

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

Monday, December 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 Monday, December 16, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Mike Feeken and Council members Katie Kowalski, Bill Peters, Mark Wilson & Jerry Woodgate. 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 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.

Dream Solko was in attendance regarding an announcement pertaining to the St. Paul Early Childhood Foundation Capital Campaign project. Mrs. Solko stated that \$850,000 in funds have been raised for the campaign. Mrs. Solko thanked the Mayor and City Council for taking part and being involved by contributing the \$50,000 for five (5) years. The disbursement of funds was approved on August 21, 2024 and will be expended from the keno fund. On July 1, 2025, the St. Paul Early Childhood Foundation will officially take ownership of the St. Paul Kids Academy. The Walter Scott Foundation and the Sherwood Foundation was also contributing factors to the St. Paul Early Childhood Foundation. The first (1st) disbursement invoice will be submitted soon per Mrs. Solko.

Mayor Feeken took nominations from the Council members regarding the appointment of a new 2024-2025 Council President.

Council member Peters moved to nominate Jerry Woodgate and Council member Wilson nominated Council member Kowalski. After nominations ceased, Council member Woodgate seconded the motion regarding his nomination as Council President. Council member Peters and Woodgate voted aye, Council members Kowalski and Wilson voted nay. Mayor Feeken voted nay. Motion failed 3/2. Council member Kowalski seconded her nomination as Council President. Council members Wilson and Kowalski voted aye, Council member Peters and Woodgate voted nay. Mayor Feeken voted aye. Motion carried 3/2. Katie Kowalski will be the Council President for the 2024-2025 year.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve Mayor Feeken signing the Homestead Bank, Citizens Bank & Trust, NPAIT, and NE Class letters and forms to place Council President Katie Kowalski on the City of St. Paul signature cards. This is with the stipulation that the dates are corrected and current on the letters. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Mayor Feeken stated that City Attorney White will continue to be the City of St. Paul's attorney for approximately 2-3 months until his retirement.

Mayor Mike Feeken voiced his 2024-2025 City Appointments.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Mayor Feeken's 2024-2025 City of St. Paul Appointments. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mayor Feeken extended his sincere thanks and appreciation to all volunteer members for dedicating their time to the City of St. Paul.

2024-2025 CITY OF ST. PAUL APPOINTMENTS

- COUNCIL PRESIDENT
(Per NE Stat. §17-148) KATIE KOWALSKI (12-16-24)
- CITY CLERK / DEPUTY TREASURER CONNIE JO BECK (4/2010)
- DEPUTY CLERK LAURA BERTHELSEN (4/2020)
- CITY ATTORNEY JASON WHITE (12-16-24)
- CITY TREASURER SALLY EINSPAHR (8/2020)
- CHIEF OF POLICE DANIEL K HOWARD (6-23-21)
- ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MATTHEW HELZER (12/2014)
- CITY ENGINEER/STREET SUPER. **BRIAN FRIEDRICHSEN, OLSSON**
Street Superintendent (Class A) S-1704;

Engineer License: E-17653

- UTILITIES SUPERINTENDENT MATTHEW HELZER (1/2015)
- LIGHT COMMISSIONER JAMES SUMMERS
- SEWER COMMISSIONER TRAE ANDERSON (2-9-24)
- FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL BECKER
- WATER COMMISSIONER JEREMY GORECKI (11-2022)
- ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF MARK WILSON; LEO HAGGERTY;
& CHAD AUGUSTYN
- STREET COMMISSIONER JAMIE KLANECKY (6/2020)
- CEMETERY SEXTON RONNIE SWITZER
- PARK / CEMETERY (MGR) RANDY JERABEK
- CITY PHYSICIAN DR. CHRIS TOMHAVE

- PLANNING BOARD DAN SCHEER (10-23-23)
TONY WALCH
CONNIE BECKER
TYLER SOLKO, Chairman (11-13-23)
ARVILLA JACOBS
MATTHEW HELZER
(Zoning Adm)
LAURA BERTHELSEN (Minutes)
- BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEL FULLER, Chairman (2022)
BRIAN KNAPP
PLANNING & ZONING MEMBER
CHARLES "CHUCK" SCHMID (12-16-24)
Alt: MELVIN SCHMADERER (In Town)
Alt: GLEN KILLION (1 Mile)
- LIBRARY BOARD DAN NIELSEN 2024 (City)
(Every other month on 3rd Wed = Jan 20) DEB WELLS 2025 (City)
JANET ELSTERMEIER 2023 (City)
TARA SJUTES 2025 (School)
JILL PAULSEN 2023 (School)
PHIL THEDE 2025 (School)

- HOUSING AUTHORITY
(2nd Wednesday of Month)

TODD PETERS (2022 – 2026)
PARKER KLINGINSMITH (Nov. 2021 to Nov. 2025)
THEDA VANHORN (2022 – 2026)
SALLY EINSPAHR (2022 – 2026)
CINDI MENDYK (9--2021 TO 2024)
- LOUP CENTRAL LANDFILL
(3rd Thursday of Month;
Dec-Mar 7pm / Apr-Nov 7:30pm)

KATIE KOWALSKI; AND
BILL PETERS, ALT.
- HO. CO. DISPATCHER BOARD

MIKE FEEKEN, MAYOR AND
DANIEL HOWARD, CHIEF OF POLICE
- CITIZENS ADVISORY LB840

EMILY VANIS (4-17-23)
JOE MLINAR (2021)
SALLY EINSPAHR
JULIE GAWRYCH (2021)
LARRY HURLBURT
CONNIE JO BECK, Ex Officio
PARKER KLINGINSMITH, SPDC EXE DIR
- RURAL FIRE BOARD LIAISON
(2nd Monday on even months: Dec.)

MARK WILSON (12-16-24)
- REPRESENTATIVE TO ACE

MIKE FEEKEN, MAYOR AND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
- CITY HEALTH BOARD

MAYOR, COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CHIEF
OF POLICE AND CITY PHYSICIAN
- SENIOR CENTER LIAISON

MIKE FEEKEN
- ELMWOOD CEMETERY BOARD
(Meeting: 2nd Wed. of Month)

GERALD SOLKO, Treasurer (12-7-20)
RANDY JERABEK, Cemetery Manager
GENE RICE, Vice-President
PAMILIA SWITZER, President
TODD PETERS
BETTY CZARNEK, Secretary
TRACEY DIETZ
BILL PETERS, **City Liaison**
RONNIE SWITZER, Sexton
- ELMWOOD CEMETERY FOUND.
(8/17/20)

MIKE FEEKEN, PRESIDENT
GERALD SOLKO, SECRETARY
STEFFANY TARTAGLIA, TREASURER

GENE RICE, BOARDMEMBER
RANDY JERABEK, BOARDMEMBER

- CITY TREE BOARD

ROBIN ELSTERMEIER
GENE RICE
AL BRENNAN
LINDA FULLER
LOUISE CHRISTENSEN
JAMIE KLANECKY, Street Commissioner
LAURA BERTHELSEN (minutes)

- CIVIC CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

(Dissolved December 6, 2021)

- NUISANCE COMMITTEE (Nov. 2023)

JERRY THOMPSON
DUSTIN ANDERSON
GERALD SOLKO
JORDAN ROBINSON
JACKIE HARDENBROOK
REX GALUSHA

Council member Wilson moved to approve the Agreement of Code of Professional Ethics of the City of St. Paul, Nebraska. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Peters moved to approve Resolution 2024-25; naming Council member Kowalski to the Loup Central Landfill Board as a representative and also naming Peters as the alternate representative when the Loup Central Landfill representative cannot attend a meeting. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Bierman Contracting, Inc. Fire Station Construction Pay Request #6 in the amount of \$265,407.20 regarding the testing allowance, door and hardware material, Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) insulation material and erection, plumbing, HVAC and electrical. The approval also includes the transfer of funds in the amount of \$265,407.20 from the Fire Station Construction NPAIT account and depositing it to the Fire Station Construction Checking account to absorb the pay request. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the removal of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce sign in the South City Park located by the baseball mural. Utilities Superintendent Helzer also provided a brief history of the sign. Council member Woodgate moved to approve the sign being removed, due to the City having the resources to do so. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. It was stated that there are multiple sign resources in St. Paul for advertising events such as the Civic Center sign, the Chamber window sign and St Paul Public School sign.

Council member Peters did question if there should be a time frequency regarding multiple events being held on the same day regarding the St. Paul Civic Center sign.

Council member Peters moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report November 2024; (2) Minutes of December 2, 2024 (regular) and December 5, 2024 (special); and (3) Disbursements December 16, 2024. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Disbursements December 16, 2024

Amazon Capital Services (books)	317.65
AT&T Mobility (service)	443.55
Aurora Cooperative (fuel)	955.54
Automatic Systems (service)	220.68
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1784.27
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE (insurance)	19789.20
Cengage Learning (books)	98.37
Central NE Bobcat (rental)	85.50
Charter Spectrum (service)	204.96
Christensen Insurance (bond)	595.00
City Lights (utilities)	8595.65
Clearly (telephone)	195.46
Core & Main (supplies)	1116.39
Custer County Recycling (service)	15.70
DHHS (refund)	11.79
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	807.20
Ecolab (service)	145.81
Fedex (fees)	798.36
Filter Care (service)	59.45
First Concord Benefits (service)	112.00
Hamilton Information Systems (service)	1568.50
Hawkins (supplies)	4073.39
Heartland Disposal (service)	5851.22
Heritage Bank: Utility Billing ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Homestead Bank (fee)	21.80
Hometown Leasing (contract)	39.12
Howard County Register of Deeds (fee)	20.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	137069.94
Inland Truck Parts (repair)	3195.52
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1382.73
Kramers Wrecker Service (service)	407.93
LARM (insurance)	3097.40
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	4876.28

MR Cleaning (service)	522.16
NE Dept of Revenue: Sales & Use Tax Submittal (sales tax)	13312.37
NE Machinery (supplies)	134.65
One Call Concepts (service)	19.08
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	729.45
Paczosa, Dillon (reimb)	35.97
Phonograph Herald (publish)	592.13
PIP Marketing (supplies)	301.25
Quick Med Claim (service)	485.20
Radar Shop (service)	256.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	238.75
Schaper & White (service)	552.50
Servi-Tech (lab)	336.00
Thiel Tire & Auto (service)	286.20
Triple T Disposal (service)	289.85
U S Postal Service (permit)	525.00
Vogel Auto (service)	73.67
Wells Plumbing (repair)	242.30
Wesco (supplies)	223.66

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax: Dana F. Cole & Co.: Sales Tax Audit (audit)	2000.00
City of St. Paul ICS Transfer to Checking #100027 to Pay (transfer)	284799.84
Elsbury Construction Drawdown #9	
Bierman Contracting Inc: Drawdown #6 (improvements)	265407.20
City Fire Station Construction Npait Transfer to Fire (transfer)	265407.20
Station Construction Checking Account for Bierman Draw #6	
City Fire Station Construction: JEO Consulting Group (Engineer Fee)	3692.25
Engineering Fees	

Council member Woodgate moved to approve Resolution 2024-24; whereas by the State of Nebraska Statutes, Section 39-2302, and 39-2511 through 39-2515 details the requirements that must be met in order for a municipality to qualify for an annual Incentive Payment; and whereas the State Dept. of Transportation (NDOT) requires that each incorporated municipality must annually certify (by December 31st of each year) the appointment of the City Street Superintendent to the NDOT using the "Year End Certification of City Street Superintendent" form. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Peters moved to approve Mayor Feeken signing the "Year End Certification of City Street Superintendent" for determining Incentive Payment from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Jeff Palik is the City of St. Paul's 2024 City Street Superintendent, License

Number S-1269, Class A and Engineer's License Number #10492. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

There was a lengthy discussion pertaining to the "Mobile Food" permit regulations and fees that was presented by the "Mobile Food" committee. The item was tabled until Monday, January 6, 2025, for more discussion and recommendation from the committee.

Resolution 2024-26, to amend the City of St. Paul "Fee Schedule" to reflect the changes regarding the "Mobile Food" permit regulations and fees was tabled to Monday, January 6, 2025.

Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District (HGRPPD) submitted to the City of St. Paul their electrical rate changes. The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) passed their electrical rate schedule for the Year 2025 and this letter is to notify the City that HGRPPD will be passing the rate changes through the billing. The rate changes do not affect every billing product, as there are only a few small changes to certain products. The electrical rates are effective January 1, 2025.

Mayor and Council members did acknowledge Mid-Nebraska Disposal, Inc. new residential rate(s) increase effective January 1, 2025.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer reported that concrete was poured at the new St. Paul Fire Station today; the cement is still wet. The weather shows that it will freeze tonight in St. Paul, NE.

Chief of Police Howard updates included: (1) Matt Sample training regarding criminal interdiction in LaVista, NE; hotel will be approximately \$200 for two (2) nights; (2) tracking police training hours for the St. Paul Police Officers; and (3) brief discussion on purchasing ammunition.

Mayor Mike Feeken updates: (1) Special meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. regarding a St. Paul Fire Station Construction Progress meeting; (2) On-Premise Digital Keno, along with the 2023-2024 Annual Recap Keno Report from Mike Nevrivy (St. Paul Keno LLC); (3) zoom meeting today with the NE Dept. of Economic Development (NDED) and the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD) regarding the \$875,000 grant contract pertaining to park improvements; documents are being completed, so the project can begin; (4) the new potential owner to 108 Howard Avenue visited the St. Paul Police Dept. today to ask questions regarding the apartments. The new owners will be present at the City Council meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025 to discuss the apartment complex; and (5) The Howard County Courthouse and the Howard County Planning and Zoning is having a "Comprehensive Plan" Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Library Community Room if you want to be involved.

For Public Announcements, Council member Woodgate and Chief of Police Howard wanted to acknowledge and thank St. Paul Fire Chief Mike Becker's heroic efforts during the Bed Head

Coffee's mobile container fire. The Mayor and Council member want to extend their thanks to St. Paul Fire Chief Becker.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Date January 6, 2025


Mike Feeken, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer