

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

Monday, March 7, 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, March 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid and Mike Feeken. Absent: Council member Thompson. 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Bergman opened a public hearing at 7:03 p.m. regarding the consideration of adopting a long range One (1) and Six (6) Year Street Improvement plan.

Travis Tibbetts from Palmer, NE was in attendance requesting to be placed on the City's residential sanitation service list; fees were provided to the Mayor and City Council members. Mr. Tibbetts stated all garbage will be taken to the Loup Central Landfill, Elba, NE. Currently, Mr. Tibbetts is working with Sullivan Insurance in attaining a Certificate of Insurance for his business. Mr. Tibbetts did not have any questions regarding the City of St. Paul's Garbage Hauling Permit. Council member Feeken moved to approve adding Triple T. Disposal to the City's sanitation service list once a current Certificate of Insurance is provided to the City Office. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Once the Certificate of Insurance is provided the City Office will have Mr. Tibbetts sign the Garbage Hauling Permit.

Brent Kunze (1209 Cody Road - Palmer, NE) was also in attendance to discuss the dismantling of the City's Wellfield abandoned building located at 12th & Eagle Road, St. Paul, NE. After a lengthy discussion regarding the City performing a bid letting on the building the item was tabled by the Council members. City Clerk Beck will contact legal counsel to see if a bid letting is necessary for the project.

Next on the agenda for discussion were the improvements to the 108 Howard Avenue (Todd Padrnos) apartments. Chief of Police Howard stated that Mr. Padrnos has begun to replace the lower beams of the apartment, along with continuing to search for funding. Chief of Police Howard is giving Mr. Padrnos another two (2) weeks; a letter will be sent to him regarding an update at the City Council meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) February 22, 2022 Council minutes; and (2) March 7, 2022 disbursements. Council member Kowalski seconded

Verizon Wireless (service)	191.36
Vogel Auto (repair)	1489.93

Non-General Disbursements

Street: Mtr Veh Tax from Sales Tax (Street Mtr Tax)	5391.59
25% Infrastructure from Sales Tax (25% Infrast)	
Sewer ICS: Rutjens Construction (WWTF Pay Request #1)	57182.31
Sales Tax: Schaper & White (legal)	204.17

Mayor Bergman opens the public comment period at 7:18 p.m. to consider the adoption of the City of St. Paul's One (1) and Six (6) Year Street Improvement plan.

City Engineer Jeff Palik with Olsson's, Grand Island, NE presented the 2022 One (1) and Six (6) Year Street Improvement plan maps for review on each individual street project. The One (1) Year Street plan will consist of: (1) 9th Street between Adams and Baxter Streets; (2) Middle Loup Subdivision; and (3) "M" Street between US Highway 281 and approximately 250' east (drainage ditch). The Walk/Bike Trail has been eliminated from the One (1) and Six (6) Year Street plan all together; the project needs to be revamped. The Six (6) Year Street Improvement plan consists of 23 other projects. Even though the projects are in the One (1) and Six (6) Year Street plan, the City is not obligated to complete them. This has always been a planning process that is completed each year for the City to receive highway allocation funds.

Mayor Bergman closed the public comment period at 7:35 p.m.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the City's 2022 One (1) and Six (6) Year Street Improvement plan. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Also, up for discussion was the disrepair of Custer Street; City Engineer Jeff Palik and Utilities Superintendent Helzer will inspect the street and will report on improvement options at a later City Council meeting.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Resolution 2022-01; whereas the City of St. Paul has conducted a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Public Roads Classification Standards. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt and request to close and barricade streets on Saturday, April 9, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Rain date is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2022. The street closings consist of: Indian Street between 4th & 6th Streets and 5th Street between Howard Avenue & Indian Street; the City will provide the barricades. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The St. Paul Civic Center updates from St. Paul Development Corp Executive Director Mike Coghlan was tabled until Monday, March 21, 2022.

Sewer Commissioner Bill Gregoski was present to discuss the repairing of the City's existing 20 year old sewer jetter. Mr. Gregoski stated that the machine has many hours and has been reinforced several times. Repairs would include: (1) a stainless steel tank from Smith Welding, St. Paul, NE in the amount of \$15,027.34 or a PVC tank from Taylor Plastics LLC, Council Bluffs, IA in the amount of \$19,500, along with a (2) new water pump from MacQueen Equipment, Lincoln, NE in the amount of \$12,897. Mr. Gregoski stated that if the City were to sell the Jetter, the City would get approximately \$2,500 for it. After a lengthy discussion on the cost of repairs, the discussion came to a standstill; the City Council moved on to the next item of business.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Sewer Commissioner Gregoski and the City Council members regarding the purchase of a new City sewer jetter. Mr. Gregoski received the quotes from a Sourcewell contract (government discounted service) which included: (1) MacQueen Equipment; \$79,605.47 (see quote for warranty); (2) Mid-Iowa Solid Waste (Gas Engine); 1-Year Warranty; \$85,099.20; and (3) Mid-Iowa Solid Waste (Diesel Engine); 1-Year Warranty;

\$90,448.75. Mr. Gregoski stated that an upgrade is necessary regarding the sewer jetter; the business where the City purchased the sewer jetter is no longer in business. Council member Kowalski moved to approve performing a bid letting for the sewer jetter; this is so that the City can receive a better quote. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds can be utilized for the sewer jetter.

Sewer Commissioner Gregoski was also present to discuss the City purchasing a new sewer vacuum. The Sourcewell contract quotes included: (1) Vermeer (Marshall Adams); Diesel; 1-Year Warranty; \$134,184; (2) Vermeer (Marshall Adams); 1 Year Warranty; \$78,079; (3) Ditch Witch - Used 2019 Diesel; 6.8 Hours; No Warranty; \$60,000; (4) Ditch Witch - New; 1-Year Warranty; \$84,328.77; and (5) MacQueen Equipment - New; \$70,029 (see quote for warranty). Council member Schmid moved to approve performing a bid letting regarding a used sewer vacuum. The motion died for a lack of a second. Council member Kowalski moved to approve performing a bid letting on a new and used sewer vacuum. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Sewer Commissioner Gregoski also went out for a Sourcewell contract bid regarding a City Sewer "Push Camera" in the amount of \$11,827.50; it has a warranty of one (1) year. Mr. Gregoski stated that a sewer camera has paid for itself in dividends, and is a very valuable piece of equipment. The item was tabled.

Council member Schmid moved to approve purchasing a new water walk crossing net for the St. Paul Swimming Pool in the proposed amount of \$9,596; the color will be blue and yellow. The net will have a warranty of one (1) year. Funds will be disbursed from the City Keno fund. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Joel Bergman wanted to bring awareness to an issue not included in the Municipal Code regarding vehicles parked in City parking lots for an extended period of time. The City has had issues in the north City parking lot where vehicles have intentionally been left, along with the vehicle being crossed parked. Mayor Bergman stated that local residents utilizing the parking lot tend to move their vehicles; this is also a drive through for utility bill payments. The Municipal Code regulates City streets and alley ways, but does not specifically regulate parking lots. There are no restrictions for 24 hour parking or overnight parking. Council member Schmid moved to approve having a discussion to create an ordinance to establish City parking lot restrictions. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Chief of Police Howard will look into the verbiage of a parking lot ordinance. Council member Feeken stated that the ordinance needs to be enforced.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Helzer wanted to have a discussion regarding the 2022 City non-pool seasonal hires; this includes the Landfill personnel. Brian Friedrichsen will be returning for the 2022 City Recycling Center season. Turner Brouillette will not be returning for 2022; he worked the long park season (1040 hours) with Parks Manager Randy Jerabek. Utilities Superintendent Helzer will advertise for this position. Isiah Sack and Tyler Swinarski will be returning for 2022. Utilities Superintendent Helzer wanted direction on what the City Council was willing to pay for Mr. Brouillette's position. This would give the applicants some idea if they wanted to apply. Council member Thompson wanted to table the wage determination, due to him currently performing a wage comparison; other Council members did not have an issue with a beginning wage of \$10.50.

Also, up for discussion was to hire one (1) seasonal person for the Electrical Dept.; they are down one (1) person, due to an employee injury. The work would entail shovel work, with no electrical exposure. The Mayor and City Council members were all in agreement to advertise for this position; hourly wage will be determined at a later date.

Hiring two (2) seasonal people for the Street Dept. was also up for discussion to repair the Howard Avenue brick streets from 9th Street to 4th Street. Councilmember Thompson moved to approve advertising for the two (2) seasonal people to perform the street repair. Council

member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Hourly wage will be determined at a later date.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve ratifying all actions of Connie Jo Beck, the City of St. Paul's League Association of Risk Management (LARM) representative, identified in the DRAFT minutes of the Annual Members' Meeting of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, including the election of nominees to the LARM Board of Directors. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

St. Paul Chief of Police Dan Howard was present to discuss the St. Paul Police Department joining a Special Response Team (SRT), along with training and equipping a City Police Officer. A Special Response Team (SRT) is an elite tactical group that rapidly responds to high-risk law enforcement operations and conducts criminal investigations that lead to the arrests of the most violent criminals. The Team is utilized for incidents such as high-risk criminal investigations, undercover operations, surveillance operations, and protective service operations. Benefits of being a member of the SRT include having access to a Drone (Nance County), K9 (Nance, Sherman, and Valley Counties), quicker response for assistance from neighboring agencies, and training opportunities. The SRT also has a light armored vehicle that will be delivered within the next few months. Currently, the SRT has 12 persons that are all voluntary. Chief of Police Howard stated that he would like to do the administrative duties for the SRT. Duties would include logging rifle zero, training hours and logging call outs (who, what, where, when, why & how.) Chief of Police Howard would be the direct line of contact for administrators of team members and would monitor SRT contracts annually. Chief of Police Howard and Howard County Deputy Trev Sharman will be attending a negotiation school, along with six (6) team members attending a SWAT School on April 18-22, 2022. Chief of Police Howard would like to send one (1) Officer (if willing) to the SWAT School next year; the estimated cost would be \$795 plus cost of SIM rental of \$50. The City SRT equipment would be in the 2022-2023 Budget in the amount of approximately \$600 - \$1,600. The St. Paul Police Dept. would be responsible for paying wages of its own SRT Officers when on call outs. City insurance (LARM) would cover their own department. The SRT Officer will receive eight (8) hours of continuing education each month and Chief of Police Howard will document how many hours the department puts towards the SRT Team. Chief of Police Howard stated that the City will always have someone on call if an SRT goes out of town. Mr. Bill Peters had questioned whether the Special Response Team (SRT) was a necessary venture for the City. Council member Kowalski moved to approve Chief of Police Dan Howard performing the SRT Administrative duties, along with a City Police Officer being willing to join the SRT Team for one (1) year. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson and Schmid voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Council member Kowalski conveyed her appreciation regarding the great relationship that Howard County and the City of St. Paul has together.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates included: (1) the dumpster on Howard Avenue in front of the theatre will be removed prior to the snow storm; (2) Street Commissioner Jamie Klanecky is having a difficult time in finding tar for the streets; (3) Sherwin Williams has no traffic paint; and (4) any parts ordered by the City, are six (6) months out to be received.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) submitted a Police "Incident" report; (2) Nuisance properties will be on the agenda for March 21, 2022; (3) Taser training today (3-7-22); (4) two (2) Police Officer (non-certified) applications have been received, along with one (1) local application to be submitted as of yet; (5) scheduling of interview dates; and (6) Law Enforcement Training Academy training date has already been reserved for the next Police Officer.

Mayor Bergman updates included: (1) Dave Ziska (Olsson) thank you card; (2) County Cage "Special Designated Liquor" permits regarding Bag League play each week from March 1, 2022 to April 19, 2022; (3) Reporting of Sales Tax proceeds; (4) SAM (System for Award Management) was updated on October 25, 2021; this is a government run site that serves as a central registration point for government contractors. The government-wide application collects,

validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners in support of the contract awards, grants, and electronic payment process; (5) EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access) was updated on January 8, 2022; EMMA service is a website created to provide information about municipal bonds, bond prices, and market trends to the public. EMMA supports municipal market transparency but is not a platform for buying or selling bonds; (6) Received Skate Park damage reimbursement of \$810.33; (7) IBEW 1597 Union Negotiation workshop on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.; (8) City received a reimbursement check from the St. Paul Rural Fire Dept. for 50% of the Fire Dept. Ford pickup in the amount of \$11,498.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Date *March 21, 2022*

Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

Connie Jo Beck
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer