

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

**Tuesday, February 18, 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, February 18, 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.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve JEO Consulting Group (Bierman Contracting, Inc.) Change Order #2 in the amount of \$10,103 regarding the St. Paul Fire Station at 4th and Kendall Streets, St. Paul, NE. The contract is changed as follows: (1) south wall of apparatus (75 LF) to receive 8' tall hat channel, 3/4" plywood, and FRP panel \$10,435; (2) install wood wall backing for (2) TV locations \$300; (3) moving Hotsy water rough-in location to the east wall \$356; and (4) adding power and data above door 101c / adding HDMI conduit at (2) TV locations \$350; (5) relocating Hotsy power rough-in location to the east wall. Trade shorter run from panel for recess mounting boxes above counter on the south wall at no cost; (6) moving (1) power and data location from SW corner @ 46" AFF to be above door 114f to accommodate the TV location at no cost; (7) move (2) convenience outlets on south wall of apparatus from 46" AFF

to be above lockers approximately 84" AFF; and (8) overhead and profit (10%) \$1,145. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve Bierman Contracting, Inc. Fire Station Construction Pay Request #8 in the amount of \$91,674.05 regarding the general conditions, testing allowance; site work, miscellaneous steel fabrication and site items, Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) material/erection and east storm drainage. City Clerk Beck will transfer \$91,674.05 from the Fire Station Construction NPAIT account and deposit it to the Fire Station Construction Checking account to absorb the pay request. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report January 2025; (2) Minutes of February 3, 2025 (regular); (3) Disbursements February 18, 2025; (4) James Summers and Trevor Kowalski attending the free NeRWA Workshop on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the Wood River City Hall; and (5) Transferring \$200,000 from the City Heritage Bank (Utility Billing) Checking Account #411025 and Depositing into the City Homestead Bank Checking Account #100027. The transfer will pay for City disbursements. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

**February 18, 2025 Disbursements**

AT&T Mobility (service)	443.60
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1121.62
Barco Municipal Products (supplies)	298.41
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	3038.24
Charter/Spectrum (service)	204.96
City of St. Paul (transfer to sales tax - Elba SCEDD dues)	275.00
City Lights (utilities)	10299.91
Clearly (service)	198.27
Core & Main (supplies)	2128.84
Crescent Electric (supplies)	579.59
Custer County Recycling (Service)	31.50
Dept of Revenue (January 2025) (sale and use tax submittal)	17101.03
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	58.32
First Concord Benefits (fees)	112.00
Gametime (supplies)	260.89
General Traffic Controls (supplies)	166.00
Graham Tire (tires)	548.00
Great Plains Uniforms (uniforms)	684.34
Hamilton Information (service)	1568.50
Heartland Disposal (service)	5840.50
Heritage Bank Jan 2025 Utility Billing (ACH fee)	25.00

Hesselgesser Electric Motors (supplies)	53.52
Homestead Bank (fee)	32.80
Hometown Market (supplies)	20.93
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	173809.68
Jacobs Ford (service)	392.03
Jarecke Motors (service)	220.40
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	1632.23
John Deere Financial (supplies)	7.71
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	5061.06
MR Cleaning Service (service)	522.16
One Call Concept (service)	9.76
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Phonograph Herald (publish)	491.92
Power Plan (supplies)	110.96
Quick Med Claims (service)	1009.12
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	72.15
Smith Welding (service)	1062.02
St. Paul Veterinary Clinic (service)	125.00
Triple T Disposal (service)	287.00
US Postal Service (postage)	525.00
Wells Plumbing (service)	222.56
Wesco (supplies)	4608.00

**Non-General Disbursements**

Fire Station Construction: JEO Consulting Group Eng Fee (#1024 eng fee)	2354.25
Wesco [transfer from light svgs] (supplies)	595.02
Fire Station Construction: JEO Consulting Group Eng Fee (#1025 eng fee)	1594.00
Redlg: LARM (crime ins)	1482.00

Council member Kowalski introduced Ordinance #1056A, an ordinance granting Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, a Delaware corporation, its lessees, successors and assigns, a natural gas franchise and the authority to construct, operate, maintain, and extend a natural gas distribution plant and system, and granting the right to use the streets, alleys, and other public places within the present or future corporate limits of the City of St. Paul, NE. Council member Wilson moved to waive the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1056A at three (3) different occasions. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance #1056A. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays

none. Motion carried 4/0. Per Stephanie King, Black Hills Energy Public Affairs Manager, Central & Western Nebraska, a distribution map will be provided to the City of St. Paul upon request.

Council member Peters introduced Ordinance #1057, an ordinance establishing a "franchise fee" on Energy Providers operating in the City of St. Paul, Nebraska. The Energy Providers shall collect from the customers located within the corporate limits an amount equal to \$0.0092 per therm for natural gas delivered to the customers by the Energy Providers within the present or future limits of the Municipality. Council member Kowalski moved to waive the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1057 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance #1057. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Next on the agenda for discussion is the utilization of Zelle HR Solutions to review and provide recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding the Local Union #1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Contract. The union contract will terminate on September 30, 2025. Zelle's review of the union contract is based upon specific federal and state requirements and human resource best practices. Zelle will compare the City's union contract with other union contracts with similar industry, employment size, and region to align fair terms, guidelines, and processes. The objective is to provide pertinent information and data to help the City identify risk, provide clarity, and remain compliant with applicable laws and regulations. Upon finalization of the research and review, Zelle will make recommendations for revisions regarding the City's negotiation conversations. Council member Woodgate moved to approve utilizing Zelle HR Solutions to perform a professional review of the City's Local Union #1597 IBEW Labor Contract in the amount of \$4,000. The funds will be disbursed from the "legal fees" expenditure line item. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer reported on the new City snow blower video that was taken during the recent snow fall; Deputy Clerk Berthelsen will place on the City's Facebook page.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) February 8, 2025, the St. Paul Police Dept. responded to a one-vehicle rollover accident. City Officer Holmes attempted life-saving measures until he was relieved by the St. Paul Rescue Squad; (2) February 14, 2025, the Greeley County Sheriff Paul Deaver called to offer a free Taser training for any Officer needing to certify. Officer Matt Sample was the only Officer needing to be certified. Officer Sample successfully completed the course; (3) the David City Police Dept. is hosting a free de-escalation training scheduled for February 24, 2025. City Officer Holmes and Chief of Police Howard will be attending the class; expenses to be incurred will be fuel, food, and wages; (4) February 17, 2025, a Nebraska State Patrol Trooper lost his life in the line of duty. Chief of Police Howard will be attending the funeral; (5) update on 108 Howard Avenue; the top level of the deck of the building has been removed; and (6) the occupant of 407 "L" Street has requested an extension regarding a

nuisance. The Mayor and Council members were in agreement to give 407 "L" Street the nuisance extension.


Mayor Mike Feeken updates: (1) City Department Status reports will be provided at the next four (4) City Council meetings; (2) Wednesday, February 19, 2025, Adrian Smith has postponed his attendance until March 2025; (3) the St. Paul Fire Station Construction Progress meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers; and (4) a St. Paul Senior Center meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.; attending will be Utilities Superintendent Helzer; Deputy Clerk Berthelsen; and Mayor Mike Feeken.

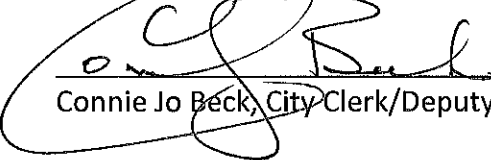
For public announcements, Council member Jerry Woodgate reported on Legislative Bill #115, the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act. The Act provides a \$250 refundable income tax credit, which is to increase to \$1,000 for volunteer members who serve in Nebraska; Nebraska will provide the credit if volunteer members earn points by participating in volunteer emergency responder activities. Council member Woodgate would like to see the St. Paul Fire and Rescue Squad gravitate towards this goal.

Also, for public announcements, Jerry Daugherty, 1220 Kendall Street provided a statement regarding his emergency call on Saturday, November 30, 2024. Mayor Feeken stated that this emergency call cannot be discussed, due to it being an ongoing investigation by the St. Paul Police Department.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:09 p.m.

March 31, 2025  
Date

  
Mike Feeken, Mayor

  
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer