

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

Monday, June 2, 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, June 2, 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.

City Engineer Brian Friedrichsen (Olsson) was in attendance to discuss the St. Paul Tennis and Pickleball Court plans, along with sending out invitation for bids on the project as recommended by the Park Grant committee. Topics of discussion included: (1) access to the courts; (2) removal of the tennis/pickleball nets; (3) installation of camera's; (4) tennis/pickleball tie downs; (5) light poles and timers; and (6) court colors. Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Tennis and Pickleball Court plans, along with sending out invitation for bids on the project. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Dan Howard presented pictures of a nuisance at 1319 9th Street regarding rubbish and trash, along with unlicensed vehicles. Council member Wilson moved to approve

sending the second (2nd) letter; the "Notice of Hearing to be Determined Existence of Public Nuisance and to Abate in Whole or in Part" to be heard at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. regarding the property at 1319 9th Street, more legally described as E 1/2 of Lot D, Bryan's Addition, St. Paul, NE. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Dan Howard provided nuisance property updates regarding: (1) 726 Howard Avenue (Tubbs): considerable progress has been made; clean-up is nearly complete; (2) 1117 Elm Street (Rasmussen): more work to be completed; (3) 1120 Custer (Gass): property hasn't improved from the last visit; clutter has increased; and (4) 810 Elm Street (Sonders): property shows no improvement from last visit. Council member Kowalski moved to (1) extend 726 Howard Avenue (Tubbs) until Monday, June 16, 2025 to complete the clean-up; (2) extend 1117 Elm Street (Rasmussen) until Monday, June 16, 2025 to complete the clean-up; (3) authorizing Chief of Police Howard to hire clean-up of property at 1120 Custer (Gass); Chief of Police Howard will delay the hiring of the clean-up crew until more properties need to be cleaned up; and (4) authorizing Chief of Police Howard to visit with tenant at 810 Elm Street on the clean-up of property; ask for assistance from a church group or community service individuals. All four (4) properties will be revisited on Monday, June 16, 2025. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Jordan Robinson, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce was in attendance to provide an update regarding the Grover Cleveland Alexander (GCA) Days: (1) street closures; (2) porta potties; (3) trash pick-up; (4) schedule of events; (5) Royal Coachmen Car show (need authorization to utilize the north City Park); (6) drag races (no updates); (7) Antique Tractor show; (8) street dance (Howard Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets); (9) food trucks; (10) ball tournaments (contact Bob Hymer or Randy Jerabek); (11) firework display will be held at the St. Paul Country Club (City to insure through LARM); (12) parade; and (13) general liability insurance. Council member Woodgate moved to approve GCA Days street closures: (1) Indian Street between 4th and 6th Streets; (2) 5th Street between Howard Avenue and Indian Street (food trucks); (3) 4th Street between Indian Street and Jay Street; and (4) Howard Avenue between 6th Street and 7th Street (street dance). Also for approval was the request for six (6) barricades and cones at no cost. Council member Peters 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) Council Minutes May 19, 2025 (regular); and (2) Disbursements June 2, 2025. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

June 2, 2025 Disbursements

Gross Wages - May	107239.13
Automatic Systems (service)	581.80

Blue Cross Blue Shield (insurance)	20145.76
BOK Financial (bonds)	25473.03
Bomgaars (supplies)	1134.95
Charter/Spectrum (service)	249.97
Chesterman Company (concessions)	166.57
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00
City of St. Paul Utility Billing to City ICS (Light/Water/Sewer) fund transfer	350000.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	90.00
Custer County Recycling (Service)	14.20
Danko Emergency Equip (service)	1147.50
Eakes (contract)	618.04
Ecolab (service)	203.59
Elan Financial Services (supplies, meals, education, fees)	1857.78
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	200.00
Hawkins Inc (chemicals)	5590.15
Heartland Disposal (service)	507.47
Hesselgesser Electric (repair)	364.83
Homestead Bank: Wire Fee (2 Outgoing Wires 5-15-25) wire fee	8.00
Hometown Market (supplies)	138.24
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	100.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3334.89
Jacobs Ford (service)	440.75
John Deere Financial (supplies)	1133.33
Kelly Supply Company (supplies)	68.33
Kiefer Aquatics (uniform)	406.25
Koperski, LaDonna (mileage)	130.20
LARM (insurance)	700.00
Library Maintenance (transfer)	2500.00
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	209.38
Menards (supplies)	28.55
Mutual of Omaha (insurance)	134.28
NE Dept of Envir & Energy (bond)	100724.89
NE Dept of Transportation (agmt)	3391.50
NE State Fire Marshal (inspection)	36.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	662.35
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	233.13
Servi-Tech (lab)	168.00
Smith, Kristy (supplies)	94.54
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	4.10
St. Paul Civic Center Property Tax RE: Recreation Operating (Rec Operating)	8000.00
Vermeer High Plains (supplies)	385.77
Wesco (supplies)	3921.44

Non-General Disbursements

Fire Station Construction Eng. Fees Invoice 160940 (engineer fees)	3189.75
Sales Tax: St. Paul Development Corp: Middle Loup River (engineer fees)	8613.80
Subdivision Engineering Fees	
Fire Station Construction Pay Request #11 for Construction (pay request)	195622.10
Keno: GCA Day Committee: Operating \$3000/Fireworks \$4000 (GCA Funds)	7000.00
Sales Tax: St. Paul Chamber of Commerce: Marketing Funds (marketing)	9000.00
Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: March 2025 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	9974.48
Sales Tax: Fire Station: March 2025 Proceeds (Fire Station)	16333.27
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: March 2025 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	8166.64
Cemetery ICS: WAM Inc / Central NE Bobcat (Excavator) (excavator)	61439.47
Light/Water ICS: To Elmwood Cemetery Checking: Excavator (fund transfer)	40959.66
Light ICS: Wesco - transformer for Middle Loup River Sub (supplies)	1307.15

Council member Kowalski moved to approve (1) amending the access hours for the St. Paul Senior Center building from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (noon) to 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; this is per the request of Kevin Sestak, Howard County Senior Citizens Board Vice-Chairman. City Officials are requesting that the St. Paul Senior Center Board keep Chief of Police Howard informed of the St. Paul Senior Center time openings. Also approved is providing Mayor Feeken the authorization to extend or change hours of the St. Paul Senior Center without the approval of the Council upon the request of the St. Paul Senior Center Board. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Wilson moved to approve transferring City of St. Paul funds in the amount of \$75,000 from the Sales Tax Money Market #504420 to the Sales Tax Checking #300277 to perform transfers into: (1) Street - Motor Vehicle Tax; (2) Fire Station Proceeds; and (3) 25% Infrastructure when sales tax proceeds are deposited into the City account. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer reported on: (1) Bike Ride across Nebraska (BRAN); BRAN will be in St. Paul on Wednesday, June 4, 2025; and (2) the Howard County Medical Center parking lot is open north of the Rick Goettsche property.

Chief of Police Howard provided pictures for below nuisances and is requesting to send a second (2nd) nuisance "notice" to the properties: (1) 521 7th Street (Rasmussen); (2) 407 "L" Street (Weddle); and (3) 221 Jackson Street (McClay). Council member Wilson moved to approve Chief of Police Howard sending the second (2nd) notice to the above properties; the "Notice of Hearing to be Determined Existence of Public Nuisance and to Abate in Whole or in Part" to be heard at the City Council meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Howard also stated that grass letters will be mailed this week to: (1) 1220 Farnum Street; (2) 511 Custer Street; (3) 210 8th Street; (4) 1014 Grand Street; and (5) 920 Indian Street.

Council member Peters had questioned the nuisance property at 1220 Farnum Street (Padrnos). Chief of Police Howard stated that City Attorney White hasn't responded to him yet regarding the vehicles in the backyard. Chief of Police Howard stated that there are appliances in the front yard with doors, which is a state law violation pertaining to misdemeanors. Police Secretary Mary Trentman will research the misdemeanor violation, so that this can be remedied.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) Police Officer Sample is back to full police duty; (2) Chief of Police Howard is back on day shift; (3) Police Officer Holmes is a certified crisis negotiator; he was certified through the NE State Patrol; and (4) Chief of Police Howard purchased a new battery for his police cruiser.

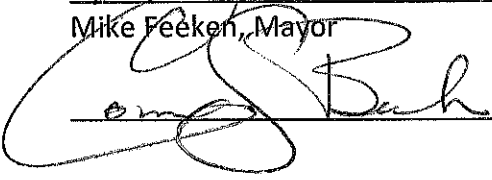
Mayor Feeken updates: (1) The City of St. Paul has received a FY 2023 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (Award #23-SR 31876-01) through the NE Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in the amount of \$104,500. The Performance and Budget period will run from May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2027. The grant is a federal pass-through grant; the City will pay the costs, then the City will submit a reimbursement request through the NE Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); the City will absorb a required 20% grant match; and (2) Special meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. regarding an IBEW 1597 Union Collective Bargaining workshop.

Council member Kowalski moved to go into Closed Session at 7:46 p.m. for collective bargaining regarding the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 1597 Union Agreement. In attendance were Mayor Mike Feeken and Council members: Katie Kowalski, Bill Peters, Mark Wilson and Jerry Woodgate. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. A motion has been made and seconded to go into Closed Session for collective bargaining (IBEW 1597 Union Agreement). There was no discussion. The pending motion is to go into Closed Session for collective bargaining (IBEW 1597 Union Agreement). Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Mayor Feeken adjourned the closed session at 8:23 p.m., with no action taken.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:23 p.m.

June 16, 2025
Date


Mike Feeken, Mayor



Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer