

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

Monday, April 18, 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 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski, Jerry Thompson, Mike Feeken and Chuck Schmid. 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; per Mayor Bergman, there will be a five (5) minute limit per person on speaking.

NOTE: THE CITY OF ST. PAUL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (WWTF) GROUND BREAKING WAS ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022 AT 5:15 P.M. PRIOR TO CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THE LAGOON SITE EAST ON HOWARD AVENUE. NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING WAS POSTED IN FOUR (4) USUAL PUBLIC PLACES IN ST. PAUL, NE.

Council member Thompson moved to approve a Special Designated Liquor (SDL) application for Successful Ventures (Bradly Thuernagle) on Saturday, July 2, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. regarding a wedding reception at the St. Paul Civic Center (423 Howard Avenue). Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Wristbands are to be utilized for underage drinking. Chief of Police Howard approved the SDL application.

Randy Kauk was in attendance to represent the Sons of the American Legion Post #119 to request an extension of a culvert (east/west) on the north-side drainage ditch of the new American Legion Post #119 building and requested that the City absorb the cost of the tube. The request is due to the parking and the safety of events taking place behind the American Legion Club in the future. The extension will be approximately 80 ft. to 100 ft. Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that there may need to be a junction box for the purpose of cleaning the culvert. The approximate cost of the project will be \$50,000; this is per the "2022" One (1) and Six (6) Year Street Plan from Olsson; the funds were not allocated in the 2021-2022 Budget. The item was tabled until Utilities Superintendent Helzer can get cost on material, along with checking on the steel pipe Jerry Woodgate offered for sale from the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT).

The update regarding the renovations to Todd & Michelle Padrnos, 108 Howard Avenue apartments was tabled to the City Council meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022.

The two (2) nuisance updates were tabled until Monday, May 2, 2022 regarding: (1) David Eiberger at 304 8th Street (need lien release / partial tree broken on garage) and (2) Todd Padrnos at 1220 Farnum Street (unlicensed vehicles).

After a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the City of St. Paul Swimming Pool hourly wages, Council member Feeken moved to take the recommendation of Swimming Pool Manager Kristy Smith. Mrs. Smith's recommendations included: All first (1st) year lifeguards will receive \$9.00 hourly (minimum wage) and the returning lifeguard's will receive \$9.00 plus an added .25 cents for each year of service they worked at the swimming pool. No wages were established for the Swimming Pool Manager or the Assistant Managers. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council member Schmid voted aye, Council members Kowalski, Thompson & Feeken voted nay. Motion denied 1 - aye/3 - nays.

After additional discussion on the Swimming Pool hourly wages, Council member Kowalski moved to provide the Pool Manager \$16.75 hourly; the returning Assistant Manager \$12.00 hourly; the new Assistant Manager \$11.00; all returning lifeguards \$9.00 plus an additional .25 cents for each year of service they worked at the swimming pool; and all new lifeguards \$9.00. 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 Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report for March 2022; (2) April 4, 2022 Council minutes (special) and April 4, 2022 Council minutes (regular); (3) April 18, 2022 disbursements; and (4) April 11, 2022 zoning permits. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Disbursements April 18, 2022

Aurora Coop (fuel)	2260.34
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1382.11
Bound Tree (supplies)	221.50
Bryan Jensen Clothing (uniforms)	234.30
Central Community College (education)	865.00
Central District Health Dept (lab)	114.00
City Lights (utilities)	9808.91
Clearly (telephone)	192.67
Consolidated Mgmt (meals)	120.75
Construction Rental (supplies)	15.90
Consumer Deposit - Sonder (Consumer Deposit)	250.00
COR Managed Services (computer)	800.00
Custer County Recycling (service)	37.70
Danko Emergency Equip (supplies)	3175.60
Eakes Office Solutions (supplies)	15.98
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	400.00
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	85.00
Heartland Disposal (service)	6794.45
Heritage Bank (March 2022 UB ACH Fee) fee	25.00
Homestead Bank (ACH fees)	38.80
Homestead bank - Series 2021 Bond Pymt Wire Fee (fee)	8.00
Hometown Market (supplies)	35.14
Ho Co Register of Deeds (fees)	10.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	129218.71
Hydro Optimization & Automation (service)	74970.00
Itron (service)	1901.87
Jacobs Ford (repair)	797.69
Jarecke Motors (repair)	393.38
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	2196.88
John Deere Financial (supplies)	61.19

Johnny's Lock & Key (service & supplies)	443.60
Killinger Electric (repair)	1510.05
LARM (insurance)	604.43
Menards (supplies)	548.76
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	3532.50
NE Dept of Envir & Energy (license)	150.00
NE Municipal Power Pool (dues)	1170.64
NE Fire School (education)	210.00
One Call Concepts (service)	26.96
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Overland Ready Mixed (concrete)	1124.13
Phonograph Herald (publish)	1213.34
Quick Med Claims (service)	815.89
Quiz Graphic Arts (supplies)	24.99
Reams Sprinkler Supply (service)	668.43
Resco (supplies)	1086.30
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	19.53
Servi-Tech (lab)	404.05
Smith Welding (service)	6.84
State of NE Revenue - Form 10 (sales tax)	12415.99
TASC (fees)	210.72
Thiel Tire (repair)	19.92
US Post Office (postage)	460.00
United Healthcare (insurance)	26667.42
Wroblewski, Liana (uniforms)	244.14

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax Transfer from M. Mkt to Checking (transfer)	50000.00
---	----------

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the request of the Methodist and St. Mark Churches closing Howard Avenue between Wallace and Sheridan Streets and Jackson Street between Howard Avenue and Indian Street regarding a "Blessing of the Bike's". The event will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. after the St. Paul buses leave the school. There will be five (5) stations: Safety, Maintenance, Obstacle Course, Decorating and the "Blessing of the Bike's". Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The City will provide the barricades.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the request of the First Light Child Advocacy Center regarding a City donation in the amount of \$1,000 to be disbursed from the Keno fund. The funds will help the Center to provide quality forensic interviews, advocacy, referral services, court preparation, forensic medical exams, wellness exams and case management to children in ten (10) counties including Howard County. 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 purchasing 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. The funds will be disbursed from the Elmwood Cemetery Perpetual Care account. The Elmwood Cemetery Board approved and recommended the item to the City Council on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The City will have a cost savings of \$75 per grave in utilizing the heat blanket; this is due to utilizing \$25 in diesel to operate the heat blanket to thaw one (1) grave, versus utilizing \$100 in charcoal to thaw one (1) grave.

Chief of Police Howard was present to discuss selling the City Police 2016 Chevy Impala; the vehicle has 68,000 miles. Since January 2021 the City placed \$3,400 in repairs regarding the

vehicle. The item was tabled; this is due to the 2016 Police Impala being utilized as a backup vehicle for now. Currently, the vehicle is worth \$8,000 to \$9,500.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the resignation of City Police Officer Moriah Rawlings. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson & Feeken voted aye, Council member Schmid voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Webster County reimbursed the City of St. Paul for Ms. Rawlings duty belt and ballistic vest in the amount of \$780.

Council member Thompson moved to approve the City Police Department advertising for two (2) additional Police Officers. The City's intention is to hire one (1) Officer and utilize the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Budget and the second (2nd) Officer will be utilizing the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget for the Law Enforcement Training Academy; in the meantime the second (2nd) Officer will be working on Policy and Ordinances. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council member Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Howard provided a brief overview of the City Police Department Law Enforcement Certification contract. Chief of Police Howard stated that the contract is still work in progress and will probably change. The item was tabled until the contract has been completed; the item will be placed on the City Council agenda for Monday, May 2, 2022.

Chief of Police Howard also provided information regarding the Mutual Law Enforcement Assistance Agreement for the Central Nebraska Special Response Team (SRT). Chief of Police Howard stated that an SRT Board was created; therefore they will be making the decisions. City Clerk Connie Jo Beck will email the Agreement to the Mayor, City Council members and City Attorney Jason White for review. The item will be placed on the City Council agenda for Monday, May 2, 2022.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) Hydro Optimization and Automation Solutions (HOA) upgrades to the Water and Wastewater computer and radio system; (2) COR Managed Service (Doug Cramer) completed work on the server rack system and Static IP at the Water Treatment Plant and City Office; this was supplied through HOA Solutions; (3) the swimming pool pump should be delivered to the City on May 16, 2022; and (4) the speed bump on Indian Street down by the City park will be a permanent grind.

Chief of Police Howard updates: reminder letters were mailed to a list of nuisance addresses regarding the Spring Clean-up on Monday, April 25, 2022. Patrons are to call the City Office prior to April 23, 2022 to get their name on a list for item pick-up.

In Council member Feeken's updates: he stated that he will be absent at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) City Employee's all have successfully completed the American Heart Association CPR and AED certification; (2) City Employee Job Descriptions have been updated for year 2022; (3) 2022 Candidate Forum will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. Paul Civic Center; (4) City received reimbursement from NDEE in the amount of \$16,097 regarding the WWTF - Rutjens Construction Pay Request #2; (5) Acknowledgement of Brian Friedrichsen's (Olsson) email regarding the City's River Front property; Utilities Superintendent Helzer also contacted Wes Walhgren at the NE Dept. of Transportation regarding the River Front property; (6) Council member Mike Feeken will be absent at the Monday, May 2, 2022 City Council meeting (making sure of a quorum); (7) March 2022 Revenue & Expenditure Guideline for review; (8) IBEW 1597 Union Negotiation Study Session is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers; (9) Acknowledgement of Legislative Bill #977: City of the Second (2nd) Class can apply for a grant to expand the electrical system capacities and to enhance redundancy and resilience; the grant will go through the NE Dept. of Economic Development (NDED); the grant will require a 50% match; and (10) the Legislative Bill 256: Vacant Property Registration Act will be on the City Council agenda for Monday, May 16, 2022.

Public Comment Period: Mr. Jerry Woodgate questioned the hourly pay rate regarding the hiring of the two (2) City Police Officers.

Public Announcements: the new American Legion Post #119 will be holding a hamburger feed, along with a bake sale on Saturday, April 23, 2022 starting at 5:00 p.m.

Council member Schmid moved to go into Closed Session at 8:13 p.m. for litigation, along with requesting Utilities Superintendent Helzer and Electrical Commissioner Thompson to be present. City Clerk Beck was not in Closed Session. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go into Closed Session for litigation. There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into Closed Session for litigation. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mayor Bergman adjourned the closed session at 8:32 p.m., with no action.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Date May 2, 2022

Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer