

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

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

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, January 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Council President Mike Feeken (Acting Mayor) and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid 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.

Council President Feeken opened the meeting 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. Council President Feeken 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.

Pursuant to the announcement of Mayor Joel M. Bergman's resignation effective January 1, 2024, a vacancy in the office of Mayor is to be filled by the Council President for the unexpired term (December 7, 2026) per Municipal Code 1-106 and Nebraska State Statute 32-568. Council President Feeken was given the Oath of Office and sworn in to serve as the interim Mayor until December 7, 2026. All subsequent actions taken at this meeting were with Mayor Feeken conducting the meeting.

Mayor Feeken continued the meeting by announcing that 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 Feeken, there will be a five (5) minute limit per person on speaking.

As a result of Mayor Feeken relinquishing his City Council position to serve as Mayor, a vacancy now exists on the City Council. According to St. Paul City Code Section 1-105, whenever a vacancy occurs in an elected office of the Municipality, except Mayor, notice of said vacancy shall be presented in writing to the City Council at a regular council meeting and said notice shall appear as a part of the minutes of such meeting. Public Notice regarding a Council Member Vacancy was posted in four (4) places in St. Paul, NE on Thursday, December 21, 2023, and will also be published in the Phonograph Herald on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. The notice is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Feeken suggested that anyone interested in serving as a Council member for the unexpired term (until December 2, 2024) should contact him directly. Mayor Feeken will submit a name at the January 16, 2024 City Council meeting for such position, at which time the City Council will vote whether to approve the person to fill the vacancy. If a majority vote is not reached, the nomination shall be rejected and the Mayor shall, at the next regular meeting, submit the name of another qualified elector.

A discussion was had on the status of abating a nuisance at 304 8th Street pertaining to an unlicensed Blue Honda Civic. Police Chief Howard indicated that the owner has made progress in cleaning up the trees and vegetation around the vehicle, but is not sure whether the owner

has found the keys to the vehicle. Since the owner is making progress, Council member Peters moved to allow the owner until January 16, 2024 to remove the vehicle from the property. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. The City Council will discuss the status of this nuisance at the January 16, 2024 City Council meeting.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Council minutes regarding December 18, 2023 (regular); and (2) Disbursements of January 2, 2024. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

January 2, 2024

Gross Wages - December	91747.15
Amazon Capital Services (books)	286.54
Beck, Connie Jo (mileage)	154.58
Bomgaars (supplies)	1395.95
Brumbaugh, Steven (reimb)	150.38
Cengage Learning (books)	63.98
Charter/Spectrum (Service)	239.96
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00
City of St. Paul: Transfer from Ambulance Checking 100027 to Ambulance NPAIT #23251-108 RE: Fire Station Bond Pymt - (received reimbursement from St. Paul Rural Fire Board)	61556.50
City of St. Paul #411025 Account Transfer to NE Class: (Light \$100,000; Water \$50,000; Sewer \$50,000 transfer)	200000.00
City of St. Paul Health Deductible Checking Account Transfer to NE Class (transfer)	75000.00
City of St. Paul 25% Infrastructure Account Transfer to to NE Class (transfer)	75000.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	100.00
Consolidated Mgmt (training)	93.00
Core & Main (supplies)	188.05
Cornhusker State Industries (desks/cab)	2098.00
Crescent Electric (supplies)	612.47
Custer County Recycling (service)	23.80
Dept of Revenue: Sales & Use Tax Submittal (Form 10)	13130.08
Dick's Repair (repair)	535.28
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	7563.87
Elan Financial Svcs (postage, supplies, meals, education, fees)	1217.19
Filter Care (service)	111.00
Homestead Bank (fee)	10.00
Homestead Bank: Patron Bad Check Fee (fee)	3.00
Homestead Bank Wire Fee: Four (4) Bond Pymts with BOK Financial (wire fee)	8.00
Hometown Market (supplies)	18.21
Howard County Treasurer (dispatch)	3158.54
Inland Truck Parts (supplies)	97.10
J Energy Consulting (service)	1000.00
Madison Nat'l Life (Insurance)	198.36
Mutual of Omaha (Insurance)	129.60
Nebraska Rural Water Assn (membership)	400.00
Odeys Inc (supplies)	2299.00
Olsson (service)	12320.19
Petty Cash (supplies, postage)	43.52
Police Chief Assn (membership)	60.00
Platte Valley Communication (service)	372.25
Powerplan (supplies)	783.44
Road Builders (supplies)	540.40

Robinson, Grady (reimbursement)	13.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	1136.00
Sapp Bros (oil)	1044.25
St Paul Rural Fire (reimbursement)	14241.47
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	38.34
USA Blue Book (supplies)	176.52
Utilities Section of LONM (education)	60.00
Vogel Auto Repair (repair)	1164.44
Wesco Distribution (supplies)	465.23

Non-General Disbursements

25% Infrastructure Fund (#102-342): Transfer to NE Class	75000.00
25% Infrastructure Fund (Transfer)	
Health Deductible Fund (#102482): Transfer to NE Class	75000.00
Health Deductible Fund (Transfer)	
City Heritage Bank Transfer (#411025) from Lights \$100,000/ Water \$50,000/Sewer \$50,000 to NE CLASS Lights/Water/ Sewer (Transfer)	200000.00
City of St. Paul Library: Transfer Library 2023-2024 Budget #504970 to Library Checking 100027 to paint Library (transfer)	5049.32
Fire Station Construction: JEO Consultants: Final Design & Bidding (Engineering)	6918.75
St. Paul Development Corp: Olsson Invoice: Engineering Fees RE: Middle Loup Subdivision	2303.31
Sales Tax: SCEDD dues	5000.00
Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: Oct. 2023 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	6512.35
Sales Tax: Fire Station: Oct. 2023 Proceeds (Fire Station)	17015.08
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: Oct. 2023 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	8507.54

Jordan Robinson, a Board member of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce requested funding for marketing and advertising expenses. Ms. Robinson outlined various projects that the Chamber of Commerce is working on to justify the funding request including Chamber t-shirts promoting buying local, a retractable banner for use at career fairs, promotional items to be included in Welcome packets, thank you cards, etc. Council member Kowalski moved to approve providing the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce \$8,000 from the Sales Tax account to be used for marketing and advertising. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Kowalski, and Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Police Chief Dan Howard provided an update on the recently formed Nuisance Committee. The Committee will concentrate on three (3) properties each month. Of the three (3) properties addressed last month [December], one (1) property owner is now in compliance; one (1) property has shown significant improvement but needs more time; and the third has not made any progress.

Police Chief Howard provided an update on the property at 1220 Farnum. A crew was contracted to haul debris from the property on December 29, 2023. Additional debris will be removed after the snow melts. Kramer's from Grand Island will also be removing unlicensed/inoperable vehicles from the property as their schedule permits.

Council member Schmid moved to approve advertising for someone to clean the City offices. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Kowalski, and Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve a three percent (3%) wage increase for Police Officer Matt Sample effective December 15, 2023 when he graduated from the Law Enforcement Training Center. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Kowalski, and Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Officer Sample's new

wage will be \$24.52 per hour. This increase is typically authorized at the time of hire, but was not done at that time.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Thomas Holmes as a new certified St. Paul Police Officer effective January 3, 2024, with a starting wage of \$26.21 per hour, and an increase to \$27.00 per hour after his six (6) month probationary period. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Kowalski, and Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Mr. Thomas is a certified Field Training Officer (FTO), which the state will soon be mandating for each department. Police Chief Dan Howard indicated that the City would be purchasing a duty vest from Sherman County for Officer Holmes, and that Officer Holmes will be providing his own duty belt and leather accessories. Police Chief Howard also indicated that the City's non-union contract requires Officer Holmes to reimburse the City for uniforms if he resigns within twelve (12) months of employment.

The second (2nd) City Council meeting in January 2024 will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, due to the Martin Luther King holiday.

Utilities Superintendent Matt Helzer had no updates to report.

Chief of Police Howard updates:

The Police Department office recently received a facelift, including new paint throughout the office.

Mayor Mike Feeken updates:

- (1) 2023 - 2024 Sales Tax proceeds;
- (2) St. Paul Firefighter and EMT Roster (12-26-23);
- (3) November 2023 Revenue and Expenditure Guideline (at City Office); and
- (4) 2022-2023 Keno Revenue and Expenditures.

Information Item:

Mayor Feeken noted that the Library minutes identified part-time library wages of \$11.50 per hour. Mayor Feeken indicated that any hourly wages currently below \$12.00 per hour will need to be adjusted effective January 1, 2024 to reflect the new Nebraska minimum wage of \$12.00 per hour.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:05 p.m.

January 16, 2024
Date

Mike Feeken
Mike Feeken, Mayor

Laura Berthelsen
Laura Berthelsen, Deputy Clerk