

City of St. Paul Regular Meeting  
704 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, NE 68873

**Monday, March 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, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid, Mike Feecken 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 6:00 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.

The City of St. Paul Rescue Squad has been researching new ambulance specifications for the last two (2) years regarding the purchase of a new ambulance. Four (4) bids have been received from (1) Danko Emergency Equipment; (2) Fire Fox, (3) Osage Ambulances, and (4) Arrow Ambulances. St. Paul Rescue Squad Captain Nate Meyer presented to the Mayor and Council a demo 2022 "Medix" ambulance from Danko Emergency Equipment in the amount of \$262,724; this excludes the outside graphics and the installation for the power cot rails. The St. Paul Rescue Squad will be receiving a \$75,000 ambulance grant from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that will go towards the purchase of the ambulance. The ambulance will be absorbed by the (1) City Ambulance Sinking fund, (2) the St. Paul Rescue Merrill Lynch fund, and (3) St. Paul Rural Fire Board. Currently, the ambulance is in Indiana and will be displayed at the Nebraska Emergency Medical Service Association (NEMSA) Conference in Kearney, NE this coming weekend. It will also be displayed at the 86<sup>th</sup> Nebraska State Fire School in Grand Island, NE. Council member Schmid moved to approve Mayor Joel M. Bergman signing the (1) proposal for the "Medix" ambulance and (2) the Sales Agreement. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feecken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Andrew Willis, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Attorney with Cline Williams, Lincoln, NE was in attendance to offer guidance and recommendations on the Middle Loup Subdivision Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Attorney Willis stated that the eligible cost for TIF includes: (1) public infrastructure; (2) site acquisition; (3) demolition and site preparation; (4) cost for planning, design and engineering; (5) rehabilitation of existing structures; and (6) façade enhancements. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a municipal economic development tool utilized to publicly finance needed public improvements in a specific geographical area. Generally, the purpose of TIF is to attract new business in the community. TIF does not bring

dollars to the table at day one. A City can capture ad valorem tax levied upon real property in a redevelopment project for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) years. Attorney Willis stated that the utilization of TIF in a subdivision or an Industrial Park takes a lot of guess work in figuring numbers on buildable lots. The City will need to take steps to amend the Redevelopment Plan, which describes the property layout and also authorizes TIF for the project; it doesn't obligate or bind the City to any contract. A master Redevelopment Agreement is required between the City of St. Paul and the St. Paul Development Corp (SPDC); this is due to SPDC owning the land. The Agreement is a voluntary contract between the local jurisdiction and a person who owns or controls property within the jurisdiction, detailing the obligations of both parties and specifying the standards and conditions that will govern development of the property. Council member Feeken stated "the major question the Council needs to answer as the City itself is whether or not the City wants to participate monetarily in the project outside the LB 840 Sales Tax fund; will the City be utilizing property tax dollars?" After a lengthy silence, Council member Schmid said "we have to do something; we need to grow." St. Paul Development Corp (SPDC) Executive Director Dream Solko stated that there are six (6) interested parties; SPDC will be placing a poster board up to solicit the Middle Loup Subdivision lots. Deputy Clerk Berthelsen will mail or email Attorney Willis a City Redevelopment map. Council member Peters had questioned whether to place restrictions in the Industrial Zoning regulations, due to limit the type of businesses in the area. Per Attorney Willis, the restrictions can be placed in the Redevelopment Agreement. Attorney Willis stated, "Remember this is a 15 year contract, where it will not change".

Brian Friedrichsen with Olsson spoke briefly regarding the three (3) frontage lots in the subdivision, the State approval regarding water and sewer and the US Highway #281 access. Mr. Friedrichsen stated that the district creation and bid letting will come later in the process. Council member Kowalski moved to approve moving forward with the Middle Loup Subdivision redevelopment plan. 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 the City of St. Paul Housing Authority applying for a \$350,000 grant from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds (NAHTF) to rehab the Parkside North apartments located at 508 L Street and 516 L Street. The funds will be to renovate the inside and outside of the apartments. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The pre-application is due on March 9, 2023; the full application is due on May 11, 2023.

Library Director Aubrie Brown presented updates regarding the St. Paul Library. Ms. Brown's updates contained: book circulation numbers, annual library visits, public internet access, community room usage, library programs, updating the website, duties of the Library Director and Media Specialist, Library accreditation and the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the St. Paul Public School Library. Ms. Brown stated that she is stepping away from the Library Director position; she is waiting for the school to officially hire someone and then the Library Board will hire someone; this will have Council approval. Ms. Brown is thinking that this will happen ideally come May, and is not sure when the new Media Specialist will start whether that will be in May or August. Ms. Brown intends to remain the Library Director until the new Media Specialist begins. It was stated that the City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Library Board and the St. Paul Public School needs to keep in communication with each other.

Council member Feeken moved to approve transferring \$1,941,000 City Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) funds to NEBRASKA CLASS (Nebraska Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System). Currently, the interest rate is 4.80%. 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 the Consent Agenda Items: (1) February 21, 2023 minutes (regular); and (2) March 6, 2023 disbursements. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

**March 6, 2023 Disbursements**

Gross Wages - February

89092.00

Action Flag (supplies)	665.00
Bergman, Joel (mileage, parking)	214.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	19319.37
Bomgaars (supplies)	821.49
Bound Tree (supplies)	65.98
Cardmember Svcs (meals, supplies, education, postage, hotel, parking, fees)	5699.53
Cengage Learning (books)	39.57
Charter/Spectrum (service)	239.96
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5808.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	110.00
Clearly (service)	194.47
Cornhusker Marriott (lodging)	880.00
COR Management (agreement)	1376.00
Custer County Recycling (Service)	15.00
Danko Emergency Equip (supplies)	4402.75
Dick's Repair (repair)	504.32
Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	6.70
Filtercare of NE (service)	145.30
HD Arms LLC (supplies)	94.00
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	10.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3122.42
Jerabek, Randy (license)	35.00
John Deere Financial (supplies)	202.37
Killinger Electric (service)	5933.50
Light ICS: Nov, Dec, Jan 2023 PCA (to light ICS)	46049.54
Loup Valley Supply (supplies)	50.73
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	209.38
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	131.76
NE Dept of Energy & Environ (fees)	230.00
NE Public Health Envir (lab)	394.00
Open Caret (supplies)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	819.41
Penworthy (books)	1836.29
Platte Valley Communications (service)	2847.35
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	1480.85
Servi-Tech (lab)	165.00
Smith Welding (repair)	146.34
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	44.92
Thiel Tire (repair)	20.00
Verizon Wireless (service)	143.34

**Non-General Disbursements**

Keno: Dana F. Cole & Co. (final pymt 2021-2022 audit & budget)	300.00
Sales Tax: Street - Motor Vehicle Tax (trfr to streets)	5020.15
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure (trfr to 25% Infrast)	9590.01
City Sales Tax Time CD 109680 to Sales Tax ICS 103462	83013.76
City Light Time CD 109681 to Light ICS 103217	46090.23
City General Time CD 3212279 to General ICS 103209	162275.55
City General Time CD 3272801 to General ICS 103209	41277.57
City General Time CD 3548302 to General ICS 103209	229329.29
City Light Time CD 3233633 to Light ICS 103217	42906.96
City Water Time CD 3398295 to Water ICS 103225	32587.56
City Sewer Time CD 3729928 to Sewer ICS 103241	38018.82
City Sewer Time CD 3854749 to Sewer ICS 103241	38018.82

City Fire Time CD 3302364 to Fire ICS 103268	24983.81
City Ambulance CD 3628065 to Ambulance ICS 103276	53769.48
City Park CD 3229852 to Park ICS 103284	43450.09
Cem Foundation: Sec'y of State (fee)	30.00

Council member Schmid moved to approve Christopher C. Sieck as Casey's Retail Corporate Manager in St. Paul, NE. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The approval will be sent to the NE Liquor Control Commission.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve transferring \$50,000 of Sales Tax Money Market funds to the Sales Tax Checking account. This is to transfer (1) Street - Motor Vehicle Tax and (2) 25% Infrastructure funds from the Sales Tax proceeds. Currently, the balance in the sales tax checking account is \$12,344. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The City of St. Paul interviewed a gentleman on Saturday, March 4, 2023 regarding the Electrical Commissioner position. Utilities Superintendent Helzer received a call; the position was declined. Mayor Bergman and Utilities Superintendent had a meeting with Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPP) General Manager Dirk Dietz.

Council member Feeken moved to approve a City of St. Paul 2023 Spring Clean-Up on Monday, April 24, 2023 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Please call the City Office at (308)754-4483 to be placed on a list. All items must be placed at the curb for pickup. It is suggested that items be placed at the curb on Saturday, April 22, 2023 and Sunday, April 23, 2023. Items NOT accepted: Environmental regulations do not allow the collection of pesticides, herbicides, tires, paint, hazardous material or chemicals, or propane tanks.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates include: (1) Rutjens Construction waiting on Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) SBR valves from HOA Solutions; (2) will perform a WWTF Generator Start-up on March 21, 2023 and WWTF Lift Station Start-up on March 28, 2023 (2) City employees Trae Anderson and Trevor Kowalski are taking a WWTF training class this week; test will be on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Chief of Police Howard updates:

(1) Todd Padrnos nuisance at 1220 Farnum Street; and John McClellan nuisance on Paul Street; (2) Four (4) helmets were received from a USDept.org grant; two (2) radars were received from a Highway Safety Grant; and (3) regulations on vehicles, smokers, and food trailer parked in yard in front of home. Utilities Superintendent will check into and get back with Mayor and Council.

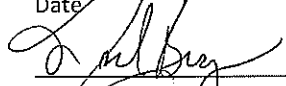
Mayor Bergman stated that the agenda will no longer include updates. At the League Mid-Winter Conference there was a class named "Fostering Civility by Setting the Ground Rules for Engagement at Public Meetings", they advised that there shouldn't be Council updates.

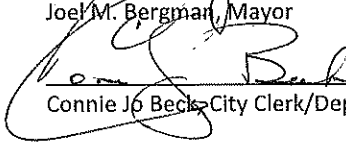
Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Emergency Response Guideline Book 2020; the book updates every four (4) years: Per Fire Chief Becker, the first persons to be called if there is an ethanol spill would be the (1) Union Pacific Railroad; (2) Howard County Emergency Manager Wilshusen; (3) the Hazmat Team from Grand Island, NE (Chief Becker is on the team); and the (4) Grand Island Hazmat Team. Note: Chief Becker stated that the railroad tanks built today are different from when they were built years ago. The tanks have a tank within a tank; this is for the safety features for the chemicals; (2) Community Needs Survey: St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) to enter surveys in manually; the NE Public Power District to tally results; (3) Firefighters Mark Wilson and Hunter Lassen received Certificate of Completion regarding the S130 Firefighter Training; Intro to Wildfire Behavior; and Human Factors on Fire Line.

For Public Announcements, Katie Mathews began as the new Executive Director on March 1, 2023.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:35 p.m.

March 20, 2023  
Date

  
Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

  
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer