

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

Monday, March 18, 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, March 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Mike Feeken and Council members Katie Kowalski, Chuck Schmid, Bill Peters & Brian Sack. 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.

First on the agenda for discussion were the proposals from Olsson's and JEO Consulting Group pertaining to the elimination of the existing drainage route running from Jay Street to Kendall Street on the southeast corner of 4th and Kendall Streets east of the proposed new fire station. The Mayor and Council members agreed unanimously to table the item until Monday, April 1, 2024 to acquire only the design numbers from JEO Consulting Group (Andrew Wilshusen).

Andrew Wilshusen with JEO Consulting Group was in attendance to do an overview of the new Fire Station plans and specifications; this is specifically what the St. Paul Firefighters; EMT's; and St. Paul Rural Fire Board requested at a meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at the St. Paul Fire Station. Mr. Wilshusen stated that the advertising will be in the Phonograph Herald on: March 27, 2024; April 3, 2024; April 10, 2024; and April 17, 2024. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at City Hall; the Fire Station bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall; and the awarding of the bid will be on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the City Council meeting. Council member Schmid moved to approve JEO Consulting Group "St. Paul Fire Station" plans and specifications, along with advertising for bids. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

NOTICE OF HEARING TO BE DETERMINED EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND TO ABATE IN WHOLE OR IN PART

The Mayor and Council shall hear all evidence from the owner or any interested party pertaining to the nuisance at 807 7th Street, more legally described as N 71' of Lots Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), and Seven (7), Block Seventy-Eight (78), Original Town, Howard County, St. Paul, NE. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the nuisance of 807 7th Street; there was no representative from this address to speak on behalf of the property. Council member Schmid

moved to approve that 807 7th Street constitutes a public nuisance and to move forward with abatement. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, Council member Kowalski voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Council member Schmid moved to approve Resolution #2024-1, granting 45 days (May 4, 2024) to abate the nuisance after the notice and hearing of 807 7th Street. Failure to abate the nuisance will result in the nuisance being abated by the City and the cost will be assessed upon the premises until the lien is paid in full. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Declaration of Nuisance: (1) 1108 7th Street (Barbara Lyons) and (2) 920 Indian Street (Jannea Rudolf)

Chief of Police Dan Howard was in attendance to give details of the nuisances at 1108 7th Street and 920 Indian Street. There were no representatives in attendance to speak on the two (2) nuisances in question.

Council member Peters moved to approve sending the "Notice of Hearing to be Determined Existence of Public Nuisance and to Abate in Whole or in Part" to be heard on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the properties at (1) 1108 7th Street (Lot Eight (8), Block Four (4), Original Town, St. Paul, NE) and (2) 920 Indian Street (Lot Nine (9) & E 6' of Lot Eight (8), Block Six (6), Bartlett's Addition, St. Paul, NE). Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, Council member Kowalski voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Next on the agenda were the City of St. Paul's Department updates: (1) Parks Dept. and Cemetery Dept. were presented by Parks and Cemetery Manager Randy Jerabek; (2) Street Dept. was presented by Street Commissioner Jamie Klanecky; and the (3) General Dept. was presented by City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Connie Jo Beck.

Street Commissioner Jamie Klanecky will provide City Clerk Beck a list of City surplus to sell on Big Iron. A resolution will be considered on Monday, April 1, 2024 to sell the City equipment.

Council member Sack moved to approve hiring two (2) City seasonal employees for "2024" with an hourly pay of \$14 for the Park and Cemetery Departments, along with approving Chris Townsend's hourly pay of \$14.50. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Jerry Woodgate gave tremendous credit to Park's Manager Randy Jerabek for the great job he does on the City ballfields.

Electrical Commissioner James Summers and Water Commissioner Jeremy Gorecki were in attendance to speak on behalf of the City leasing a 2024 E38 R2 Series Bobcat Compact Excavator for one (1) year in the amount of \$8,000, then perhaps purchase thereafter. Mr. Summers stated that funds were allocated in the Light Dept. 2023-2024 budget for this purpose. The Elmwood Cemetery Board also met to discuss contributing to the excavator. Mr. Summers stated that there was a drawback to the situation; the Bobcat Excavator will not fit on any trailers the City possesses. Water Commissioner Gorecki located a trailer at U-Betcha Auto in the amount of \$11,500 that could transport the 2024 Bobcat Excavator. The purchase of the trailer will be discussed at the Council meeting on Monday, April 1, 2024. Council member Schmid moved to approve leasing the 2024 Bobcat Excavator for one (1) year in the amount of \$8,000 (250 hour limit over usage of \$35 per hour). The Light Dept. will absorb the cost of the unit. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the road closure on Saturday, March 23, 2024, regarding a St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg hunt in the City Park. The road closure consists of Indian Street between 4th and 6th Streets. The City will provide barricades for the event. 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 placing the City of St. Paul's 2022-2023 excess Department funds into the "Insure Cash Sweep" (ICS) accounts at Citizens Bank & Trust: (1) Cemetery \$37,339; (2) Swimming Pool \$19,857; and (3) Library \$11,462. Council member

Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The "Consent Agenda Items" was next on the agenda for discussion. Council member Peters had questioned what River Valley Auto (Zoning Permit 2024-3) will be placing on the property at 964 Hwy 92. Council member Peters had concerns regarding what will be stored behind the fence of the business. Council member Peters stated that perhaps a conditional use should be placed on the permit. Utilities Superintendent Helzer read the definition from the City zoning regulations regarding storage, mini-storage and self-service storage facility. At this time, Mayor Feeken pulled Zoning Permit 2024-3 from the "Consent Agenda", so it could be approved separately.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report February 2024; (2) March 4, 2024 (regular) Council minutes; (3) Planning Commission Zoning Permits dated March 11, 2024, with the exception of Zoning Permit 2024-3; and (4) March 18, 2024, disbursements. Council member Sack seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Peters moved to approve Zoning Permit 2024-3 (River Valley Auto) with only the building and signage; the fence is excluded from the permit. Council member Schmid seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Disbursements March 18, 2024

Amazon Capital Services (books)	183.01
American Legal Publishing (publish)	93.69
AT&T Mobility (service)	430.95
Aurora Coop (fuel)	941.03
Beck, Connie Jo (mileage)	156.78
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	2372.06
BOK Financial (bond interest)	4202.50
Charter/Spectrum (service)	184.96
City Lights (utilities)	8704.58
City of St. Paul (Light): Trfr from City Heritage Bank to NE Class (Trfr)	112500.00
City of St. Paul (Water): Trfr from City Heritage Bank to NE Class (Trfr)	112500.00
City of St. Paul (Sewer): Trfr from City Heritage Bank to NE Class (Trfr)	75000.00
City of St. Paul Transfer of Funds: Library ICS to Library Checking:	8700.00
Pay for Library Flooring per 23-24 Budget (transfer)	
Clearly (service)	195.00
Consumer Deposit (Sickler & Nunley) Rental Deposit (deposit)	500.00
Consumer Deposit (Walters) Rental Deposit (deposit)	250.00
CopyCat Printing (supplies)	128.95
Cornhusker Marriott (lodging)	784.00
Custer County Recycling (service)	18.00
Dept of Health & Human Services (refund)	242.01
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	2105.56
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	400.00
FedEx (postage)	64.07
First Concord Benefits (service)	120.00
Floor It Nebraska (service)	8639.22
Heartland Disposal (service)	6017.93
Heritage Bank (City Checking) Utility Bills ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Homestead Bank (ACH fees)	33.20
Homestead Bank (KB - NSF Check Fee) (fee)	3.00
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	60.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	137935.61
Jacobs Ford (repair)	597.34
Jarecke Motors (repair)	1371.72
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1868.11
Klanecky, Jamie (supplies)	100.00

Kowalski, Katie (meal, parking)	43.32
Loup Valley Supply (repair)	73.50
Meyer, Deb (mileage, meals)	212.55
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	4686.00
NE Dept of Envir & Energy (licenses)	120.00
NE Dept of Revenue: Sales & Use Tax for February 2024 (sales tax)	13720.56
One Call Concepts (service)	12.34
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	1220.20
Petty Cash (meals, postage, supplies, fee)	65.29
Phonograph Herald (publish)	588.61
Protective Equip Testing (supplies)	282.49
Schmid, Charles (meals, parking)	103.33
Servi-Tech (lab)	336.00
Sherman Co Sheriff's Office (supplies)	750.00
St. Paul Veterinary Clinic (fee)	30.00
Triple T Disposal (service)	256.00
US Post Office (postage)	525.00
Wesco (supplies)	5992.00

Non-General Disbursements

Park Impr. [Aluminum Can Fund]: Champlin Tire Recycling (mulch)	1680.00
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Council member Schmid moved to approve the City of St. Paul's Fire Department billing rates for Year 2024; there is no change from 2023. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Schmid moved to approve the City "Street Closure" application form, with the stipulation that there is a City Clerk signature line of when the closure was approved at a City council meeting. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Attorney White has approved the form. Once a barricade fee has been established and approved; it will be added to the application form.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer reported that water is backing up in the creek west of St. Paul; Mr. Helzer stated that a large beaver dam was found directly under the Paul Street bridge. The water can affect the Dalton Meadow Subdivision and Brookefield Park Nursing facility.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) Lawrence Stump will be coming back to work for the St. Paul Police Dept. as a part-time Police Officer at the hourly wage of \$21. Mr. Stump is a full-time Paramedic for the City of Aurora, NE; (2) St. Paul Police Dept. was awarded a grant (You Text; You Drive; You Pay) in the amount of \$1,600 from the NE Dept. of Transportation Safety Office; (3) St. Paul Police Dept. was awarded the FLIR Scout Monocular (thermal imaging) grant; and (4) Chief of Police Howard provided the call logs from the past year regarding the City Police Dept.

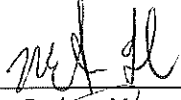
Mayor Mike Feeken updates: (1) Special meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. regarding a Middle Loup Subdivision pre-construction meeting to be held at City Hall; Notice of Meeting was posted in four (4) public places; and (2) a Ballfield group meeting was held last week between the City of St. Paul; St. Paul Public School; the American Legion Club; the Softball Group; and the Youth Sports Association regarding the consolidation of responsibilities; and (3) St. Paul Fire Chief Mike Becker received the Big Iron Realty "First Responder & Medical Professional 2024" award. Mike Becker retired from Grand Island Fire on Friday, March 15, 2024.


Closed Session: Mayor Feeken requested that Chief of Police Dan Howard and Malik Bearheels and family be present in the Closed Session. Council member Kowalski moved to go into Closed Session at 8:38 p.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Council member Peters seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go

into Closed Session for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into Closed Session for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Council members Kowalski, Schmid, Peters & Sack voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mayor Feeken adjourned the closed session at 8:50 p.m., with no action.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:51 p.m.

April 1, 2024
Date


Mike Feeken, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer