

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

**Monday, April 20, 2026**

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 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Mike Feeken and Council members Katie Kowalski, Bill Peters, Mark Wilson & Jerry Woodgate. Absent: None. Also in attendance was City Attorney Drew Graham. 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.

Mayor Feeken opened three (3) City of St. Paul "public hearings "at 6:31 p.m. pertaining to:

- (1)** Proposed amendment to the St. Paul Zoning to allow residential uses on the first floor of single-story buildings on a conditional use basis in the Central Business Zoning District in the City of St. Paul, NE, along with supplemental regulations pertaining to such residential use (Ordinance No. 1069).
- (2)** Proposed amendment to the City Municipal Code pertaining to parking in the Central Business Zoning District.
- (3)** Proposed amendment to the City Municipal Code pertaining to Sidewalk Obstruction Permits in the Central Business Zoning District.

The City Swimming Pool Manager Kristy Smith was present to discuss the 2026 St. Paul Swimming Pool season. Mrs. Smith stated that not many lifeguard applications have been received by the City; this is a concern of Mrs. Smith. The item was tabled until Monday, May 4, 2026, to see if more lifeguard applications will be submitted.

Mayor Feeken opened the No. 1 public comment period at 6:41 p.m. regarding a proposed amendment to the St. Paul Zoning to allow residential uses on the first floor of single-story buildings on a conditional use basis in the Central Business Zoning District in the City of St. Paul, NE, along with supplemental regulations pertaining to such residential use. After extensive public comments, the public comment period was closed by Mayor Feeken at 7:14 p.m. Council member Woodgate introduced Ordinance No. 1069, amending Section 5.7 of the St. Paul Zoning Regulations related to regulation of the Central Business District to allow for Residential Uses on the first floor of single-story buildings, and to impose supplemental regulations; 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 in pamphlet form. Council member Kowalski waived the three (3) readings of Ordinance No. 1069 on three (3) separate occasions. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, Council member Peters voted nay. Motion carried 3/1. Council member Kowalski moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1069. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, Council member Peters voted nay. Motion carried 3/1.

Mayor Feeken opened the No. 2 public comment period at 7:20 p.m. regarding a proposed amendment to the City Municipal Code pertaining to parking in the Central Business Zoning District. City Attorney Graham provided an explanation regarding parking in the Central Business District; this also came with audience participation regarding the subject. Mayor Feeken closed the public comment period at 7:37 p.m. Council member Woodgate moved to recommend holding off on the adoption of the new Section 5-925 of the City Municipal Code, related to parking in the Central Business District to see how the anticipated parking will play out. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Also, discussed were enforcement issues.

Mayor Feeken opened the No. 3 public comment period at 7:39 p.m. regarding a proposed amendment to the City Municipal Code pertaining to Sidewalk Obstruction Permits. A discussion ensued between City Attorney Graham and the audience regarding the proposed Municipal Code. The item was tabled until Monday, May 4, 2026.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding a home (512 Baxter) encroaching on a public alleyway more legally described as E1/2 of Lots Five (5) and (6), Block 108, Original Town, Howard County, St. Paul, Nebraska. The Nebraska Title Company, Grand Island, NE (Samantha Skov) is requesting recordable documentation that the City Council grant a variance for this encroachment and that the encroachment will not be removed. City Attorney stated that the easiest way to remedy this problem is to vacate the alley and have the City retain the easement. The item was tabled until Monday, May 4, 2026, for preparation to vacate the alley.

The City 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. The Departments included: (1) Lights (James Summers, Electrical Commissioner); (2) Swimming Pool (Matt Helzer, Utilities Superintendent); (3) Sales Tax; (4) Keno; (5) Rural Economic Development Loan Grant (REDLG); (6) Tax Increment Financing (TIF); and (7) Park Improvement Grant.

Council member Wilson moved to approve the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce request to hold a Grover Cleveland Alexander (GCA) Day "Fun Run" on Saturday, July 11, 2026. St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jordan Bottolfson provided a 1-Mile and 5-K route diagram to the Mayor and Council. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve St. Paul Family Dental (Andrew Benson) Property Improvement Project (PIP) application in the amount of \$9,712.50 regarding the replacement of windows and one (1) door at 809 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The St. Paul Development Corp. (SPDC) recommends approval of the Island Glass quote. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. St. Paul Economic Development has a balance of \$17,745 to be utilized for property improvement project applications for the FY 2025-2026.

The discussion to establish new Sections 5-403 to 5-406 of Chapter 5 of the Municipal Code relating to the operation of Light-Weight E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Hoverboards was tabled until Monday, May 4, 2026. Chief of Police Howard will forward additional information to the Mayor and Council members regarding the subject. Chief of Police Howard will also contact the St. Paul Public School pertaining to the education of the operation of the E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Hoverboards.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve Chief of Police Howard sending the second (2nd) nuisance notice to: (1) Wayne or Lorna Wood - 918 Custer Street, more legally described as: Middle 75' of Lot Three (3), Block Five (5), Darnall's Addition, St. Paul, NE; and (2) Adam Rasmussen - 521 7th Street, more legally described as Lots One (1) and Two (2), Block 91, Original Town, St. Paul, NE. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Chief of Police also requested a recommendation from the Mayor and Council concerning a separate nuisance property on Custer Street.

Council member Peters moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Treasurer's Report of March 2026; (2) Minutes of April 6, 2026 (regular); (3) April 20, 2026 Disbursements, with the stipulation that the Inland Truck check be pulled from the disbursements, due to a credit of \$4,200; (4) Planning Commission Minutes of April 13, 2026; and (5) St. Paul Rescue Squad member Desiree Perrel, St. Paul, NE. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, Council member Kowalski abstained. Motion carried 3/0.

**Disbursements April 20, 2026**

911 Custom (uniform)	875.00
Aurora Coop (fuel)	1193.62
Black Hills Energy (natural gas)	1738.03
Bound Tree Medical (supplies)	1249.51
Cengage Learning (book)	32.79
Charter Communications (service)	540.28
City Lights (utilities)	8732.17
City of St. Paul #411025 Invest Funds in ICS Accounts (invest funds)	250000.00
Clearly (service)	198.79
Consumer Deposit: Rental Deposit: Vanbibber (rental deposit)	250.00
Consumer Deposit: Rental Deposit: Mark Cook (rental deposit)	250.00
Core & Main (supplies)	2846.75
Custer County Recycling (service)	16.00
Dept of Revenue (Form 10) Sales & Use Tax Submittal (tax)	13967.91
Eakes Office Solutions (supplies)	602.96
Ecolab (service)	145.81
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	600.00
Goettsche, Roger (supplies)	60.70
Graham Tire (supplies)	760.80
Heartland Disposal (service)	5492.95
Homestead Bank (fee)	29.20
Homestead bank Wire Fee Series 2016 Bond (wire fee)	8.00
Howard County Register of Deeds (fee)	10.00
Howard Greeley RPPD (utilities)	141507.99
Void	0.00
Island Sprinkler Supply (supplies)	842.13
Itron (contract)	2418.17
Jim's Champlin (fuel)	2329.99
Medica (insurance)	20364.04
Menards (supplies)	747.79
Mid-Nebraska Disposal (service)	5461.50
Municipal Supply (supplies)	1245.25
National Sign Company (supplies)	315.11
On the Spot Cleaning (service)	290.00
One Call Concepts (service)	20.38
Petty Cash (refund, supplies)	18.54
Phonograph Herald (publish)	520.08

Quick Med Claims (service)	796.48
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	26.15
Sample, Mat (reimb)	37.44
Sapp Bros (oil)	1601.75
Smith Welding (supplies)	47.05
St Paul Public School (supplies)	449.90
Subscription Services of America (subscriptions)	373.90
Svehla Law Office (legal)	1519.00
Thiel Tire & Auto (service)	1109.69
Triple T Disposal (service)	479.80
US Post Office (postage)	540.00

**Non-General Disbursements**

Health Ded: Medica OneSource-admin (fee)	64.00
Keno: NE Dept of Revenue: Form 51C 1st Qtr Taxes (tax)	1954.00
TIF: S Squared Enterprises: April Proceeds (tif proceeds)	721.22
TIF: City of St. Paul 1/2 Share MAD Dev (April 2026) (tif proceeds)	3150.41
TIF: MAD Development 1/2 Share (April 2026) (tif proceeds)	3150.41

Council member Kowalski moved to approve transferring City funds in the amount of \$75,000 from the Sales Tax Money Market #504420 to the Sales Tax Checking #300277 regarding the 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.

The discussion of posting (in-house) and advertising for the position of the City Deputy Clerk was tabled. Mayor Feeken will have a conversation with the Deputy Clerk regarding the City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer position.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** On Wednesday, April 15, 2026, the Elmwood Cemetery Board had a discussion on increasing the cost of the (1) Elmwood Cemetery lot spaces; (2) Niche spaces; (3) daily and weekend Open and Close fees for lot spaces & niches; and (4) discontinuing Open and Close work on Sundays.

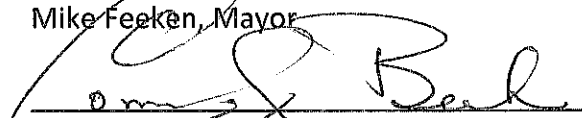
Chief of Police Dan Howard updates included: (1) Police activity report; (2) 2015 Ford Explorer (Vehicle 94) air-conditioner is not working in the vehicle; and (3) St. Paul Public High School youths will be assisting Chief of Police Howard in installing carpet in the Police Department; a waiver of liability will be signed prior to the event.

Mayor Mike Feeken provided an update on the City's "Public Alliance for Community Energy" (ACE) choice gas energy rate. A rate of .7333 has been locked in for all City accounts except for the swimming Pool, which was locked in at .285.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 9:20 p.m.

May 4, 2026  
Date

  
Mike Feeken, Mayor

  
Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer