

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

Tuesday, September 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 Tuesday, September 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 managed 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.

Representative Edward Thompson, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 1597, was present to discuss the proposed hourly wage increase pertaining to the Sewer Commissioner and Sewer Operator. A sewer wage comparability outline was provided to the Mayor and Council members by City population size. The hourly wage increase is due to the building of the new Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) sewer facility regarding additional credentialing and responsibilities of the positions. After a lengthy discussion regarding the matter, **Council member Woodgate** moved to approve the IBEW 1597 recommendations regarding the hourly wages, along with approving the "Addendum to the Agreement" between the 1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the City of St. Paul, Nebraska. The addendum will add \$2.50 to each step of the new wage scale beginning on

October 1, 2025, for the Sewer Commissioner based on comparability. The addendum will raise the Sewer Operator to meet the new wage scale of the Water Operator based on comparability. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve amending the "Addendum to Agreement" between IBEW 1597 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the City of St. Paul. The amended addendum will add \$1.00 to the 1597 IBEW Wage Scale "There After" line for the Sewer Commissioner (\$37.13) and the Sewer Operator (\$31.28) and then prorate the numbers going back to Step 1 accordingly; this will be effective October 1, 2025. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters & Wilson voted aye, Council member Woodgate voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve the City of St. Paul adhering to NE State Statute 53-129: Retail, Bottle Club, Craft Brewery, and Micro-Distillery License; Temporary Expansion; and City Procedure. The licensee will need to complete the Temporary Expansion application; abide by City fencing regulations, along with providing a signed "Agreement of Alcohol Caterer" and Certificate of Insurance regarding the General and Liquor Liability. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. City Clerk Beck will be sending minutes to the NE Liquor Control Commission, so that the process can begin October 1, 2025. The application will not apply to those who are within 100 ft. of a church.

Peters moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Minutes August 18, 2025 (special), Minutes August 18, 2025 (regular); and (2) Disbursements September 2, 2025. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

September 2, 2025, Disbursements

Gross Wages - August 2025	184783.94
Action Flag (supplies)	667.53
Amazon Capital Services (books)	945.36
Automatic Systems (service)	566.65
Barco Municipal Products (supplies)	3034.62
Bomgaars (supplies)	1604.75
Broken Bow Municipal Utilities (supplies)	1600.00
BSN Sports (supplies)	32.50
Cengage Learning (books)	93.21
Central NE Bobcat (service)	678.90
Charter/Spectrum (service)	404.97
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5445.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	90.00
Consumer Deposit: Rental Deposit (Fay) (rental deposit)	250.00
Custer County Recycling (Service)	27.30
Dick's Repair (service)	589.82
Dutton-Lainson (supplies)	4143.51

Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	672.89
Ecolab (service)	145.81
Elan Financial Services (supplies, postage, car wash)	3668.03
Faronics Technologies (fees)	60.80
Fitzgerald, Aubrie (reimb)	50.00
Heartland Disposal (service)	11.34
Howard County Register of Deeds (fees)	56.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3334.89
Inland Truck Parts (service)	3861.62
Jennings, Delaney (reimb)	50.00
Klanecky, Madison (reimb)	50.00
Klinginsmith, Piepyr (reimb)	50.00
Kroeger, Jessica (reimb)	100.00
League of NE Municipalities (education)	395.00
Lemburg, Christian (reimb)	100.00
Lewis, Zaya (reimb)	50.00
Loup Central Landfill (fees)	48.06
Lower Loup NRD (supplies)	90.00
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	209.38
Majerus, Mason (reimb)	50.00
Marlow, Annice (education)	1725.00
Medica (insurance)	20364.04
Menards (supplies)	987.89
NE Public Health Environ (lab)	105.00
OverDrive (books)	502.91
Parts Bin (supplies)	196.57
Penworthy Company (books)	528.13
Porter, Macy (reimb)	50.00
Rief, Jacob (reimb)	50.00
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	211.91
Servi-Tech (lab)	142.00
Smith Welding (service)	7692.94
St Paul Public School (fees)	4170.00
State of NE Central Service (service)	741.86
T & R Electric (repair)	2068.41
Thomsen, Jaydn (reimb)	50.00
Wells Plumbing (repair)	854.26
Wesco Distribution (supplies)	1500.00

Non-General Disbursements

Fire Station Construction: JEO Consulting Eng Fees (engineer fees)	4255.00
Fire Station Construction: Transfer from ICS to (transfer)	4255.00

