

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

Tuesday, January 16, 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 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Mike Feeken 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.

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.

**City of St. Paul's Municipal Code 1-105 "ELECTED OFFICIAL VACANCY":**

Whenever a vacancy occurs in an elected office of the Municipality, except Mayor, notice of vacancy shall be presented in writing to the City Council at a Regular Council meeting (January 2, 2024) and the notice shall appear as a part of the minutes of such meeting.

The "PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY" was posted in four (4) usual places in St. Paul, NE on Thursday, December 21, 2023, and was also published in the Phonograph Herald on Wednesday, January 3, 2024. The Mayor shall, within two (2) weeks (January 16, 2024) after the regular meeting at which such notice has been presented, submit the name of a qualified elector to fill the vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term. Upon a majority vote of approval by the City Council, the vacancy shall be filled. 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.

Mayor Feeken appointed Brian Sack as his qualified elector to fill the vacancy of the Council seat for the unexpired term (December 2024). Mr. Sack introduced himself as being born and raised in St. Paul; is active in the community; managed U-Betcha Auto and stated that he takes pride in St. Paul. Council member Kowalski moved to approve Brian Sack to fill the Council vacancy seat. After a lengthy silence from the other Council members, Mayor Feeken stated that the motion dies for a lack of a second. A resident (Jerry Woodgate) of St. Paul gave his utmost support on the matter regarding Brian Sack filling the vacancy seat as Council member. Council member Kowalski again moved to approve Brian Sack to fill the vacancy of Council member. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski and Schmid voted aye, Council member Peters voted nay. Motion carried 2/1.

Next on the agenda, Mayor Feeken requested nominations from the Council members in selecting a City Council President. Council member Schmid nominated himself as Council

President; there was no further action. Council member Kowalski nominated herself as Council President; there was no further action. The item was tabled until Monday, February 5, 2024.

Hamilton Communications Sales and Business Developer Adam Jurgens was in attendance to give an overview of a 2024 State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The amount of the grant will be approximately \$86,000; the City match is 20% (\$17,210). Hamilton will assist the City in completing all documentation for the grant, along with forming policies and procedures for future reference. It was stated that if the City bypasses FY 2024, the grant costs will be more the following year. Mr. Jurgens stated that the grant is essential, due to the constant changes in cybersecurity with ransomware and phishing. The grant application is due Friday, February 2, 2024. Council member Schmid moved to approve the City of St. Paul applying for the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) FY 2024 with the assistance of Hamilton personnel Eli Hunter and Doug Cramer, along with utilizing funds from kenno. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, City officials allowed Mr. Eiberger until January 16, 2024, to remove the blue Honda Civic from the property at 304 8th Street. Council member Peters moved to approve extending the abatement of the blue Honda Civic until Tuesday, February 20, 2024, due to the weather. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the NE Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) "Certificate of Compliance" regarding services performed in calendar year 2023. The amount due to the State of Nebraska for snow removal is 5.10 lane miles x \$665 per lane mile = \$3,391.50. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Maintenance Agreement No. 47 between the NE Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) and the Municipality of St. Paul for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, pertaining to surface maintenance and/or snow removal in the amount of \$3,391.50. The maintenance agreement consists of: (1) West City Limits and (2) South City Limits to North City Limits. Council member Kowalski 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) Treasurer's Report December 2023; (2) January 2, 2024 (regular) Council minutes; (3) January 16, 2024, disbursements, with the stipulation to hold two (2) of the invoices regarding the Aurora Coop fire bill in the amounts of \$8.46 and \$62.51; and (4) Mayor Feeken's appointment of Sally Einspahr to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners to complete Mrs. Fanta's term of office to October 31, 2027. Commissioner Fanta resigned from the Housing Board of Commissioners as of December 31, 2023; Mrs. Fanta has served since October 2017. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0. Council member Peters had questioned Chief of Police Howard regarding the St. Paul Vet Clinic invoice.

**Disbursements January 16, 2024**

Advanced Climate Control (service)	1916.00
Altec Capital Services LLC: Electrical Bucket Truck (1/2 Payment) (electrical bucket truck)	53950.00
Amazon Capital Services (books)	231.32
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1481.60
Awards Plus (supplies)	13.75
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	19449.65
Brehm's Drus (supplies)	25.97
Bryan Jensen Clothing (supplies)	180.00
Central District Health Dept (lab)	156.00
Central NE Bobcat (supplies)	608.66
Charter/Spectrum (service)	177.95

City Lights (utilities)	8454.49
Clearly (telephone)	195.00
Custer County Recycling (service)	35.40
Dick's Repair (service)	111.32
Dunnage Garage (supplies)	200.00
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	1397.25
Eakes Office Solutions (supplies, contracts)	128.20
First Concord Benefits (service & fees)	320.00
Hamilton Information/COR (service)	1538.50
Heartland Disposal (service)	6005.69
Heritage Bank (Utility Bill ACH Fee) Dec 2023 fee	25.00
Ho. Co. Register of Deeds (service)	
Homestead Bank: Electrical Bucket Truck (fee)	8.00
Wire Fee	
Homestead Bank (fees)	28.40
Howard County Register of Deeds (fees)	10.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	142712.15
Jack's Uniforms & Equip (uniforms)	398.55
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	2119.57
Menards (supplies)	121.00
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	4529.91
Modern Marketing (supplies)	159.44
NE Dept of Revenue (Sales & Use Tax Dec 2023) tax	14671.92
Omaha World Herald (subscription)	325.00
One Call Concepts (service)	7.58
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Overdrive Inc (books)	289.81
Parts Bin (supplies)	223.65
Phonograph Herald (publish)	635.34
Pioneer Door (service)	342.00
Protective Equip Testing (service)	44.52
PSSI / Entech Pest Mgmt (service)	91.80
Quick Med Claims (service)	636.44
Robinson, Grady (reimbursement)	13.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	5.48
Servi-Tech (lab)	168.00
SiteOne Landscape Supply (supplies)	4468.28
Smith Welding (service)	1773.76
Sparq Data Solutions (service)	4100.00
St. Paul Veterinary Clinic (fee)	105.00
Triple T Disposal (service)	247.90
U S Postal Service (postage)	343.00
U S Postal Service (postage)	525.00
<b><u>Non-General Disbursements</u></b>	
Sales Tax: Chamber of Commerce annual funding	8000.00
Keno: H&H Express - freight for Pool floats to TX	1700.00
Light ICS #103217 to Light Checking 100027 (transfer) (for Electrical Bucket Truck Purchase)	107900.00
Sales Tax: Wroblewski & Gawrych - Release for Civic Center property	291.00

The St. Paul Civic Center (423 Howard Avenue) north exterior door required repairs to the automatic door opener. Island Glass Co., Grand Island, NE invoiced the Civic Center in the amount of \$2,853 regarding the repairs. A discussion ensued on who should pay for the repairs of the door. The item was tabled until February 5, 2024 for more discussion.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the revised City of St. Paul Rural Economic Development Loan Grant (REDLG) Revolving Loan Fund Plan. The "Plan" is required for the new Howard County Medical Center REDLG application. The "Plan" will be emailed to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in Kearney, NE. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid & Peters voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 3/0.

The "Outdoor Storage Container" ordinance was presented to the Mayor and Council members for their review to make changes, additions or deletions. The Planning Committee will have the first public hearing to review the "Outdoor Storage Container" regulations. The City Council will then have a public hearing once it is considered by the Planning Commission. All changes and suggestions need to be submitted to the Utilities Superintendent Matt Helzer.

Mayor Feeken identified his changes, additions and deletions to be made to the Municipal Code Book, Chapter One (1), Articles One (1) through Six (6). The City Office needs to prepare for an ordinance by Monday, March 4, 2024 for review and approval.

The removal or the addition of the previous Mayor, the new Mayor and Council President on the City's signature cards involving the Financial Institutions, NPAIT and NE Class was tabled until Monday, February 5, 2024; this is due to a Council President not being installed at tonight's meeting.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer was present to discuss the intersection at "M" Street and Nelson Street. This is located by the Pelc property at 1221 Nelson Street that has currently been purchased by Mr. Keith Harris. Utilities Superintendent Helzer requested to have a survey completed on the property. The survey shows that the City of St. Paul does not own the road at the curve, which is depicted as "Outlot A". Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that the City needs to acquire this property, due to it being a road that has been maintained by the City for many years. Utilities Superintendent Helzer will contact Mr. Harris regarding the City acquiring the road if the City does the foot work and absorbs the legal cost of the project. City Clerk Beck will place the item back on the agenda for Monday, February 5, 2024.

The City Officials attending the 2024 Midwinter Conference at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln, NE on February 26-27, 2024 consists of Mayor Feeken, City Clerk Beck, Council members Kowalski, Schmid and perhaps Brian Sack.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer provided updates from previous Council meetings: (1) new Fire Hall special meeting is scheduled for the later part of January 2024; (2) Verizon Tower lease payments; and (3) the Fiber Nebraska project – the project will commence in the spring, due to weather conditions.

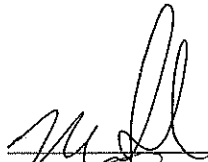
Utilities Superintendent Helzer reported that snow equipment has been very hard to start due to the extreme cold weather.

Chief of Police Howard updates: Police Officer Sample had his surgery on Monday, January 8, 2024; he will be on light duty at the Police Dept. beginning Monday, January 22, 2024. A doctor's note will be provided to the City Office Staff.

Mayor Mike Feeken updates: (1) The City of St. Paul's Lottery Compliance Procedures Report from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023 can be reviewed at the City Offices; (2) City Clerk Beck is working on changing the Western Surety Bond regarding the new Mayor, Council President and City Council at Christensen Insurance; the City Office Staff Fidelity Bond is also being updated according to City title; (3) the City's Solar savings from May 2023 to November 2023 is in the amount of \$15,568; and (4) City will be taking Recycling Center Hay bids this year; the contract will be for three (3) years unless decided differently. Advertising in the Phonograph Herald will be in May 2024.

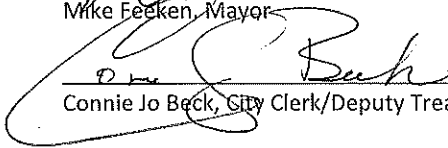
Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:24 p.m.

February 5, 2024  
Date



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Mike Feeken, Mayor



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Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer