

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

Monday, December 5, 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, December 5, 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 regard 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.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) November 21, 2022 (regular) Council minutes and the November 28, 2022 (special) Council minutes; and (2) December 5, 2022 disbursements. Council member Thompson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Thompson, Schmid & Feeken voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

December 5, 2022 Disbursements

Gross Payroll - November 2022	106028.74
911 Custom (equipment)	865.82
Advanced Climate Control (service)	1916.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	15947.62
BOK Financial (bond)	148833.75
Bomgaars (supplies)	756.53
Cardmember Services (supplies, postage, fees)	1015.18
Charter Spectrum (service)	239.96
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5808.00
City 125 Plan (insurance)	110.00
Consolidated Mgmt (meals)	83.10
Custer County Recycling (service)	18.80
Dana F Cole & Company (service)	12240.00
Dutton Lanson (supplies)	745.94
Eakes Office Solutions (service)	232.18
Heartland Disposal (service)	48.25
Homestead Bank (wire fee \$902,000 bond pymt)	8.00
Hesseltgesser Electric (repair)	3453.94
Ho Co. Treasurer (dispatch fee)	3122.42

Island Sprinkler Supply (supplies)	737.31
Jarecke Motors (repair)	795.80
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	209.38
Menards (supplies)	240.54
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	120.96
Peters, Rick (service)	3000.00
Regional Care (service)	99.00
Rutjens Construction (WWTF- Pay Request #8)	469534.16
SE Smith & Sons (supplies)	59.95
Smith Welding (service)	40.75
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	186.95
Thiels Tire & Auto (repair)	20.00
Verizon Wireless (service)	143.37

December 5, 2022 Non-General

Sales Tax: Street Mtr Veh Tax (September 2022)	6540.71
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure (September 2022)	8789.18
Sales Tax: Dana F. Cole & Co: 2021-2022 Audit	2000.00
Keno: Dana F. Cole & Co: 2021-2022 Audit	1600.00

Joel M. Bergman, Mayor presented a "Years of Service" plaque to Council member Jerry Thompson; Council member Thompson served for four (4) years; from December 3, 2018 to December 5, 2022. Mayor Bergman thanked Council member Thompson for his dedicated service.

With the raising of the right hand, City Clerk Connie Jo Beck swore in Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Catherine "Katie" L. Kowalski and Bill Peters as the newly elected officials of the City of St. Paul by Oath of Office. Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski and Bill Peters term will be from December 5, 2022 to December 7, 2026.

Mayor Bergman opened the Council meeting with the newly elected officials at 7:06 p.m., along with signing an "Acknowledgment of Meeting" document regarding the attendance.

Mayor Joel M. Bergman voiced his 2022-2023 City Appointments.

Council member Schmid moved to nominate Council member Mike Feeken as the new Council President for year 2022-2023. After the nominations ended, Council member Peters seconded the motion. Mayor Bergman also requested that Council member Schmid be the liaison for the St. Paul Rural Fire Board; Council member Feeken be the liaison for the St. Paul Senior Center; and Council member Peters be the liaison for the Elmwood Cemetery Board. Council member Feeken moved to approve Mayor Joel M. Bergman's 2022-2023 City Appointments. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

2022-2023 CITY OF ST. PAUL APPOINTMENTS

- COUNCIL PRESIDENT
(Per NE Stat. §17-148) **MIKE FEEKEN**
- CITY CLERK / DEPUTY TREASURER **CONNIE JO BECK (4/2010)**
- DEPUTY CLERK **LAURA BERTHELSEN (4/2020)**
- CITY ATTORNEY **JASON WHITE (3/2019)**
- CITY TREASURER **SALLY EINSPAHR (8/2020)**
- CHIEF OF POLICE **DANIEL K HOWARD (6-23-21)**
- ZONING ADMINISTRATOR **MATTHEW HELZER (12/2014)**

- CITY ENGINEER/STREET SUPER. JEFF PALIK, OLSSON
- UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT MATTHEW HELZER (1/2015)
- LIGHT COMMISSIONER EDWARD THOMPSON
- SEWER COMMISSIONER MATTHEW HELZER (2022)
- FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL BECKER
- WATER COMMISSIONER JEREMY GORECKI (11-2022)
- ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF MARK WILSON; LEO HAGGERTY;
& CHAD AUGUSTYN
- STREET COMMISSIONER JAMIE KLANECKY (6/2020)
- CEMETERY SEXTON RONNIE SWITZER
- PARK / CEMETERY (MGR) RANDY JERABEK
- CITY PHYSICIAN DR. CHRIS TOMHAVE
- PLANNING BOARD JERRY WOODGATE, Chairman (12-7-20)
TONY WALCH
CONNIE BECKER
TYLER SOLKO (12-21-20)
ARVILLA JACOBS
MATTHEW HELZER (Zoning Adm)
LAURA BERTHELSEN (Minutes)
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEL FULLER (2022)
MACHELL NAYLOR, CHAIR (12-2020)
BRIAN KNAPP
GLENN PEDERSEN
Alt: MELVIN SCHMADERER (In Town)
Alt: DAN SCHEER (Mile Jur.)
- LIBRARY BOARD STEVEN NEAL 2024 (City)
(Every other month on 3rd Wed = Jan 20) DEB WELLS 2025 (City)
JANET ELSTERMEIER 2023 (City)
TARA SJUTES 2025 (School)
JILL PAULSEN 2023 (School)
PHIL THEDE 2025 (School)
- HOUSING AUTHORITY TODD PETERS (2022 – 2026)
(2nd Wednesday of Month) MIKE FEEKEN (Nov 2021 to Nov 2025)
THEDA VANHORN (2022 – 2026)
CAROL FANTA (2022 – 2026)
CINDI MENDYK (9 - 2021 TO 2024)
- LOUP CENTRAL LANDFILL KATIE KOWALSKI; AND
(3rd Thursday of Month; BILL PETERS, ALT.
Dec-Mar 7pm / Apr-Nov 7:30pm)
- HO. CO. DISPATCHER BOARD JOEL M. BERGMAN, MAYOR AND
DANIEL HOWARD, CHIEF OF POLICE
- CITIZENS ADVISORY LB840 TYLER EBERLE (2-16-21)

JOE MLINAR (2021)
SALLY EINSPAHR
JULIE GAWRYCH (2021)
LARRY HURLBURT
CONNIE JO BECK, Ex Officio
DREAM SOLKO, SPDC EXE DIR (2-2020)

- RURAL FIRE BOARD LIAISON
(2nd Monday on even months: Dec.) CHARLES "Chuck" SCHMID

- REPRESENTATIVE TO ACE JOEL BERGMAN, MAYOR AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

- CITY HEALTH BOARD MAYOR, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CHIEF
OF POLICE AND CITY PHYSICIAN

- SENIOR CENTER LIAISON MIKE FEEKEN

- ELMWOOD CEMETERY BOARD
(Meeting: 2nd Wed. of Month) GERALD SOLKO, Treasurer (12-7-20)
RANDY JERABEK, Cemetery Manager
GENE RICE, Vice-President
PAMLIA SWITZER, President
TODD PETERS
BETTY CZARNEK, Secretary
BILL PETERS, City Liaison
RONNIE SWITZER, Sexton

- ELMWOOD CEMETERY FOUND.
(8/17/20) JOEL M. BERGMAN, PRESIDENT
GERALD SOLKO, SECRETARY
STEFFANY TARTAGLIA, TREASURER
GENE RICE, BOARDMEMBER
RANDY JERABEK, BOARDMEMBER

- CITY TREE BOARD ROBIN ELSTERMEIER
GENE RICE
AL BRENNAN
LINDA FULLER
LOUISE CHRISTENSEN
MATT HELZER, Utility Super.
LAURA BERTHELSEN (minutes)

- CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD (Dissolved December 6, 2021)

DATE: Monday, December 5, 2022

Mayor Bergman extended his appreciation to all the volunteer members in dedicating their time to the City of St. Paul.

Council member Feeken moved to approve the City of St. Paul's "Agreement of Code of Professional Ethics". Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Resolution 2022-24 naming Council member Kowalski as the Loup Central Landfill representative, along with naming Council member Peters as the alternate representative when the Loup Central Landfill representative cannot attend the meeting. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Rutjens Construction Inc. Pay Request #8 regarding the St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project #020-2586 in the amount of

\$469,534.16. The pay request consists of finishing work on the lift station manholes and lean to structure, framework on the control building, concrete work, stairs and hand-rail installation, and piping installation in and around the Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBR) tanks, site piping, and electrical work around the entire site. The percentage of loan expended to date is 65%. Due to the work on the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) being 50% completed, the retainage has been moved from 10% to 5%. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Love Signs, Inc. repairing the St. Paul Civic Center marquee sign; cost and installation of the sign will be \$3,850. The parts include two (2) modules and one (1) RWF Radio upgrade. The funds will be disbursed from the St Paul Civic Center account. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The parts are approximately 2-3 weeks out.

Council member Kowalski introduced Ordinance #1036; an ordinance amending the St. Paul Municipal Code; to amend Section 1-903 pertaining to compensation of Elected Officers and Officials; to repeal any ordinance, or parts of any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance; to provide for the effect date of such ordinance; and to provide for the publication of this ordinance. Council member Feeken waived the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1036 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance #1036. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A discussion ensued regarding the east Howard Avenue "St. Paul Welcome" sign. Electrical Commissioner Ed Thompson stated that the service to the sign was cut when the Elstermeier Greenhouses were removed and then when the new construction began in this area. Council members had some discussion whether to repair, remove, place the sign on private property, leave the sign as is or move the sign to the Howard County Historical Village. Electrical Commissioner Ed Thompson stated that electricity can be restored to the sign, but the panels are worn and cracked. Mayor Bergman stated that there will be two (2) new "welcome" signs at both ends of St. Paul; is it advantageous to have the sign stay in this location. The item was tabled to a future meeting, due to contacting the private owner and to get a quote for the sign panels. Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that the State of NE is not asking the City to move the sign at this point in time.

Mayor Bergman wanted to inform the Council members on another investment firm called Nebraska Class. Public Trust Advisors is a financial services firm based out of Denver, Colorado. Public Trust Advisors specializes in the management of public funds and currently oversees over \$60 billion dollars and close to \$5,000 governmental entities nationwide. The Nebraska Cooperative Liquid Asset Security System or "NEBRASKA CLASS" is a new local government investment pool focused on safeguarding public funds while minimizing market risk and maximizing both liquidity and yield. Nebraska Class will maintain five (5) general objectives: (1) Legality: Nebraska Class is only permitted to invest in securities expressly stated in the Nebraska Investment Act and must follow all state statutes; (2) Safety: to minimize risk and preserve the principal investment of any participating local government, maintaining a stable Net Asset Value (NAV); (3) Liquidity: the portfolio management team invests all securities in a way that ensures that any participating entity has access to their capital when needed; (4) Yield / Diversification: Nebraska Class will aim to maximize current income to the degree consistent with legality, safety, and liquidity. This fund can also be utilized to diversify funds and mitigate risk; and (5) Economies of Scale: Nebraska Class allows local government of all sizes, scope, and function to pool their funds collectively to achieve a higher yield. The fee structure is 15 basis points (.15%) of total pooled funds; there is no additional cost. Participants include, but are not limited to: Municipalities, Counties, School Districts, Public Power Districts, Natural Resource Districts, Libraries, etc. To join Nebraska Class, a resolution needs to be considered and approved in the future.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Police Sergeant Scott Greenwalt's letter of resignation with regret. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Chief of Police Dan Howard stated that Sergeant Greenwalt will be employed with the State Gaming Commission as an investigator; Sergeant Greenwalt has been employed 19 years with the City. Council member Feeken inquired about the position being open; Chief of Police Howard stated that this item will be placed on the December 19, 2022 agenda. Mayor Bergman and Chief of Police Howard thanked Sergeant Greenwalt for his dedicated service to St. Paul.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer had no updates to report.

Chief of Police Howard updates included: (1) applied for a State Highway Safety grant for a radar and dash cameras; the grant will save the City \$9,500; (2) due to Chief of Police Howard receiving funds from a speedy grant a few months back, there is a requirement that the St. Paul Police Department needs to participate in two (2) grants per year; (3) reported on the new police cruiser equipment installation; (4) City Officer Jade Stethem will graduate on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 from the NE Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC); once Officer Stethem has completed his training, Officer Stethem will be under the supervision of Chief of Police Howard; (5) Chief of Police Howard will be receiving his Field Training Officer (FTO) certification in February 2022, due to Sergeant Greenwalt resigning from his position.

City Council member Schmid also thanked the people St. Paul who volunteer.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) on Saturday, December 3, 2022 the Chamber of Commerce hosted a "Parade of Lights"; it was a great success. Carolyn Scarborough is no longer with the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce; Robin William's is currently handling the questions from the public; (2) the CNA Surety bond coverage for the Mayor (Joel Bergman), Council members (Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters) and the Custodians of the Civic Center (Dream Solko & Joe Maus) will be effective on Monday, December 6, 2022; (3) City Clerk Beck will be attending a LARM meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, NE; (4) Mayor Bergman will be attending a LIGHT (employee health) meeting on Friday, December 16, 2022 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, NE; (5) City Clerk Beck has the City Lottery Compliance procedures report for Fiscal Year 2021-2022; it can be viewed at the City Office. A copy has been emailed to the City Mayor and Council members; (6) City Clerk Beck has complied with all the requirements of the Local Option Revenue Act, St. Paul's local sales and use tax rate will increase from one percent (1%) to one and one-half percent (1.5%) effective April 1, 2023. City Clerk Beck will place the sales tax (increase) information on: (a) the February and March 2022 utility bills, place an article in the Phonograph Herald and send out reminders to the local businesses via mail; (7) the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) 2022 Rural Workforce Housing Land Development Program grant requires a "Letter of Intent" to be signed by Mayor Bergman; the grant application is due January 2023. The grant is for nuisance ratification; the City of St. Paul is requesting approximately \$1 million dollars to be pursued for land acquisition, demolition, rehabilitation, site preparation, etc. as appropriate for the parcel and the needs of the community. The City wants to see the properties back on the tax rolls. There are eight (8) communities that are interested in this grant within the SCEDD District. Authorization for the grant application will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:44 p.m.

December 19, 2022
Date

Joel M. Bergman
Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

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