Checking #103683	
Sales Tax: Smith Welding: "N" Welcome Sign (service)	1341.10
Pool: Tnemec Company: paint (supplies)	3098.84
Gen ICS transfer to Park grant acct (transfer)	50000.00
Park grant: Creative Sites: playground (supplies)	23676.00
Sales Tax M. Mkt Transfer to Sales Tax Checking (pay disburse)	75000.00
Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: June 2025 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	7453.95
Sales Tax: Fire Station: June 2025 Proceeds (Fire Station)	17396.35
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: June 2025 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	8698.18
Light ICS #103217: Wesco Distribution (transformer; transf pad; 4" sweep underground electrical)	54502.36
Park grant: Elan Financial: RFP (publish)	148.40
Park grant: Reynolds Construction: remove concrete (service)	11200.00
Light ICS #103217: Wesco Distribution (primary cabinets for Middle Loup River Subd and Hometown Mkt)	4953.23
Park grant: McCarty Construction: dwn pmt on picnic shelter	10000.00

The discussion to give nuisance property 407 "L" Street (Weddle) an extension of time or abate it by the City was tabled until further notice. The nuisance at 521 7th Street (Rasmussen) has been completed.

The nuisance property 304 8th Street (David Eiberger) has been cleaned by a relative. Chief of Police will be hauling trees to the City Recycling Center on Wednesday, September 3, 2025. No further action needs to be taken at this time.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the recommendation from the Park Grant Committee to award the bid to McCarty Construction LLC of St. Paul, NE to install a picnic shelter and concrete pad near the new tennis/pickleball courts for the amount of \$41,950. Also, approved is Mayor Feeken signing the contract for such project. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The costs of the project will be reimbursed by the NE Dept. of Economic Development (NDED) in accordance with the park improvement grant.

Council member Woodgate moved to approve a recommendation from the Park Grant Committee to award the bid to Cunningham Recreation of Charlotte, NC to install a toddler playground area, along with purchasing picnic tables. This comes with the stipulation that the toddler playground takes preference over the picnic tables when it comes to paying cost and it remains within the parameters of the park grant. Also, for approval is Mayor Feeken signing the contract for such project. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The cost of the project will be reimbursed by the NE Dept. of Economic Development (NDED) in accordance with the park improvement grant.

The City of St. Paul will be holding a "Joint Public Hearing" on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Paul Civic Center (423 Howard Avenue). The purpose of the hearing

pertains to the City's Property Tax Request exceeds the Allowable Growth Percentage. The City will also hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. regarding the City of St. Paul 2025-2026 Budget Hearing and Budget Summary.

Council member Wilson moved to approve terminating the present City cleaning service and advertising for proposals (30 days) regarding general cleaning of the City Office, Council Chamber and Police Dept. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate vote aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Chief of Police Dan Howard presented two (2) nuisances: 217 8th Street (garage door rotted and wildlife running in and out) and 1114 Elm Street (tall weeds; rubbish in front and back yard; and rubbish along the alley). The first letter of the nuisance process will be mailed to the property owners. Also, numerous tall grass letters will be mailed to include: (1) 322 4th Street; (2) 1108 7th Street; (3) 603 7th Street; (4) 716 Howard Avenue; (5) 722 "M" Street; (6) 1022 Howard Avenue; and (7) 1104 Elm Street.

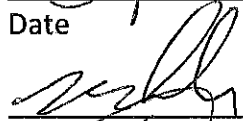
Utilities Superintendent Helzer stated that there will be a Park Improvement "preconstruction" meeting with Diamond Engineering at 3:00 p.m. on September 3, 2025 pertaining to the tennis and pickleball courts.

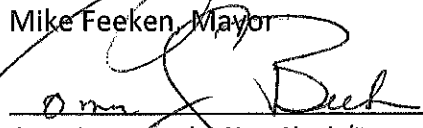
Chief of Police Howard provided a St. Paul Police Department Activity Report, along with reporting on: (1) Officer Holmes completing a radar instructor class; (2) copier/fax/scanner machine is no longer in service; the Police Dept. will be purchasing a desktop Brother in the approximate amount of \$640; (3) taser cartridges on back order until late September 2025; (4) AR 15 guns are ready to be picked up; (5) the Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) machine; and (6) a traffic complaint.

Mayor Feeken reported on: (1) Letter from Jake Ritzdorf RE: St. Paul Baseball fields; (2) Special Designated Liquor (SDL) application has been submitted by the County Cage pertaining to a Pop-up Boutique on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. City Law Enforcement approved the application; (3) 2025 pool season attendance, closed days and membership passes; and (4) Hometown Market progress.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:14 p.m.

September 15, 2025
Date


Mike Feeken, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer