

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

Monday, February 6, 2023

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, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid, Mike Feeken and Bill Peters. 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.

Mayor Joel M. Bergman opened two (2) public hearings at 7:03 p.m. regarding: (1) the consideration of the Preliminary Plat of JET Subdivision (Edward Thompson) located in a part of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 10 West of the 6th P.M. in Howard County, Nebraska. The property is along Paul Street between Nelson Street and the US Highway 92 intersection; and (2) the consideration of two (2) Liquor License applications for Seven County Spirits LLC dba Loup River Distilling Class C-125456 and Class Z-125457 located at 503 Howard Avenue, St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska.

Gary Hinrichs, Certified Public Accountant with Dana F. Cole & Co. provided an audit presentation regarding the City of St. Paul's 2021-2022 Financial Statement for year ending September 30, 2022. Mr. Hinrichs announced that this was an unqualified audit, which represents a clean audit report; expenditures were within the approved budget limits. There were three (3) current year findings regarding the Internal Control over the financial reporting. Mr. Hinrichs stated that the City Clerk and her staff do an exceptional job of maintaining City records. Council member Kowalski moved to approve the City of St. Paul's 2021-2022 Financial Statement as presented. Council member Schmid 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 #9 regarding the St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project #020-2586 in the amount of \$501,507.56. The pay request consists of equipment installation at the lift station; equipment, plumbing, and cabinetry at the control building; equipment installation at the SBR structures; and electrical work at the control building. The percentage of loan expended to date is 74%. There are no WWTF "Change Orders" to consider. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that cabinetry came in damaged regarding

the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF); it will be returned. Olsson sent the preliminary O & M Manual to the State of Nebraska.

St. Paul Development Corp. Executive Director Dream Solko and Assistant Director Parker Klinginsmith were present to discuss Olsson's (City Engineer) new infrastructure improvement cost estimate regarding the Middle Loup Subdivision. The improvements consist of the entire west half of the subdivision; it includes street paving, water, sewer and storm sewer cost, along with the Adam's Street intersection. The first (1st) Middle Loup Subdivision estimated improvement cost only consisted of five (5) lots and not the intersection. Currently, the St. Paul Development Corp. is waiting on a cost benefit analysis report from Attorney Andrew Willis from Cline Williams to see if Tax Increment Financing (TIF) will work on each buildable lot. St. Paul Fire Chief Mike Becker stated that the St. Paul Fire Dept. would not object to moving to the Middle Loup Subdivision if the City of St. Paul's and Howard County's plan doesn't succeed.

Mayor Bergman opened the public comment period at 7:27 p.m. regarding the consideration of two (2) Liquor License applications regarding Seven County Spirits LLC dba Loup River Distilling Class C-125456 and Class Z-125457 located at 503 Howard Avenue, St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska.

Upon no further discussion, Mayor Bergman closed the public comment period at 7:29 p.m. Council member Schmid moved to approve the two (2) Liquor License applications for Seven County Spirits LLC dba Loup River Distilling Class C-125456 and Class Z-125457 located at 503 Howard Avenue, St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. The Owner-operators for Seven County Spirits LLC are Terry Rasmussen, Dirk Petersen, and Andrew McCarty. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Feeken moved to approve Triple T. Disposal (Travis Tibbetts), Palmer, NE garbage hauling permit; all garbage will be deposited at the Loup Central Landfill per Ordinance 993. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the City of St. Paul Municipal Code 10-302 - Garbage Collectors; License Fee: the fee for such license shall be one hundred (\$100.00) dollars per annum, and all licenses shall be issued for the calendar year, or such portion thereof as shall remain after the issuance thereof. There shall be no reduction in the fee for a license issued after the beginning of any calendar year. It was unanimously agreed upon by the Mayor and Council members to enforce the Municipal Code; the City Office will invoice out for the garbage collector fee.

Mayor Bergman opened the public comment period at 7:41 p.m., regarding the preliminary plat of JET Subdivision (Edward Thompson) located in a part of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 10 West of the 6th P.M. in Howard County, Nebraska. Zoning Administrator Matt Helzer indicated that the proposed subdivision is located within the City's 1-mile zoning jurisdiction. Property owner Edward Thompson was present to answer questions regarding the proposed subdivision. The property shall be split into three (3) lots, with two (2) lots containing approximately 3.01 acres, and the remaining lot is approximately four (4) acres. Access to the lots will be from Paul Street. Upon no further discussion, Mayor Bergman closed the public comment period at 7:43 p.m.

Council member Feeken moved to approve the Preliminary Plat of JET Subdivision (Edward Thompson) more legally described as a part of the Southwest Quarter (SW1/4) of Section 33, Township 15 North, Range 10 West of the 6th P.M. in Howard County, Nebraska. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Feeken & Peters voted aye, Council member Schmid abstained from the vote. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Mike Feeken departed from the Council meeting at 7:44 p.m., due to another commitment.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve placing the City of St. Paul's 2021-2022 excess Department funds into the Department "Insure Cash Sweep" (ICS) accounts at Citizens Bank & Trust: (1) Ambulance \$18,667; (2) Cemetery \$31,663; (3) Library \$22,676; and (4) Parks \$7,750. The Department funds will carry a 3.85% interest rate. Council member Peters seconded the

motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) January 17, 2023 minutes (regular); and (2) February 6, 2023 disbursements. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

February 6, 2023 Disbursements

Gross Wages - January	94254.45
Amazon Capital (books, supplies)	6668.80
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	20800.10
BOK Financial (bond fees)	750.00
Bomgaars (supplies)	644.02
Bryan Jensen Clothing (uniforms)	400.00
Cardmember Svcs (postage, supplies, education)	1356.87
Cengage Learning (books)	161.28
Charter/Spectrum (service)	239.96
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5808.00
City of St. Paul NPAIT: Fire Station (new): Transfer of Fire Station incoming bond funds from checking to Fire Station NPAIT Account	2006975.85
City of St. Paul Sales Tax Fund	625.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	110.00
City of St. Paul (transfer out funds to ICS)	80756.00
Consumer Deposit Meter Deposit G Dvorak	250.00
COR Management (agreement)	1376.00
Crescent Electric (supplies)	2227.96
Custer County Recycling (Service)	43.10
Dana F Cole & Co (audit)	3560.00
Danko Emergency Equip (supplies)	1595.14
Demco (supplies)	230.18
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	1397.50
Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	576.60
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	91.80
Fastenal Industrial (supplies)	56.17
First Concord Benefits (insurance)	456.00
GB Auto Service (tires)	341.26
Heartland Disposal (service)	132.25
Heritage Bank: Light: Utility Bill ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Homestead Bank: Incoming Fire Station Bond Wire Fee (fee)	4.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3122.42
Hydro Optimization (service)	20550.00
Interstate All Battery Cntr (supplies)	7.74
Jarecke Motors (repair)	975.92
John Deere Financial (supplies)	110.45
League of NE Municipalities (education)	1788.00
Loup Valley Supply (supplies)	5.75
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	220.40
Menards (supplies)	133.49
Meyer, Nathan (supplies)	42.91
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	146.16
NE Dept of Envir & Energy (training)	300.00
Nebraska Machinery (supplies)	129.60
Olsson (service)	1500.00
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	56.91

Penworthy Company (books)	1237.53
Road Builders Machinery (supplies)	534.06
Rutgens Construction (WWTF - Pay Request #9)	501507.56
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	11.19
Servi-Tech (lab)	302.00
Smith Welding (repair)	14.45
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	60.00
Sutton, John (books)	78.00
Verizon Wireless (service)	143.34

Non-General Disbursements

Keno: NE Dept Revenue: 2% Gross: Oct-Dec 2022	7155.00
TIF: S. Squared Enterprise: Mark Dvorak #8663 (Tif Proceeds from Ho. Co. Treasurer)	5043.32
Sales Tax: Street Motor Vehicle Tax Proceeds	4910.64
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure Proceeds	9157.19
Civic: Love Signs of GI (marquee repair)	3850.00
Sales Tax: Schaper & White (atty fees)	116.67

Council member Kowalski introduced Ordinance #1037; amending the St. Paul Municipal Code Section 3-503 of Chapter 3 pertaining to Fire Department membership; to repeal any ordinance, or parts of any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance; to provide for an effective date of such ordinance; and to provide for the publication of this ordinance in pamphlet form. Council member Schmid moved to waive the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1037 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance #1037. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the City of St. Paul's 2021-2022 Financial Statement Journal Entries from City Auditors Dana F. Cole & Company, Ord, Nebraska. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer was present to discuss hiring "park" seasonal help, along with discussing hourly wages. Mr. Helzer stated that Isiah Sack will return for the 2023 season; the City is requesting to hire a part-time park laborer for Monday and Thursday's. Council member Schmid moved to approve an hourly wage of \$15 for Mr. Sack. The motion died for a lack of a second motion. Council member Kowalski moved to approve an hourly wage of \$14.50 for Mr. Sack and an hourly wage of \$14.00 for the part-time "park" laborer. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski and Peters voted aye, Council member Schmid voted nay. Motion carried 2/1.

The St. Paul Swimming Pool seasonal hourly wages were tabled until the City Office Staff could contact other comparable City's regarding the hourly wages.

Utility Superintendent Matt Helzer will be scheduling interviews for a City Electrical Commissioner; the interview committee will consist of: Mayor Bergman, Utilities Superintendent Helzer, Council members Bill Peters and Chuck Schmid. Electrical Commissioner wages will be discussed after the interviews have been completed, after consideration of qualifications.

INFORMATION ONLY: The second (2nd) City Council meeting in February 2023 will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., due to the President's Day holiday.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, the City experienced its 6th water line break (ductile iron pipe) at US Hwy 281 and Grand Street; NE Rural Water came to St. Paul to utilize their Sonar Sound equipment; (2) Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) will have an adjustment in electric rates starting February 2023; the electrical usage will be passed through by Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) from the

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). NPPD has adjusted their rate schedule; the overall is a zero percent (0%) cost adjustment, but there are changes to the charges shifting from the demand to kW charges. The Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) will cease on February 1, 2023; (3) St. Paul Civic Center had two (2) lights out in the southeast corner of gym; City employees replaced the bulbs to save money instead of hiring out the service; the lift equipment cost was \$150; (4) Dillon Paczosa, Trae Anderson and Trevor Kowalski will be attending an NDEE Water Grade 4 Class on February 7 - 9, 2023; (5) Trae Anderson and Trevor Kowalski will be attending a Sewer Wastewater Treatment Class on March 6 - 8, 2023; (6) the tornado siren has been moved on "M" Street; it is still in the approximate location; and (7) Utilities Superintendent Helzer would like to see two (2) Council members attend a Library Board meeting to review the City of St. Paul and St. Paul Library Interlocal Agreement.

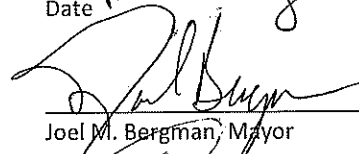
Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) City nuisance at 1220 Farnum Street; this nuisance will be on the agenda for Tuesday, February 21, 2023; (2) the City Police have been working on vehicle nuisances; some have been towed; (3) Police Motorola Portable radios; (4) Taser training on Friday, February 17, 2023; (5) Police Officers Jade Stethem and Grady Robinson attended a body language class; and (6) brief discussion on having a mid-April Spring Cleanup in St. Paul.

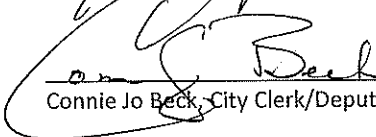
Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Sales Tax proceed and Debt Service report is attached to Sparq-Data for Mayor and Council's information; (2) NPAIT (US Treasury) six (6) month investments came due on February 2, 2023; they will not be placed in a term interest rate, but rather a liquid interest rate of 4.50% to 4.75%; (3) Wastewater Treatment Facility Construction Progress special meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers; (4) NE Class (Aaron Bos) opinion regarding the new Fire Station arbitrage interest rate; along with NE CLASS expecting to launch late February 2023; interest rates are estimated to be 4.50% to 5%; (5) City is promoting ACE - Choice Gas Program for year 2023; (6) the Community Needs Survey is now online and ready to be completed by residents. This is part of the City's Leadership Certified Community program renewal. The link is on the City's Facebook page, and available until March 1. Paper copies are available at Brehm's Pharmacy, the St. Paul Public Library, and the City Office. The paper copies must be returned by February 27, 2023. The survey will provide valuable information on areas to focus future projects and services. Encourage everyone to complete the survey. There will be an article in the Phonograph Herald regarding this subject; (7) Citizens Bank and Trust raised the City's Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) interest rate from 2.30% to 3.85%; (8) the City received \$2,442 for the 2022 ACE reimbursement; (9) Howard Greeley Public Power District (HGPPD) will have a Solar ground breaking on Friday, February 17, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. east on Howard Avenue; and (10) the St. Paul Rescue Squad applied and received \$75,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant to purchase a new ambulance.

For public announcements, Mayor Bergman is requesting that City residents complete the Community Needs Survey.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:34 p.m.

February 21, 2023
Date


Joel M. Bergman, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer