-2021 Financial Statement Journal Entries from City Auditors Dana F. Cole & Company, Ord, Nebraska. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve placing the excess Department funds from the 2020-2021 Financial Report into the ICS Accounts: (1) Police \$44,362; (2) Ambulance \$12,265; and (3) Parks \$13,201. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve deducting \$14,541 from the Elmwood Cemetery ICS and placing it into the City Checking account. This is due to the Elmwood Cemetery shortage in the 2020-2021 Financial Statement; the shortages come from cemetery stone repair; purchase of cameras; and fencing. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Brian Friedrichsen with Olsson discussed the City of St. Paul potentially requesting additional funds from the NE Dept. of Environment & Energy (NDEE) State Revolving Loan funds (SRF) pertaining to the City's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). Mr. Friedrichsen stated that at this time, any additional requested funds would be at an interest rate of one percent (1%).

Based on a conversation Mr. Friedrichsen had with Steve McNulty with the State of Nebraska, it was recommended to wait until the project is closer to the completion date in case there are additional change orders that would either decrease or increase the project amount. By doing this, there may be a new cycle of zero percent (0%) money available. No action was taken on this agenda item. Mr. Friedrichsen is anticipating a pre-construction meeting in mid-February 2022. Construction plans are available for public review at the City office.

St. Paul Fire Chief Mike Becker provided justification for purchasing an "equipment and command" vehicle for the St. Paul Fire Department described as a 2015 Ford F-250 Super Duty XL 4x4 four (4) door Super Cab 6.8 ft., short box truck from Jacobs Ford at a cost of \$22,995. The St. Paul Rural Fire Board approved the purchase of the truck on December 13, 2021; they will pay half (1/2) the cost. Council member Schmid moved to approve the purchase of the 2015 Ford F-250 Super Duty XL 4x4 four (4) door Super Cab 6.8 ft., short box truck from Jacobs Ford at a cost of \$22,995. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, Council member Thompson voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Mr. Becker said he will personally pay for fuel and oil changes on the vehicle since he will be driving the vehicle so it is readily accessible when needed for fire calls. Mr. Becker assured the City Council that the pickup will not be driven out of town unless it is used in response to a fire call.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) December 20, 2021 Council minutes; (2) December 27, 2021 zoning permits; and (3) January 3, 2022 disbursements. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Gross Wages - December	84679.26
Bomgaars (Supplies)	1466.36
Bound Tree (supplies)	1135.56
Cardmember Services (supplies, postage, meals)	1352.48
Charter/Spectrum (Service)	229.96
City Health Deductible Savings (Insurance)	6534.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (Insurance)	150.00
Consolidated Mgmt (training)	34.96
COR Managed Services (Service)	49.98
Core & Main (Supplies)	402.38
Courtney Jo Studios (service)	130.00
Custer County Recycling (Service)	23.30
Dana Cole & Co. (audit)	3126.00
Elmwood Cemetery (Cemetery)	200.00
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	85.00
Heartland Disposal (Service)	119.25
Hometown Market (supplies)	119.37
Howard County Treasurer (Dispatch)	3122.42
JDT Investments (service)	96.00
John Deere Financial (supplies)	121.41
Justice Data Solutions (service)	1500.00
Killinger Electric (supplies)	23.54
Labor Law Center (supplies)	128.75
Madison Nat'l Life (Insurance)	193.32
Menards (supplies)	237.83
Meyer, Deb (training)	705.00
Midland Telecom (repair)	85.95
NE Law Enforce Training (training)	135.00
Nebraska Rural Water Assn (Membership)	200.00
Parts Bin (Supplies)	388.31
Rawlings, Moriah (supplies)	89.77
Regional Care (Insurance)	99.00
S E Smith & Sons (Supplies)	115.71

State of NE Central Svcs (Telephone)	159.99
TASC (service)	554.00
Twin Loups Mutual Aid (service)	559.20
US Postal Service (permit fee)	265.00
Vogel Auto Repair (service)	51.00

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax: Street Motor Vehicle Tax (Tax)	3017.35
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure (Infrast)	7821.83
City REDLG Transfer to ICS (trfr)	20000.00
City Keno Transfer to ICS (trfr)	44000.00
City Police Transfer to ICS (trfr)	15000.00
City Light Transfer to ICS (trfr)	10000.00
City Ambulance Transfer to ICS (trfr)	10000.00
City Park Transfer to ICS (trfr)	10000.00
City 25% Infrastructure (sale tax) Transfer to ICS (trfr)	40000.00
Keno: Dana Cole & Co (audit)	400.00

Council member Feeken moved to approve transferring \$73,000 from the City (Utility Deposit) Heritage Bank account and transfer it into the City Checking account; this is to pay disbursements. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Thompson moved to authorize the St. Paul Police Department to submit a grant application for in-car computers and to upgrade the Police Departments dash and body cameras. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Police Chief Howard requested the agenda item to purchase an additional police vehicle be addressed at a future meeting.

Mayor Bergman announced that the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) the City's twenty (20) foot radio antenna broke in the last windstorm. A replacement antenna has been found which will cost approximately \$2,500. A claim will be filed with the insurance company; (2) due to the extreme cold temperatures last weekend, the school experienced a frozen fire sprinkler line that caused extensive water damage to the rooms south of the gym; (3) the City's salt spreader now has a new motor and a new, larger alternator which will hopefully resolve the recent maintenance issues; and (4) the block heater went out on the John Deere tractor which will require replacement.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) each of the City of St. Paul police cruisers have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which was obtained from a grant submitted by Police Sargent Greenwalt. The AED's work with Life Paks used by EMS and the local hospital. The City's cost will be to pay for replacement batteries and new pads as needed; (2) all of the police officers are now certified in Taser training; (3) the Police Department continues to work on nuisance issues throughout the community; (4) the Police Department has a mobile speed limit trailer available from the State of Nebraska through the end of January. It will be placed in various areas around town to provide awareness of posted speed limits.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Citizens Bank & Trust notified the City that the City's Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) account interest rate will decrease from .85% to .45% at the end of December 2021; (2) pursuant to the advertisement in the Phonograph Herald on December 22, 2021, the St. Paul Development Corporation will be hiring a Community Programs Coordinator.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:56 p.m.

January 18, 2022
Date

Joel Bergman
Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

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Laura Berthelsen
Laura Berthelsen, Deputy City Clerk

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