

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

Tuesday, September 5, 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 Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Joel M. Bergman and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid, Mike Feeken & 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.

The City of St. Paul Council held two (2) meetings on Tuesday, September 5, 2023; the 1st Special Council meeting began at 6:30 p.m. (1) pertaining to a public hearing regarding the City of St. Paul's 2023-2024 Budget AND Budget Summary; and (2) the Regular Council meeting will commence immediately upon adjournment of the budget hearing.

Per Nebraska State Statute 13-506(1), as amended by LB148 (2020): Each governing body shall each year conduct a public hearing on its proposed budget statement. Such hearing shall be held separately from any regular scheduled meeting of the governing body and shall not be limited by time. After such hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted, or amended and adopted as amended at a separate and distinct meeting, and a written record shall be kept of such hearing.

Mayor Bergman called the Special City Council meeting to order at 6:30 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.

Mayor Bergman opened the public comment period at 6:32 p.m. regarding the City of St. Paul's 2023-2024 Budget and Budget Statement. Mayor Joel M. Bergman provided an overview of the 2023-2024 Budget Comparison Schedule regarding the (1) Valuation; (2) Property Tax request; (3) the Levy (Non-Bond and Bond); (4) Sinking Funds; and (5) Transfer of funds.

After hearing no comments from the audience, Mayor Bergman closed the public comment period and adjourned the special meeting regarding the proposed 2023-2024 Budget and Budget Summary at 6:35 p.m.

Mayor Bergman called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

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 has "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.

Ms. Kelly Gewecke with the NE Department of Economic Development (NDED) presented a plaque pertaining to the recertification requirements regarding the City of St. Paul's "Leadership Certified Community". Ms. Gewecke thanked Deputy City Clerk Laura Berthelsen for her hard work on the project.

Council member Feeken moved to approve the City of St. Paul's 2022-2023 Sinking fund deposits; the deposits went into the City's Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) accounts at Citizens Bank and Trust: (1) Ambulance \$9,000; (2) Fire \$3,000; (3) Library (City) \$2,500; (4) Light \$6,000; (5) Swimming Pool \$2,700; (6) Senior Center \$2,500; (7) Streets \$30,000; and (8) Water \$27,500. This is a total of \$83,200. 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 City of St. Paul Transfers for Fiscal Year End 2022-2023 = \$349,087.00: Light to Police \$178,000 (operating); Light to Park \$66,800 (operating); Light to General \$19,282 (US Wage); Water to General \$19,282 (US Wage); Sewer to General \$19,282 (US Wage); Landfill to Park \$10,000 (operating); Street to General \$19,282 (US Wage); and Street to VP Bond \$16,659 (assessments). Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the proposed 2023-2024 Budget and Budget Statement as presented. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the 2023-2024 Budget's **ADDITIONAL** one percent (1%) increase regarding the total allowable growth restricted fund authority. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Resolution #2023-08, with the stipulation that City Clerk Beck verifies with Dana F. Cole & Co. regarding the 44% increase in the total operating budget of the City of St. Paul from last fiscal year 2022. And whereas the 2023-2024 property tax requests be set at \$736,946.50 for the General Fund and \$135,340.00 for the Bond Fund. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 1.36 percent. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.500086 per \$100 of assessed value. The City of St. Paul proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.515639 per \$100 of assessed value. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the City will increase last year's budget by 43.58 percent. A copy of the resolution will be certified and forwarded to the Howard County Clerk on or before Saturday, October 15, 2023. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Council member Kowalski introduced the "Annual Appropriation Bill" Ordinance #1039 for the operation of the General and Utility funds of the City of St. Paul, in Howard County, NE, appropriating the sums of money deemed necessary to defray all expenses and liabilities for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of October 2023 and ending the last day of September 2024. The following sums are hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the City during the fiscal period commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, to wit: (1) Operating Expenses \$5,837,723; (2) Capital Improvements \$8,792,397; (3) Other Capital Outlay \$372,600; (4) Debt Service \$2,730,058; and (5) Other & Transfers \$563,969; of which \$872,286.50 is to be raised by property taxation. Council member Schmid waived the three (3) readings of Ordinance 1039 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council member Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance 1039. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, Council member Feeken voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Rutjens Construction Inc. Pay Request #12 regarding the St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project #020-2586 in the amount of \$249,030.89. The pay request covers finishing up the earthwork and electrical work around the site, along with the majority of earthwork on the lagoon (building two (2) cells). The percentage of loan expended to date is 96%. There are no WWTF "Change Orders" to

consider. 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 Dustin Anderson's zoning permit application #2023-32 regarding the demolition of the home at 807 Farnum Street to ratify administrative approval. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to deny Tony Walch's zoning permit application #2023-33 in placing an addition to the home at 703 9th Street. This was denied by the Planning Commission on 8/28/2023 for the reason that it does not comply with the six (6) ft. setback requirements, and the addition would increase the degree of an existing nonconformity (Section 2.7.02). Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mr. Walch's zoning permit application will go through the Variance Committee.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Waiver of Subdivision requirement on the following described real estate: The North Half of the East Half (N1/2E1/2) of Lot Fifteen (15), Aleshire's Subdivision to St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. The current owner of the property is John O. Gebhardt, Trustee of the John O. Gebhardt Trust, of St. Paul, Nebraska. The anticipated division of the lot by the current owner will allow the current owner to sell to Larry Lange and Rhonda Lange, husband and wife, the following real property: the South Fifteen (15) feet of the North Half of the East Half (N1/2E1/2) of Lot Fifteen (15), Aleshire's Subdivision to St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska. The City Council of the City of St. Paul now waives the statutory 120 day objection period to the proposed conveyance which divides a lot into two (2) or more tracts, resulting in a subdivision. Neb. Rev. Stat. 76-2,110(2). Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Howard County Assessor Neal Dethlefs is aware of the Waiver of Subdivision requirements.

A discussion ensued between St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) Executive Director Parker Klinginsmith and the City Council regarding moving forward with public hearings to allow Multi-Family housing on Lots Two (2), Three (3) and Four (4) of the Middle Loup Subdivision. Council member Kowalski moved to approve opening it up for possibilities to allow housing in the area through the public hearings. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski stated that she is not disagreeing with the Planning/Zoning Committee, she merely stated that it needs to go through the public hearing process. On August 28, 2023, the Planning Commission recommended to NOT allow housing in the Middle Loup Subdivision.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report for July 2023; (2) Council minutes for August 21, 2023 (special); Council minutes; August 21, 2023 (regular); (3) Zoning permits August 28, 2023; and (4) Disbursements September 5, 2023. Council member Feeken seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

September 5, 2023 Disbursements

Gross Wages - August	109494.27
Amazon Capital Services (books, supplies)	1633.70
Awards Plus (plaque)	74.18
Banyon Data Systems (service)	490.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	18989.14
Bomgaars (supplies)	1748.63
Bound to Stay Bound (books)	151.76
Bryan Jensen Clothing (uniforms)	1317.49
Cengage Learning (books)	63.98
Charter/Spectrum (service)	239.96
Christensen Concrete (supplies)	724.00
Christensen Insurance (insurance)	5572.80
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00

City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	100.00
Core & Main (supplies)	96.45
Custer County Recycling (Service)	20.00
Danko Emergency Equip (supplies)	2477.73
Dutton-Lainson (supplies)	819.68
Eakes Office Supply (service, supplies)	6.61
Elan Financial Services (supplies, postage, car wash, meals)	3379.60
Elmwood Cemetery (perpetual care)	600.00
Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	91.80
Heartland Disposal (service)	329.50
Hesselgesser Electric (repair)	152.72
Hometown Market (supplies)	95.50
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	36.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3122.42
Loup Valley Supply (supplies, repair)	190.00
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	220.40
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	127.08
Olsson (engineering)	13782.29
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Overland Ready Mixed (concrete)	1020.18
Petty Cash (car wash, registration, meal)	50.00
PIP Marketing (supplies)	1123.36
Rutjens Construction Inc. (WWTF Draw #12)	249030.89
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	18.94
Saylor Screenprinting (uniforms)	91.00
Servi-Tech (lab)	200.00
Sherwin Williams (paint)	741.00
Smith Welding (service)	17.00
State of NE Central Service (service)	38.34
Wesco (supplies)	182.97

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: May 2023 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	8487.53
Sales Tax: Fire Station: May 2023 Proceeds (Fire Station)	19326.19
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: May 2023 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	9663.10
Sales Tax: : SPDC: Olsson: Middle Loup Subd: Amendment #1	3153.54

Chief of Police Dan Howard was present to discuss with City Officials on moving forward to abate the property at 1220 Farnum Street (Todd & Michelle Padrnos). This is due to no cleanup modifications since June 2023. Topic's discussed included: (1) the utilization of City Employee's performing the cleanup; (2) moving of vehicles; (3) moving fence on property; (4) hiring an outside contractor; (5) retaining property; and (6) documentation of the cleanup process. Council member Schmid moved to approve abating the property at 1220 Farnum Street, with the stipulation of contacting City Attorney White regarding the topic's discussed above. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve a nine percent (9%) hourly wage for the City of St. Paul City Clerk, Utilities Superintendent and the Police Secretary effective October 1, 2023. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Feeken & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that a sub-contractor will be installing a water proof liner in the south basin at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Chief of Police Howard stated that the St. Paul Police Department will begin the process of abatement regarding the property at 304 8th Street.

Mayor Bergman updates: (1) Planning/Zoning Commissioner Chairman Jerry Woodgate resigned from the Board last week. Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that Mr. Woodgate did a great job in the Chairman position; and (2) City Clerk Beck renewed the System for Award Management (SAM) registration on August 27, 2023. This is required in order to receive Federal Funds for contracting work for grants from the U.S. Government.

Mayor Bergman adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:20 p.m.

September 18, 2023
Date

[Signature]
Joel M. Bergman, Mayor

[Signature]
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer