

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

Monday, July 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, July 18, 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; per Mayor Bergman, there will be a five (5) minute limit per person on speaking.

The first item up for discussion was the progress of Todd and Michelle Padrnos's 108 Howard Avenue apartment stairs, support posts, and decking. The property is more legally described as (SP VII) Tract A in Lot 7; 3-14-10 St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. Chief of Police Dan Howard presented pictures to the Mayor and City Council members; pictures were taken this afternoon of July 18, 2022. Chief of Police Howard stated that the repairs completed were just a quick band-aid to remedy the problem. On November 29, 2021, Chief of Police Howard deemed the apartments an unsafe building. Mr. Padrnos continually states that he will remedy the structural problems of the apartments. There were concerns from the Mayor and Council members tonight regarding the safety of EMS and Firefighter personnel when on a call at the apartments; this is due to a potential collapse of the decking or support post. Council member Kowalski moved to approve Utilities Superintendent Helzer to contact the NE State Fire Marshal to inspect the 108 Howard Avenue apartments. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) presented an overview of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) "Construction Progress" meeting that was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. Items of discussion included the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) building; wiring of lift station; water-line; and the project being on schedule. Council member Schmid wanted Mr. Friedrichsen to be aware of the liner in the south lagoon pond.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Rutjens Construction Inc. Pay Request #5 regarding the St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project #020-2586 in the amount of \$705,813.72. The pay request consists of: Lift Station/Screening Manhole; Control Blower Building; SBR Tank/Equipment; Electric Pump; and Site Piping. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye,

nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mr. Friedrichsen noted that the NE Dept. of Environment & Energy (NDEE) will need to have a draft of the O & M Manuals once the funding reaches the 75% level; the project is currently at 23%. Also, City Clerk Connie Jo Beck stated that a Single Audit needs to be performed once \$750,000 has been expended on the project.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding changes to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) three (3) exterior doors. The Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) doors and windows original bid price was \$42,276. According to the manufacturer and supplier, there was a 45% increase in door and frame cost in March 2022. There were two options discussed: (1) The first option would be to utilize Hollow Metal doors; the cost would be approximately \$35,000; and (2) the second option would be to utilize the Fiberglass-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) doors. These doors are comparable to the Kawneer doors and are made for caustic environments. The cost would be approximately \$42,000. Mr. Bill Peters from the audience gave his opinion on the exterior doors, due to his employment with Chief Industries for many years. Council member Thompson moved to approve purchasing the Hollow Metal doors for the WWTF exterior doors. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Thompson and Feeken voted aye, Council members Kowalski and Schmid voted nay. Mayor Bergman voted aye to break the tie. Motion carried 3/2.

Brian Friedrichsen with Olsson's was also present to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) improvements regarding the Control Building water heater, furnace, and garage heater modification from Natural Gas (Black Hills Energy) to propane or electric. Black Hills Energy will charge the City approximately \$16,000 to bring natural gas to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) site for the above mentioned items. On Thursday, July 7, 2022, Electrical Commissioner Thompson visited with Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) to convert the water heater, furnace, and garage heater to electrical, due to the City being in business in buying power from Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD). To convert the natural gas to electric, it would cost the City approximately \$20,728, along with no guarantees that the supplier of the natural gas components would charge a restocking fee for materials. Council member Schmid moved to approve utilizing electric for the Control Building water heater, furnace, and garage heater. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The City will keep the material for re-sale if the supplier will not restock.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Consent Agenda Items: (1) June 2022 Treasurer's Report; (2) July 5, 2022 Council minutes (regular) and the July 12, 2022 special meeting regarding the 2022-2023 Budget Workshop; (3) July 11, 2022 zoning permits; and (4) July 18, 2022 disbursements. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council member Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Disbursements July 18, 2022

Aurora Cooperative (fuel)	2285.95
Berger, Angela (Summer Rec)	1040.00
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1616.18
Bolling, Connor (Summer Rec)	510.00
Bound Tree (supplies)	44.50
Brehm's Drug (supplies)	11.69
BSN Sports (supplies)	210.00
Central District Health Dept (lab)	120.00
Chesterman (concessions)	141.48
City Lights (utilities)	11918.84
Coghlan, Kailey (Summer Rec)	390.00
Coghlan, Michael (Summer Rec)	170.00
Construction Rental (supplies)	1700.00
Consumer Deposit (L. Vogel Rent Deposit)	250.00
Core & Main (supplies)	145.51
Custer County Recycling (service)	36.00
Danko (supplies)	755.08
Eakes Office (contract)	277.32
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	100.00

Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	135.00
Hawkins (chemicals)	5352.77
Heartland Disposal (service)	7206.43
Heritage Bank (UB ACH Fee)	25.00
Herrick, Kyndsay (Summer Rec)	468.35
Homestead Bank (ACH fees)	39.40
Hometown Market (supplies)	1343.91
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	160678.66
Jerry's Sheet Metal (repair)	443.00
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	3377.33
John Deere Financial (supplies)	51.72
Kavan, Brecken (Summer Rec)	970.00
Kelly Supply (supplies)	339.28
Loup Valley Supply (supplies)	12.30
Maus, Joseph (Summer Rec)	165.00
Meinecke, Jennifer (Summer Rec)	320.00
Menards (supplies)	84.26
Midland Telecom (repair)	234.95
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	3655.00
Municipal Emergency Service (supplies)	628.99
Municipal Supply (supplies)	64.20
NE Press Advertising (job posting)	225.00
Neal, Stefanie (Summer Rec)	825.00
NE Power Review Board (fee)	325.53
One Call Concepts (service)	17.90
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	161.32
Phonograph Herald (publish)	609.77
Rutjens Construction (pay request #5)	705813.72
Quick Med Claims (service)	1273.65
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	396.66
Schaper & White (service)	1058.34
Smith Welding (service)	154.50
St Paul Public School (Summer Rec)	400.00
St. Paul Swimming Pool (Summer Rec pool party)	210.00
State of NE Revenue: (NE Waste Reduction & Recycling Fee)	25.00
State of NE Revenue: (Sales & Use Tax)	14433.99
Stop Stick (supplies)	1003.00
US Post Office (postage)	570.00
Wesco (supplies)	792.36
Zee Medical (supplies)	24.30

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax: Homestead Bank (check order)	13.40
Keno: New Wave Pool & Spa Inc. (final pool cross net)	4798.00
Water ICS: Municipal Supply Inc of NE (Replace Fire Hydrant)	4306.55
125 Plan: Connie Jo Beck (2021 Guaranteed Trust & Medico Premium Reimbursement)	2500.00

Council member Schmid moved to approve Resolution 2022-8; whereas in Section 9D of the Keno-Type Lottery Operations Agreement dated April 16, 2016, is hereby amended to state, "that the Keno Operator shall be required to reimburse to the City for each audit conducted." Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowaski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Next on the agenda for discussion is to invest a small denomination of the NE Public Agency Investment (NPAIT) funds from the City Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) accounts. This is to obtain an enhanced interest rate on City Department funds regarding a three (3) and six (6) month Time Certificate. The funds will be placed into US Treasury investments. NPAIT collateralize dollar for dollar when public funds are invested. On Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Citizens Bank and Trust matched NPAIT's daily rate to 1.33% from .65% for the City's Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) interest rate; the funds carry no penalty to withdrawal. Council member Thompson moved to approve investing City Department ICS funds into NPAIT'S three (3) and six (6) month Time Certificates once City Clerk Beck develops a plan regarding the dollar denomination and number of Department time certificates. This will be emailed to the Mayor and Council members for their review and approval. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

After a lengthy discussion ensued between the Council members in updating the City Office, Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Office updates as per the employee "plans", along with the Builders "plan" that was submitted to the Mayor and Council members in the SparqData program. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski and Thompson voted aye, Council members Schmid and Feeken voted nay. Mayor Bergman voted aye to break the tie; this is for office security purposes. Motion carried 3/2.

The Mayor and Council members agreed unanimously to set the 2022-2023 Budget public input hearing for Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates included: (1) Solar project soil samples are to be acquired this week per Dirk Dietz, General Manager of the Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District; (2) the Water Treatment Plant computer controls failed on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 12:15 a.m. It showed low water level at a critical stage in the water tower. Water samples were taken; results were within the allowed drinking water standards; and (3) Water Commissioner Ronnie Switzer submitted his resignation effective Monday, October 31, 2022. Mr. Switzer has been employed with the City for 39 years. Mayor Joel M. Bergman thanked Mr. Switzer for his dedicated service to the City of St. Paul.

Chief of Police Howard updates included: (1) Todd & Michelle Padrnos's six (6) vehicles have been registered and licensed; (2) Grover Cleveland Alexander (GCA) Days was a great success; (3) the St. Paul Police Dept. received a Highway Traffic Safety grant through the U. S. Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$1,600 to be utilized on U. S. Highway 281 to keep drivers and passengers safe; this will raise awareness of the risks of speeding and remind people to obey the speed limit; (4) St. Paul Swimming Pool theft of a money bag that has been retrieved; (5) Police Dept. laptops have arrived; two (2) of the Police Dept. tablets will be given to the Utilities Superintendent to utilize for City Departments; and (5) the St. Paul Public School hosted Saturday, July 16, 2022 an "active shooter" training; six (6) hours of continuing education was given.

Mayor Bergman updates included: (1) City Attorney White was in attendance tonight regarding updating the nuisance municipal code; on Monday, August 1, 2022, the City will have the opportunity to approve revamping the City nuisance Municipal Code §4-302 through §4-309; (2) Per Utilities Clerk Liana Wroblewski, the 2021 Utility Billing ACH customers were 290, with \$95,294 in revenue; 2022 Utility Billing ACH customers were 322, with \$101,206 in revenue; (3) reminder that U.S. Highway railroad crossing will be closed on Monday, July 25, 2022 for repairs.

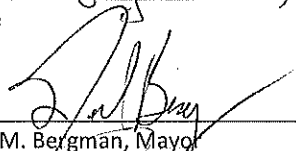
Council member Thompson moved to go into Closed Session at 8:53 p.m. with the attendance of City Attorney White, City Clerk Beck and Utilities Superintendent Helzer regarding Strategy session with respect to real estate purchase. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go into Closed Session for Strategy session with respect to real estate purchase. There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into Closed Session for Strategy session with respect to real estate purchase. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

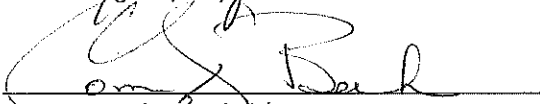
Mayor Bergman adjourned the closed session at 9:09 p.m.

Council member Thompson moved to approve approaching the Howard County Commissioners regarding the purchase of the Howard County (408 Elm) land, building and the exchange of property. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:10 p.m.

August 1, 2022
Date


Joel M. Bergman, Mayor


Connie Jo. Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

City of St. Paul Job Titles and Salaries of Employees shall be published per NE Statute 19-1102:
Non-union: Utility Superintendent - \$34.96; City Clerk - \$32.55; Chief of Police - \$27.30; Police Sergeant - \$26.32; Police Officers - \$19.19 - \$23.00; Police Secretary - \$16.24; Library Employees - \$11.04 - \$18.04; Housekeeping - \$154.50 biweekly
Seasonal Hourly Wages: Cemetery/Sewer/Light - \$14.00 - \$15.00; Landfill - \$13.00; Pool Employees - \$9.00 - \$16.75; EMT's (transports) \$15.00
Union Hourly: Light Commissioner- \$34.66; Lineman - \$30.57; Water Commissioner - \$31.14; Water Operator - \$23.64; Sewer Superintendent - \$26.25; Street Commissioner - \$26.97; Equipment Operator - \$21.67; Parks Manager - \$23.47; Deputy City Clerk - \$23.58; Utility Clerk - \$21.52; Payroll Clerk - \$20.47
Mayor - \$3,600; City Council - \$2,400; City Treasurer - \$2,400; City Clerk - \$2,700