

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

Monday, April 4, 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, April 4, 2022 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 7:01 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.

Mayor Bergman opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. regarding a "Conditional Use Permit" application filed by Birdhouse Properties, LLC (Caitlin Birdsell) for the construction of a multi-family dwelling on Lots One (1) and Two (2), Dalton Meadows Subdivision in St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. The property is located on the south side of Jay Street, west of Nelson Street.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Pay Request #2 to Rutjens Construction Inc. Tilden, NE regarding the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF); Project #020-2586 in the amount of \$16,097.01 for stored material (transformer). The pay request will be submitted to the NE Dept. of Environment & Energy (NDEE) for reimbursement. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Bergman opened the "public comment" period at 7:08 p.m. regarding a "Conditional Use Permit" application filed by Birdhouse Properties, LLC (Caitlin Birdsell) for the construction of a multi-family dwelling on Lots One (1) and Two (2), Dalton Meadows Subdivision in St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. After Mrs. Birdsell stated that she named the 55+ Luxury Living 6-Plex after her late mother-in-law, she gave a brief presentation of a slide show regarding the apartments.

Mayor Bergman closed the "public comment" period at 7:18 p.m.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the "Conditional Use Permit" application filed by Birdhouse Properties, LLC (Caitlin Birdsell). The permit is for the construction of a multi-family dwelling on Lots One (1) and Two (2), Dalton Meadows Subdivision in St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the purchase of a new City Sewer Jetter Trailer, Council member Schmid moved to approve the Rose Equipment Inc. sewer jetter bid in the amount of \$83,203; the Model is a 2022 O'Brien 7040-SC, with a diesel motor. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, Council member Thompson voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. The 2021-2022 Budget will absorb the cost of the machine through the Sewer Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) account. Mr. Gregoski noted that on Friday, April 1, 2022 Mid-Iowa Solid Waste increased their bids 9% effective immediately; the figures were changed on the spreadsheet prior to the Council meeting.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the purchase of a new or used City Sewer Hydro-Excavation (Vacuum) machine. Council member Feeken moved to approve Vermeer High Plains (Marshall Adams) sewer vacuum bid in the amount of \$75,137, the Model is a 2022 LP 873XDT, with a Diesel Kohler motor. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, Council member Thompson voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. The 2021-2022 Budget will absorb the cost of the machine through the Sewer Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) account.

Council member Thompson moved to approve Daniel Howard's bid in the amount of \$10.00 regarding the City of St. Paul's surplus property well-field building; the building is located at 12th Avenue and Eagle Road, St. Paul, Howard County, NE. One (1) bid was submitted by 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 2022; the sale shall be for cash. City Clerk Connie Jo Beck followed the terms of the sale pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 17-503.02. The building must be dismantled by September 30, 2022. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Next on the agenda were members from the Nebraska Air-boater's Association (NAA) that approached St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) Executive Director Mike Coghlan regarding clearing City owned land by the Middle Loup River (Parcel #471024461) to be utilized for recreational purposes and to have air-boat access to the river. The NAA members in attendance and spoke on behalf of this subject were: Arron Wetovick (North Loup Area), Kirk Westring (Genoa Area), Randy Fetrow (Genoa Area) and Kyle Kern (Ashland Area). The NAA members stated that if the City could gain access to the Middle Loup River they would utilize sweat equity to remove the trees and debris in the area; this would be an approximately 1,500 ft. clearing. The area would be to promote air-boaters, be utilized for public access and parking, and utilize for river emergency purposes. Council member Thompson moved to approve the NAA clearing the property, along with the development of a boat ramp; this is pending City easement access. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The NAA will provide the City with a Certificate of Insurance prior to the removal of trees or the construction of a boat ramp.

