

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

Monday, July 7, 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, July 7, 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 provided 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. 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 announced 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" with respect 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.

Mayor Feeken opened four (4) public hearings at 6:32 p.m. pertaining to the following liquor license applications:

- (1) Seven County Spirits, LLC dba Loup River Distilling (Dirk Petersen) "Class C" - Job Number #104224 at 503 Howard Avenue;
- (2) Seven County Spirits, LLC dba Loup River Distilling (Dirk Petersen) "Class Z" - Job Number #104446 at 503 Howard Avenue;
- (3) Frida's, LLC (Jesus Berber) "Class I" - Job Number #107846 at 515 Howard Avenue; and
- (4) The Dugout Grill, LLC (Jason Dibbert) "Class C" - Job Number #103615 at 804 Howard Avenue.

Council member Wilson moved to deny the request of John Thiel for the City to place road gravel instead of crushed concrete on "M" street between Wallace Street and Bruce Street. 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 bid of Diamond Engineering Company, Grand Island, NE in the amount of \$381,607.30 for the construction of the St. Paul Tennis and Pickleball Courts, and to authorize a contract with Diamond Engineering Company for such project. The cost of the project will be paid by the General Reserves and then reimbursed back by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development through the park improvement grant award. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Based on the bid amount approved for the construction of the tennis and pickleball courts, there will be grant funds available to complete additional eligible park improvements. A list of potential projects was provided to the council members for discussion purposes. No action was taken.

Council member Wilson moved to approve Olsson's "Letter Agreement for Professional Services" regarding paving and storm sewer improvements on 3rd Street from "O" Street to approximately 225' north. Olsson's Scope of Services will be provided on a time-and-expense basis not to exceed \$18,600. The anticipated start date could be within two (2) weeks of signing the agreement but can be adjusted; the anticipated completion date will be approximately eight (8) weeks later for right-of-way (ROW) dedication documents and design plans. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. A paving assessment district will need to be created for this project.

Council member Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Council Minutes June 16, 2025 (regular); (2) Planning Minutes June 30, 2025; and (3) Disbursements July 7, 2025. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

July 7, 2025 Disbursements

Gross Wages - June	119976.28
Altec Industries (supplies)	1186.18
Amazon Capital Services (books)	16.09
Aurora Coop (fuel)	887.08
Bear Graphics (supplies)	240.00
Beck, Connie Jo (uniforms)	220.08
Berthelsen, Laura (uniforms)	400.00
Black Hills Energy (utilities)	44.13
Bomgaars (supplies)	1792.09
Brehm Drug (supplies)	30.61
Cengage Learning Inc (books)	131.16
Central NE Bobcat (repair)	216.30

Charter/Spectrum (service)	249.97
Chesterman Company (concessions)	229.24
Christensen Insurance (insurance)	7387.20
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	90.00
City Streets Transfer from Checking to ICS for Compressor (fund transfer)	8333.33
(Funds were in Street Budget under Mach/Equip)	
Clearly (service)	198.12
Consumer Rental Deposit: K. Kult (rental deposit)	250.00
Consumer Rental Deposit: J. Jenik (rental deposit)	250.00
Consumer Rental Deposit: Frida's & Kozisek (rental deposit)	500.00
Core & Main (supplies)	4086.12
Custer County Recycling (Service)	31.00
Dick's Repair (service)	294.19
Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	339.61
Egan Supply (supplies)	123.80
Elan Financial Services (supplies, postage, education, meals, fees, parking)	1420.83
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	200.00
Fuller, Melvin (trailer rent)	1.00
Hamilton Information Systems (service)	1568.50
Hawkins (chemicals)	2319.34
Heartland Disposal (sanitation)	389.00
Heritage Bank: Utilities Billing ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Homestead Bank: Bond Pymts Wire Fee 6-13-25 (wire fee)	8.00
Homestead Bank: Dubas Closed Acct Fee (fee)	3.00
Hometown Market (supplies)	904.14
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fees)	20.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3334.89
Interstate All Battery (supplies)	193.50
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	2398.78
Kiefer Aquatics (uniforms)	33.00
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	209.38
Medica (insurance)	20364.04
Menards (supplies)	312.12
Municipal Supply of NE (supplies)	855.29
NMVCA (service)	25.00
Open Caret (service)	200.00
Overland Ready Mixed (concrete)	767.06
Palmer Monument (service)	500.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	540.67
RVW Inc (software)	555.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	40.15
Sample, Mathew (reimb)	50.66

Sherwin Williams (supplies)	2367.60
St Paul Public School (supplies)	449.90
St Paul Swimming Pool (program)	240.00
State of NE Central Svcs (telephone)	517.70
Thiels Tire & Auto (service)	1138.16
Tri-Tech Forensics (supplies)	68.23
Wells Plumbing (repair)	237.29
Wesco Distribution (supplies)	1959.66
City EMT Sinking (sinking fund)	9000.00
City Fire Equipment (sinking fund)	2000.00
City Senior Center (sinking fund)	2500.00
City Sewer Bldg/Equip (sinking fund)	20000.00
City Street Sinking (sinking fund)	34000.00
Water Bldg/Equip (sinking fund)	27500.00

Non-General Disbursements

Fire Station Construction: Bierman Contracting Pay #12 (pay request)	219699.85
Fire Station Construction ICS to Fire Station Construction (fund transfer) Checking for Pay Request #12	161605.85
TIF: S Squared Enterprises: June 2025 TIF Proceeds (tif proceeds)	3638.00
TIF: City 1/2 Share of MAD Dev. June 2025 Proceeds: To Assess (tif proceeds)	1679.01
TIF: MAD Dev. 1/2 Share June 2025 Proceeds (tif proceeds)	1679.01
Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: April 2025 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	9924.49
Sales Tax: Fire Station: April 2025 Proceeds (Fire Station)	17412.44
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: April 2025 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	8706.22
Sales Tax: St. Paul Development Corp: Middle Loup River (engineer fees) Engineering Fees	5662.40
Sales Tax: Fireplace Stone & Patio: Bricks (N Welcome Sign)	1779.31
Park Grant: Olsson (engineer fees)	13360.79
Light ICS: Wesco - Middle Loup River Sub (supplies)	80.13
Light ICS: Brad Morse Boring & Excavation - Hometown Mkt (service)	3129.42
Gen ICS transfer to Park grant acct - pmt to Olsson (eng fee)	13360.79
City of St. Paul Transfer from NE Class to Npait from Dept. (transfer) (Npait took over NE Class)	2370608.81

Mayor Feeken opened the public comment period at 6:43 p.m. regarding the following four (4) liquor license applications:

- (1) Seven County Spirits, LLC dba Loup River Distilling (Dirk Petersen) "Class C" - Job Number #104224 at 503 Howard Avenue;
- (2) Seven County Spirits, LLC dba Loup River Distilling (Dirk Petersen) "Class Z" - Job Number #104446 at 503 Howard Avenue;

(3) Frida's, LLC (Jesus Berber) "Class I" - Job Number #107846 at 515 Howard Avenue; and
(4) The Dugout Grill, LLC (Jason Dibbert) "Class C" - Job Number #103615 at 804 Howard Avenue.

Mayor Feeken closed the public comment period at 6:44 p.m.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve the four (4) liquor license applications identified above. 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 the grinder upgrade to the City's main sewer lift station located at 2 Howard Avenue in the amount of \$6,564.37. 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 "The Dugout Grill, LLC" Property Improvement application in the amount of \$4,175 regarding signage at 804 Howard Avenue. Funds will be expended from the sales tax fund. 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 the City of St. Paul's 2024-2025 Sinking Fund transactions in the amount of \$95,000:

(1) EMT Equipment \$9,000; (2) Fire Equipment \$2,000; (3) Senior Center \$2,500; (4) Sewer Building/Equipment \$20,000; (5) Street \$34,000; and
(6) Water Building/Equipment \$27,500. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) Executive Director Parker Klinginsmith: Provided a status report on the Middle Loup River Subdivision. Mach 1 Realty in St. Paul has been hired to sell lots in the subdivision.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve Police Chief Howard sending the first notification of nuisance for: (1) a shed without windows or doors on property at 6th & Grand Streets, and (2) nuisance violations behind 523 Howard Avenue. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates included:

(1) A representative from LARM valued the new fire station building at \$2,250,000. The old fire station will be insured at a functional replacement value of \$1.3 million;
(2) The public library will be closed for carpet cleaning from July 21 through July 23, 2025;
(3) Emergency Management Director Al Wilshusen is coordinating efforts to restore the rail traffic over the Middle Loup River south of town. Mr. Wilshusen is attempting to get representatives from Nebraska Central Railroad, the City, Howard County, the Ord Ethanol plant, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Army Corps of Engineers to meet to reach a long-term solution. The City provided crushed concrete to help stabilize the river bank.

Chief of Police Howard updates included:

- (1) Police Activity Report;
- (2) Free Grant Writing Workshop for NE Communities regarding Eyesore Properties on Thursday, July 31, 2025. The City would have to own the subject properties, so this workshop is not applicable;
- (3) Sherman County Sheriff has surplus tasers for sale in the amount of \$600. Current police tasers can no longer be repaired. Current police tasers could be sold or exchanged for new cartridges and batteries;
- (4) Police Chief Howard would like to form a committee to address noise/disturbing the peace complaints. Committee members will be Officer Sample, Chief Howard, and Council member Kowalski.
- (5) Police Chief Howard is updating the interlocal agreement with Howard County for dispatch services;
- (6) Military storage container will be delivered within the next few weeks. Tools contained inside the container may be sold on Purple Wave.


Mayor Mike Feeken updates: The League of Nebraska Municipalities confirmed that the City does not need to go out for bids for City audit services. The City will be using the Grand Island office of Dana F. Cole & Co. instead of the Ord, Nebraska office.

Informational Items: St. Paul Fire and Rescue Squad Roster

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 7:44 p.m.

July 21, 2025
Date


Mayor Mike Feeken


Laura Berthelsen, Deputy City Clerk