

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

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

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 21, 2025, 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.

The City of St. Paul was awarded an \$875,000 grant through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP) #23-RCP-033 for park improvements. One of the grant projects will be to remove the existing tennis/pickle ball courts and to construct three (3) new tennis/pickle ball courts, including fencing, benches and lighting. The work will begin after the high school tennis season ends in May of 2025. Council member Woodgate moved to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for final design plans, specifications, bidding, and project/construction management of the 3-court tennis/pickle ball court construction. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. A committee has been

established to review the bids and to make a recommendation to the City Council for project completion.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve using general reserves to pay for the Rural Community Recovery Program (RCRP) disbursements. Funds will be returned to the General reserve fund when the NE Department of Economic Development reimburses the City. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate vote aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The City will open a checking account for all transactions regarding the grant project. Matching funds of \$25,000 recently received from the St. Paul Public School will be used to open the bank account.

Council member Peters moved to approve JEO Consulting Group Change Order Number 1 (Bierman Contracting Inc.) regarding the St. Paul Fire Station at 4th and Kendall Streets, St. Paul, NE. The Contract is changed as follows: (1) Storm Sewer Updates Deduction - \$5,000; (2) Street Paving Change Addition - \$1,810; and (3) Storage Room Deck Addition - \$5,791. The change order is a total amount of \$2,601. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve the Bierman Contracting, Inc. Fire Station Construction Pay Request #7 in the amount of \$242,875.10 regarding the general conditions, concrete foundations and flatwork, and Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) erection. City Clerk Beck will transfer \$242,875.10 from the Fire Station Construction NPAIT account and deposit it to the Fire Station Construction Checking account to absorb the pay request. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding a request to allow Police Officer Matthew Sample to take training courses to become a certified Firearms Instructor and Patrol Rifle Instructor. Council member Woodgate made a motion to deny such request for the reason that other instructors were available in the area. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Woodgate and Peters voted aye; Council members Kowalski and Wilson voted nay. Mayor Feeken voted aye as the tie breaker vote. Motion carried 3/2.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report December 2024; (2) Minutes of January 6, 2025 (regular) and January 9, 2025 (special); (3) Zoning Minutes January 13, 2025; and (4) Disbursements January 21, 2025. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

**Disbursements January 21, 2025**

Amazon Capital Services (books)	205.54
AT&T Mobility (service)	443.55
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1220.70
Automatic Systems (service)	307.50

Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	2488.84
Bryan Jensen Clothing (supplies)	311.70
Cengage Learning (book)	32.79
Charter/Spectrum (service)	204.96
Christensen Insurance (bond)	1801.59
City Consumer Deposit (Porter) (rental deposit)	250.00
City Lights (utilities)	9596.46
Clearfly (telephone)	198.27
CopyCat Printing (supplies)	132.50
Core & Main (supplies)	422.66
Custer County Recycling (service)	17.60
Dick's Repair (service)	116.94
Filter Care (service)	74.00
First Concord Benefits (fees)	112.00
Fousek, Kris (uniforms)	199.28
Hamilton Information (service)	1568.50
Hawkins Inc. (service)	604.91
Heartland Disposal (service)	5851.17
Homestead Bank (fees & rent)	38.80
Howard County Register of Deeds (fees)	70.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	159324.90
Interstate All Battery Center (supplies)	351.50
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	2281.65
John Deere Financial (supplies)	668.57
LCL Truck Equipment (supplies)	1309.12
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	4875.23
MR Cleaning (service)	652.70
NE Dept of Energy & Envir (license)	300.00
NE Dept of Revenue (Sales & Use Tax Dec 2023) tax	15592.42
Olsson (engineering)	750.00
One Call Concepts (service)	16.68
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	527.97
PCAN Treasurer (dues)	120.00
Phonograph Herald (publish)	624.47
PIP Marketing (supplies)	1392.46
Quick Med Claims (service)	2128.53
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	29.88
Sample, Matt (reimb)	24.60
Schaper & White (service)	364.58
Servi-Tech (lab)	168.00
Smith Welding (service)	97.24
South Central EMS (repair)	585.00

St. Paul Public School (service)	2250.00
St. Paul Veterinary Clinic (fee)	75.00
Sun Auto Tire & Service (service)	35.00
Triple T Disposal (service)	287.00
U S Postal Service (postage)	525.00
Wells Plumbing (repair)	160.50
Wesco Distribution (supplies)	522.23
Wise Heavy Equipment (supplies)	70.17

**Non-General Disbursements**

Sales Tax M. Mkt Transfer to Sales Tax Checking (Trfr)	75000.00
Police Savings: Grady Robinson Helmet (helmet)	100.00
Reimbursement from SRT Donation	
Light ICS #103217 to Light 100027: RE: F350 (equip)	33170.44
Ford Truck Equipment	
Keno: NE Dept of Revenue - Qrtrly tax rpt (fee)	5566.00

Council member Wilson moved to approve Mayor Feeken’s appointment of Council member Woodgate as the President of the Elmwood Cemetery Foundation. Mayor Feeken previously appointed himself to replace former Mayor Bergman. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Woodgate made a motion to authorize City Clerk Connie Jo Beck, Mayor Feeken, and Council members Kowalski and Wilson to attend the NE League of Municipalities Midwinter Conference on February 24 -25, 2025 at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates:

- (1) The demolition of two houses has been rescheduled for next week. Scott Reynolds Construction had a truck break down so the project was rescheduled.
- (2) The City realized a savings of approximately \$30,000 for 2024 from the solar farm east of town.
- (3) A summary was provided on the revenue received as a result of late fees, disconnect letter fees and reconnection fees on city utilities.
- (4) A stand-alone drop box has been ordered to replace the drive-through window for utility payments.

Chief of Police Howard updates:

- (1) The 2016 Ford Explorer required a fuel injector repair.
- (2) A representative from Street Cop Training has asked the St. Paul Police Department to host a Report Writing class for law enforcement officers this spring at the Civic Center. It is anticipated that 50 officers would participate. Street Cop Training will provide all

material, and advertise the class. If the City hosts the event, the City officers will not be charged to attend.

- (3) The Police Department and the Sheriff's office held a Stop the Bleed event at Brookfield Park. The event was video recorded. All employees either attended the live event, or will be required to watch the video.
- (4) The Sheriff's Office, the Police Department and the Emergency Management Director will discuss Active Shooter training at Brookfield Park. The training could also involve the school in order to do a community-wide training event.
- (5) An officer will be attending training in LaVista next week.

Mayor Mike Feeken updates:

- (1) The St. Paul Fire Station Progress special meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.;
- (2) The St. Paul Housing Authority Audit is available for viewing at the City Office.

The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) City Council meeting in February 2025 will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, due to the President's Day holiday.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:14 p.m.

*February 3, 2025*  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
*mf*

Mike Feeken, Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Laura Berthelsen*  
Laura Berthelsen, Deputy City Clerk