Council member Thompson moved to approve Consent Agenda Items: (1) March 14, 2022 (special) and March 21, 2022 (regular) Council minutes; (2) March 28, 2022 zoning permits; and (3) April 4, 2022 disbursements. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

April 4, 2022 Disbursements

Gross Wages - March	78039.98
Advanced Climate Control (repair)	218.41
Amazon Capital Services (books)	1405.11
Beck, Connie Jo (mileage, dues)	128.28
Bergman, Joel (mileage)	146.25
Berthelsen, Laura (mileage, meals)	203.94
Bomgaars (supplies)	580.47
Brown, Aubrie (computer)	1217.42
Cardmember Svcs (meals, supplies, education, postage)	9540.40
Cengage Learning (books)	34.18
Charter/Spectrum (service)	239.96
Christensen Insurance (bond)	40.00

City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	6171.00
City Heritage Bank Transfer to City Homestead Bank (transfer of funds to pay disbursements)	150000.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	140.00
Consolidated Mgmt (meals)	129.24
Core & Main (supplies)	227.84
Custer County Recycling (Service)	26.00
Dept of HHS (refund)	600.00
Dick's Repair (repair)	808.88
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	2921.51
Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	822.60
Guth Laboratories (supplies)	400.09
Hawkins Inc. (chemicals)	2800.72
Hometown Market (supplies)	44.19
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3122.42
Howard Greeley Rural Public Power (supplies)	390.39
Internal Revenue Service (fee)	450.62
Jarecke Motors (repair)	69.32
John Deere Financial (supplies)	91.91
LCL Truck Equipment (supplies)	437.90
Logan Contractors Supply (supplies)	8210.00
Loup Valley Supply (supplies)	1.20
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	182.58
Midland Telecom (supplies)	502.00
NE Dept of Transportation (service)	2739.80
NE Law Enforcement Training (education)	360.00
NE Machinery (supplies)	71.56
NE Public Health Envir (lab)	237.00
Olsson (engineering)	14578.85
Parts Bin (supplies)	320.66
Petty Cash (meals, chemical)	29.36
Regional Care (insurance)	93.50
Rutjens Construction (WWTF Pay Request #2 - transformer)	16097.13
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	17.47
Sayler Screenprinting (uniform)	76.50
Sewer ICS Fund: Transfer from Checking to Sewer ICS (WWTF Pay Request #1)	370697.81
Spilinek, Billynda (service)	910.00
St. Paul Public Schools (supplies)	247.50
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	511.73
Swanson, Joe (mileage, education)	144.56
Tina Treffer Signs (service)	480.00
TO Haas Tire (repair)	20.00
Verizon Wireless (service)	191.36
Wesco (supplies)	820.05
Non-General Disbursements	
New Wave Pools & Spas Inc. (Pool Crossing Net) (1/2 Payment)	4798.00
G-Works: Final Payment Simple City Cloud Physical Asset Management (Subscription)	18000.00
TIF: St. Paul Development Corp (BedHead Coffee TIF Proceeds)	117.30
TIF: S Squared Enterprises (Prairie Falls TIF Proceeds)	589.12
TIF: MAD Development (1/2 Dalton Meadows TIF Proceeds)	645.38
TIF: City of St Paul (1/2 Dalton Meadows TIF Proceeds)	645.37

Sales Tax: Street Motor Vehicle Tax (to St-Mtr Veh Tax)	3098.98
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure (to 25% Infrastructure)	7538.22

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the St. Paul Rescue Squad's "2022 Billing Rate Schedule" to be mailed to Quick Med Claims, Omaha, NE; this is regarding the St. Paul Rescue Squad's medical transports. The 2022 billing rates will remain the same as year 2021. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The St. Paul Rescue Squad approved the billing rates at the Monday, March 28, 2022 meeting.

After a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the construction of a City "Welcome Sign" to be placed on the south side of St. Paul on Economic Development land, Council member Schmid moved to approve St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) begin construction on the sign, with the cost being disbursed from the Sales Tax fund. The sign north of St. Paul is still in the discussion stage and will be finalized shortly. The construction cost of the north City "Welcome Sign" will be disbursed from the Keno fund. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson & Schmid voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Per Utilities Superintendent Matt Helzer, the Zoning Ordinance states that a ground monument sign is not permitted in Agricultural Residential (AGR) outside City limits within the one (1) mile zoning jurisdiction.

Council member Thompson moved to approve Emily Paczosa (411 Mills Street, Dannebrog, NE) as a new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to the St. Paul Rescue Squad. Emily Paczosa is currently certified as an EMT. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. She will be placed on St. Paul Rescue Squad Life Insurance through Christensen Insurance.

