

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

Monday, April 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 Monday, April 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 first item for discussion on the agenda was the failure to abate nuisance at 726 Howard Avenue. A hearing was scheduled on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for property owner (Ron Tubbs) to appeal the nuisance. Mr. Tubbs was in attendance to convey that he did not receive notice by mail pertaining to the hearing. It was stated that Mr. Tubbs "notice" was taped to the door at 726 Howard Avenue per a Certificate of Posting by the St. Paul Police Dept. Mr. Tubbs is working on cleaning the property; Mr. Tubbs stated that the Fire trucks are for sale and a trailer is being loaded with items that will be disposed of. Mr. Tubbs provide a history of building a museum with tin clad siding approximately ten (10 years) ago; Mr. Tubbs stated that he wasn't treated fairly. Council member Woodgate moved to approve extending Mr. Tubbs

clean-up date to Monday, June 2, 2025. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The City of St. Paul Departments: (1) Lights (James Summers, Electrical Commissioner) and (2) Swimming Pool (Matt Helzer, Utilities Superintendent) provided a 6-Month update regarding the (1) Revenue and Expenditure Guideline and Long Term Indebtedness; (2) Personnel; Training and Development; (3) Needs; Non-Budgeted Equipment and Resource needs; (4) Overall Department Challenges; (5) Achievements and Milestones; and (6) Goals and Upcoming projects. City Clerk Beck provided information pertaining to Sales Tax, Keno, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and the Rural Economic Development Loan Grant (REDLG).

Utilities Superintendent Helzer provided information pertaining to the painting of the St. Paul Swimming Pool basin. City employees will paint the basin in September 2025. The approximate cost will be \$6,000; the funds will be disbursed from swimming pool reserves. Council member Wilson moved to approve painting the basin. Council member Kowalski 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 #10 in the amount of \$192,979.20 regarding general conditions, door and hardware material, Gyp. board assemblies, signage, Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) erection, fire suppression system, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. City Clerk Beck will transfer \$192,979.20 from the Fire Station Construction NPAIT account and deposit it to the Fire Station Construction Checking account to absorb the pay request.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that three (3) bids were received regarding a portable air compressor (185 c.f.m.); all State of Nebraska bids. Council member Woodgate moved to approve the Airman Mobile Air Compressor bid as recommended by Street Commissioner Klanecky in the amount of \$25,000. Numerous City Departments will absorb the cost of the compressor. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Council member Peters stated that if the compressor is serviced by Construction Rental GI, then the machine is warranted for five (5) years or 5,000 hours.

Council member Peters moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report March 2025; (2) Minutes of April 7, 2025 (regular); (3) Planning Commission Minutes April 14, 2025; (4) Disbursements April 21, 2025; and (5) Jarrod Greenough, City Lineman attending the RVW Genius (GIS Mapping) on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 in Kearney, NE at no fee. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Disbursements April 21, 2025

Altec Industries (repair)	662.80
Bear Graphics (supplies)	226.00

Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1660.47
Central District Health Dept (lab)	156.00
Central NE Bobcat (repair)	2693.24
Charter/Spectrum (service)	215.00
City Lights (utilities)	8998.80
City of St. Paul: 2023-2024 Financial Statement Excess (invest funds) funds to Cemetery \$16,450 and Swim Pool \$20,135	36585.00
Custer County Recycling (service)	26.60
Dick's Repair (service)	498.13
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	1493.88
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	100.00
Filter Care (service)	117.05
First Concord Benefits (insurance)	120.00
Hawkins (chemicals)	3375.57
Heartland Disposal (service)	5860.87
Homestead Bank (fee)	29.00
Homestead Bank Wire Fee 2016 VP Bond Pymt (wire fee)	8.00
Hometown Market (supplies)	181.89
Howard County Register of Deeds (fee)	56.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	137978.60
Itron (contract)	2350.62
John Deere Financial (supplies)	397.20
Johnny's Lock & Key (service)	330.50
LARM (insurance)	193.08
Menards (supplies)	81.77
Midland Telecom (supplies)	2309.98
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	5018.81
NE Dept of Revenue: Sales Tax Submittal for (sales tax submittal) (March) in April 2025	13752.15
MR Cleaning Svc (service)	652.70
Petty Cash (postage, fee)	26.45
Phonograph Herald (publish)	830.11
Platte Valley Communications (supplies)	685.02
Quick Med Claims (service)	940.21
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	39.80
Sample, Matt (reimb)	13.00
Schaper & White (service)	1841.66
Smith Welding (supplies)	51.14
St Paul Public School (service)	2250.00
St Paul Rural Fire (reimb)	23769.05
Subscription Services (subscription)	363.95
Target Solutions Learning (education)	1947.00
Triple T Disposal (service)	326.00

US Post Office (postage)	525.00
Wesco (supplies)	3075.33
Zelle HR Solutions (contract)	4000.00

Non-General Disbursements

Sales Tax: St. Paul Development Corp: Middle Loup (engineer fees)	1381.74
River Engineering Fees	
Fire Station Construction: Bierman Constracting Inc. (improvements)	192979.20
Sales Tax: City of St. Paul Transfer from M. Mmkt to (funds transfer)	75000.00
Checking to pay disbursements	
TIF: S Squared Enterprises: April 2025 Proceeds (tif proceeds)	4301.08
TIF: City of St. Paul: April 2025 MAD Dev (tif proceeds 1/2 share)	727.59
TIF: MAD Dev: April 2025 Share (tif proceeds 1/2 Share)	727.58
Fire Station Construction: JEO Consulting (engineering fees)	4929.75
Park Grant: Phonograph Herald (publish)	43.97
NPAIT (Fire Station Construction) to Fire Station (transfer)	192979.20
Construction Checking Account #103683 RE: Draw #10	

Council member Woodgate moved to approve Patty Wilson's (LaVern Miller) Property Improvement application for the location at 106 Jay Street. The application includes the demolition of the trailer house and some trees; the project cost is \$5,000. Funds will be disbursed from the sales tax account. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. There was discussion on the requirement of possessing two (2) bids for the property improvement demolition projects. An asbestos report was provided to the Mayor and Council.

Council member Kowalski introduced Ordinance #1060, to amend the St. Paul Municipal Code; to amend Section 6-101 of Chapter 6 pertaining to licensing of cats and dogs; to repeal any ordinance, or parts of any ordinance in conflict with this ordinance; to provide for the effective date of such ordinance; and to provide for the publication of this ordinance.

Council member Wilson waived the three (3) readings of Ordinance #1060 at three (3) different occasions. Council member Woodgate 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 #1060. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A lengthy discussion ensued by the Mayor and Council regarding the repair, replacement, and construction of the City sidewalks. A verbal complaint was received by the City two (2) weeks ago regarding a buckled sidewalk at 521 Sheridan Street; this spurred the conversation of the topic. Utilities Superintendent Helzer attempted several times to contact the residential sidewalk owner; there was no contact. Utilities Superintendent Helzer referred to Municipal Code §8-202: "Sidewalks; Maintenance" - Every owner of any lot, lots, or piece of land within

the corporate limits shall at all times keep and maintain the sidewalk along and contiguous to said lot, lots, or pieces of land, as the case may be in good and proper repair, and in condition reasonably safe for travel for all travelers thereon. In the event that the owner or owners of any lot, lots, or lands, abutting on any street, avenue, or part thereof shall fail to construct or repair any sidewalk in front of his, her, or their lot, lots, or lands, within the time and in the manner as directed and required herein after having received due notice to do so, they shall be liable for all damages or injury occasioned by reason of the defective or dangerous condition of any sidewalk, and the Governing Body shall have power to cause any such sidewalks to be constructed or repaired and assess the costs thereof against such property. Utilities Superintendent Helzer will be contacting the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) regarding liability issues.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that the Street Department is hauling rock to the new St. Paul Fire Station.

Chief of Police Howard stated that new tires are needed for the 2016 Ford Explorer.

Mayor Mike Feeken updates: (1) St. Paul Fire Station Construction progress meeting will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers; (2) The March 2025 Revenue and Expenditure Guideline can be viewed at the City Office; (3) Information was provided by City Clerk Beck regarding NE Statute 13-2203: Additional Expenditures; Governing Body; Powers; and Procedures; (4) Repairs have been made to the City car; the City car needs to be utilized; (5) Mayor Feeken and Council member Wilson will be absent at the Monday, May 5, 2025 Council meeting; (6) Utilities Superintendent Helzer locked in the City's Black Hill Energy rates; the rates were provided to the City Officials.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:08 p.m.

May 5, 2025
Date


Mike Feeken, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer