

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

**Monday, February 5, 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 Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Mike Feeken and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid, Bill Peters. Mr. Brian Sack was also in attendance. 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 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. Mayor 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.

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.

***BRIAN VICTOR SACK TAKING OATH OF OFFICE***

With the raising of the right hand at 6:35 p.m., City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Connie Jo Beck swore in Council member Brian Victor Sack as the new Council member to fill the vacancy of former Council member Mike Feeken. Council member Sack's term will be fulfilled on December 2, 2024.

Mayor Feeken requested nominations regarding the position of Council President. Mayor Feeken stated that at the previous Council meeting there were two (2) nominations for Council President. Council member Kowalski withdrew her nomination for Council President. Council member Peters nominated Council member Schmid for Council President. Council member Schmid accepted the nomination. Mayor Feeken ceased the nominations for Council President at 6:42 p.m. Mayor Feeken called for a roll call vote; Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

On December 4, 2023, Council member Kowalski was appointed as the Loup Central Landfill representative and Councilmember Peters was appointed as alternate representative. Council member Schmid moved to approve Resolution 2023-12 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 Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) was in attendance to discuss the re-utilization the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$257,569. After a brief discussion, Council member Kowalski moved to utilize the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the Wastewater

Treatment Facility (WWTF). Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The Council minutes of Monday, June 5, 2023 also convey the utilization of ARPA funds for the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF).

Council member Schmid moved to approve the Olsson letter of "Completion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) 2021" project. Warranty items have been completed by HOA Solutions Inc.; the warranty item pertained to screens that help relay information back to the Water Treatment Plant. The screens were not showing the correct values, dates, etc. HOA Solutions Inc. was on site the week of January 22 - 26, 2024 to correct the problem. Sewer Operator Trae Anderson stated that a new power supply was ordered for the UV building control panel. HOA Solutions will be adding alarms to the grinder and auger, along with the new power supply. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Olsson Change Order No. 4 (Final) regarding Engineer's Project #020-2586 to the increased amount of \$2,986. This involves American Fence providing and installing an additional 70 linear feet of six feet (6') tall galvanized chain link fence at the sewer lift station. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Sack moved to approve Rutjens Construction Inc. final Pay Request #13 regarding St. Paul Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Project #020-2586 in the amount of \$528,093.27. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will absorb \$257,569 and the remaining will be absorbed by the Checking (sewer) account #100027 in the amount of \$270,524.27. The pay request covers the final Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) site work. It consists of fencing; north cell decommissioning and the final Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (Scada) work. The percentage of loan expended to date is 99%. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) also was present to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) new microscope. Although the microscope that the staff currently possesses will take care of a good portion of the testing needed, it is not quite enough to see the smaller items that can cause a plant to have unexpected results. It is believed that this was a factor in the issues that the plant is working through currently.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the City purchasing a Phase Contrast Microscope and HDMI Camera for the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in the amount of \$4,980. Per Olsson, the \$3,200 will be absorbed by the remainder of the WWTF loan, with the City absorbing \$1,600 out of pocket for the microscope. The microscope and camera will be paid by the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the amount of \$349.09 and the Public Alliance Community Energy (ACE) funds will absorb the \$1,250.91. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The Village of Palmer, NE may have interest in the WWTF current microscope.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Council Minutes for January 16, 2024 (regular); (2) Disbursements for February 5, 2024; and (3) Parker Klinginsmith appointment to the St. Paul Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to complete Mike Feeken's term of office until November 30, 2025. Mr. Feeken has served since December 2016. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

**February 5, 2024 Disbursements**

Gross Wages - January	98862.35
Amazon Capital (books)	1043.36
AT&T Mobility (service)	604.42
Automatic Systems Co (service)	240.00
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	2894.04
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	18420.28

Bomgaars (supplies)	2480.33
Cengage Learning (books)	31.99
Central Community College (education)	1241.00
Charter/Spectrum (service)	239.96
Christensen Insurance (insurance)	62.13
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	100.00
Construction Rental (supplies)	213.45
Consumer Deposit: Rental Deposit Polen (rental deposit)	150.00
Core & Main (supplies)	3130.01
Crescent Electric (supplies)	115.14
Custer County Recycling (Service)	18.60
Dick's Repair (service)	1331.76
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	225.18
Eakes Office Solutions (supplies, contract)	890.45
Elan Financial Services (postage, supplies, education, fuel)	6603.97
Farwell QRT (education)	390.00
Filter Care (service)	55.20
Hawkins Inc (chemicals)	1383.23
Heartland Disposal (service)	168.00
Heritage Bank: City Utility Billing ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	10.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3158.54
Hydro Optimization (service)	532.50
Jarecke Motors (repair)	162.81
John Deere Financial (supplies)	24.94
Klanecky, Jamie (reimb)	35.00
League of NE Municipalities (education)	1605.00
MacQueen Equipment (supplies)	932.18
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	220.40
Midwest Service & Sales (service)	5197.55
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	129.60
O'Reilly Auto Parts (supplies)	6.69
Petty Cash (supplies)	44.03
Platte Valley Communications (supplies, service)	4419.96
Power Plan (supplies)	2150.00
PSSI Pest Mgmt (service)	135.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	125.36
Schaper & White (legal fees)	132.50
St Paul Public School (supplies, custodian)	2707.30
Stanteiski Junk & Waste (abatement)	1920.00
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	38.34
<b>Non-General Disbursements</b>	
Keno: NE Dept Revenue: 2% Gross: Oct-Dec 2023	4796.00
Fire Station Construction Checking: JEO Consulting Group Inc. (engineering)	12637.50
NPAIT Fire Station Construction 23251-201 to Fire Station Construction Checking (transfer)	100000.00
TIF: S. Squared Enterprises: TIF #8663 (tif)	4918.56
TIF: City of St. Paul (MAD Dev. 1/2 Share #8670) (tif)	1377.28
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Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: Nov. 2023 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	3179.37
Sales Tax: Fire Station: Nov. 2023 Proceeds (Fire Station)	17765.24
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: Nov. 2023 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	8882.62
TIF: TIF Check Order (check order)	14.42

Sales Tax: (SPDC) Middle Loup Subd. Design & Plat (engineering fees)	10383.56
Sales Tax Fire Station Proceeds to Npait (Ambulance): Reimbursement for the Fire Station Loan Payment on November 15, 2023 (Note Pymt Funds ALL came from the Npait (Ambulance) (Funds Transfer)	61556.50
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: RVW - GIS mapping	800.00

The St. Paul Civic Center (423 Howard Avenue) north door required repairs to the automatic door opener. Island Glass Co., Grand Island, NE invoiced the Civic Center for the amount of \$2,853 regarding the repairs. Council member Sack moved to approve utilizing the Public Alliance Community Energy (ACE) funds in the amount of \$2,853. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve keeping the same terms as Addendum #7 regarding the State of Nebraska "Lease Agreement Addendum #8". Currently, the City is receiving \$250 monthly for rent; this is on a two (2) year lease. The lease agreement will term on Thursday, February 29, 2024. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. City Clerk Beck will contact the State of Nebraska regarding the new contract.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve removing Joel M. Bergman (previous Mayor) from the three (3) St. Paul Financial Institution's (Homestead Bank; Citizens Bank & Trust; and Heritage Bank) signature cards, along with removing Joel M. Bergman from the NE CLASS and NPAIT Investment signature cards. The new Mayor (Mike Feeken) and the new Council President (Chuck Schmid) will be added to the signature cards. Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer; Laura Berthelsen, Deputy Clerk; and Sally Einspahr, City Treasurer; Liana Wroblewski, Utilities Clerk; and Kristie Fousek, Payroll Clerk will be added to the accounts as depicted in the St. Paul Financial Institution, NPAIT and NE Class letters that will be signed by Mayor Feeken. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

After a lengthy discussion regarding hiring a custodial service to clean the City offices and the St. Paul Police Dept. offices, Mayor tabled the subject indefinitely. City Clerk Beck will visit with the office staff in the morning regarding the cleaning of the office.

The City of St. Paul Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Superintendent position was open to the City's current employees. To comply with the IBEW Union Contract the job opening was posted for a period of ten (10) working days, during which time all employees were permitted to apply for the position. Applications were accepted until Friday, January 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The vacancy position was posted at the City Office; the Wastewater Treatment Facility; the Water Treatment Facility; the City Park Shop and the North Electrical Yards. Mayor Feeken appointed Trae Anderson to the position of Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Superintendent, with a beginning wage of \$27.32 to be effective Friday, February 9, 2024. Council member Peters moved to approve the appointment of Trae Anderson, along with the hourly wage and effective date. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Dan Howard was present to discuss the replacement of the St. Paul Police Dept. "evidence door"; this is due to the overheating and no air flow in the room. It is a big concern due to the fact that the City's computer server is located in the evidence room. The item was tabled for further research from Advance Climate and the exact cost of door. There was also discussion on utilizing the Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) Building fund to absorb the cost of the door.

Chief of Police Howard stated that there are no new nuisances to report until the snow disappears from the ground. The St. Paul Fire Museum removed the wagon from the sidewalk it was on. The nuisance car at 304 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Eiberger) will be discussed on February 20, 2024. Council member Peters is requesting an updated nuisance list from Chief of Police Howard.

Howard County received a grant to conduct a tire disposal day. The event is scheduled to be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds. Howard County has requested a backup location, equipment and staff if necessary. Council member Schmid moved to approve Howard County utilizing the City of St. Paul's Recycling Center on Twin Forks Lane for a "tire disposal" day on Saturday, April 6, 2024, along with approving one (1) employee and one (1) pay loader. Each of these would be available only as a backup plan for the event. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Feeken stated that there are minimal changes to the City Municipal Code Chapter One (1), Article 7 (Elections). The only change is to eliminate Ward I and Ward II and add "Election at Large", which was on the ballot November 8, 2016. The Municipal Code Chapter One (1), Article 6 (Ordinances) was reviewed on January 16, 2024.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) American Tower paid the City approximately two (2) years back rent in the amount of \$14,153.23. The funds will be placed in the "Light Dept." in a high interest bearing account. It was suggested that the funds could be utilized for electrical improvements at the Middle Loup Subdivision.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) St. Paul Police Department's main computer mother board has failed; still under warranty through Dell. The computer has been repaired by Doug Cramer (Hamilton Information Systems); (2) Police Officer Matthew Sample returned to work on Monday, January 29, 2024; Officer Sample is on light duty status as a result of a work comp injury. There was discussion on Officer Sample working from home when he has physical therapy on those days. Chief of Police Howard will do more research regarding Mr. Sample being on workman's compensation; (3) on Saturday, February 3, 2024 the St. Paul Police and Fire Department provided an escort into town as a result of the St. Paul High School wrestling team receiving the Class C State Dual Wrestling Championship; (4) Chief of Police Howard attended a Glock pistol class in late January 2024; passed a test; (5) attended a standard field sobriety class with State Patrol late January 2024.

Mayor Feeken updates: (1) Loren Studley contacted City Clerk Beck stating that the Grover Cleveland Alexander Baseball sign had been placed on hold; Mr. Studley will contact the City when there are further changes. Trae Anderson from the audience stated that there are American Legion District's for seniors from July 26, 2024 through July 31, 2024; he would like to see the sign completed by that date; and (2) City Clerk Connie Jo Beck submitted the Cybersecurity Grant on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 2:40 p.m. with the assistance of Eli Hunter with Hamilton Telecommunications.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:09 p.m.

February 20, 2024  
Date

[Signature]  
Mike Feeken, Mayor

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