The purchasing of a heat blanket from Jon Kuck (St. Libory, NE) in the amount of \$1,200 to be utilized at the Elmwood Cemetery to thaw cemetery graves was tabled due to the item required to go before the Elmwood Cemetery Board.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve transferring \$50,000 from the City Sales Tax Money Market and placing it in the City Sales Tax Checking account; this is to pay the Street - Motor Vehicle Tax and the 25% Infrastructure funds from the Sales Tax proceeds on the 17th of the month. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Thompson moved to approve: (1) a Non-Certified Police Officer hourly wage - \$19.19; (2) a Certified Police Officer hourly wage between \$19.19 to \$23.60; (3) Police Officer Moriah Rawlings hourly wage after Field Training and Law Enforcement Training certification - \$20.77; and (4) the City advertising until May 1, 2022 regarding the hiring of a City Police Officer in the Phonograph Herald and at the Law Enforcement Training Center, Grand Island, NE. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Anytime there is an hourly wage change to a City employee, the item needs to go before the Mayor and City Council.

Next on the agenda for discussion was regarding the "Physical Capacity Profile Testing System" for City employees; this test would be performed at the Howard County Medical Center. The testing system would reduce injuries by ensuring employees have the physical strength to safely perform their job responsibilities. This would reduce workers compensation exposure by documenting impairments that an employee brings with them to the workplace and also providing pre-injury baseline measurements on an employee allowing treating professionals to expedite the rehabilitation process; the test is \$65 per employee. Council member Kowalski will try to provide cost savings evidence regarding work compensation claims pertaining to the "Physical Capacity Profile Testing". The item was tabled, due to it being an IBEW 1597 negotiated item.

Council member Thompson moved to approve City of St. Paul's "2022 seasonal hire" hourly wage for: (1) Electrical Dept. - One (1) seasonal = \$15.00; (2) Street Dept. - Two (2) seasonal = \$15.00; (3) Cemetery/Park - One (1) long seasonal = \$16.00; (4) Sewer/Park - One (1) short

seasonal = \$15.00; (5) Park - One (1) seasonal = \$14.00; and (6) Landfill - One (1) seasonal = \$13.00. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, Council member Kowalski voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Utility Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) Vultures are back in town and are roosting on the City Water Tower; City will utilize the bird bangers and screamers to deter them, along with the Electric Dept. trimming a tree in the City Park, so they don't come back to roost; and (2) Water Treatment Facility filter aerator (motor starter switch) burned up Sunday, March 27, 2022; parts are on order.

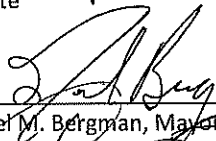
Chief of Police Howard reported that persons have been inquiring about the Police Officer position; advertising will be placed in the Phonograph Herald until May 1, 2022 regarding the Police Officer position.

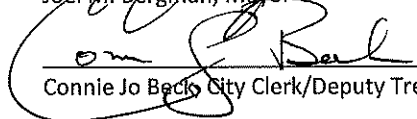
City Council member Thompson thanked Electrical Commissioner Edward Thompson for his 44 years of dedicated service to the City of St. Paul; the Mayor and other City Council members followed suit in thanking Mr. Thompson.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Special Council meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. regarding an IBEW 1597 Union negotiation workshop; (2) Special Designated Liquor (SDL) permits regarding St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church "fish fry" on Friday, April 1 and April 8, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; (3) Update on Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022: Choice Gas Selection period is from April 1, 2022 to April 22, 2022, with seven (7) suppliers: ACE, Blackhills Energy, Constellation New Energy (team up with ACE), Vista Energy, Wood River Energy, Symmetry Energy and Uncle Frank Energy. The City will be promoting ACE / Constellation New Energy via City Facebook, Website and the Phonograph Herald; (4) City received a Certificate of Insurance from Robert Kanter regarding the Water Well-Field Pasture Rent; expiration date is May 29, 2022; (5) State of NE (State Patrol) Lease Agreement renewal regarding the rental of the City North-yard building in the amount of \$250 per month; the lease will be from March 1, 2022 to February 29, 2024; (6) the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) reimbursed the City for the Elmwood Cemetery fence and trees pertaining to fire damage in the amount of \$14,907.84; and (8) the City collected \$16.20 from the NE State Treasury "Unclaimed Property".

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:19 p.m.

April 18, 2022
Date


Joel M. Bergman, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer