

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

Monday, May 4, 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, May 4, 2026, 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 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.

St. Paul Senior Center Board President Kevin Sestak was in attendance to discuss his disappointment concerning not being contacted for the April 6, 2026, City Council meeting pertaining to the updates of the Senior Center. There were numerous citizens in attendance supporting Mr. Sestak regarding the senior center. The main discussion topic involved the selling of the St. Paul Senior Center, due to it being noted in the Phonograph Herald following the April 6, 2026, Council meeting. Mayor Feeken stated that the Senior Center updates were merely an update of the building and not a discussion in selling of the building. City Council member Woodgate stated that no one wants to cut the Senior Center out. Howard County Commissioner Kathy Hirschman stated that Howard County allocates \$23,609 (FY26) to Midland Area Agency on Aging. The funds are utilized for the (1) Transit Bus; (2) Food vouchers; and (3)

Senior home assistance. Mr. Sestak stated he wants to keep communication lines open between the Senior Center and the City Council regarding future updates or changes. The St. Paul Senior Center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. except for federal holidays.

St. Paul Swimming Pool Manager Kristy Smith was in attendance to discuss the 2026 Swimming Pool lifeguards and hourly wages. Council member Wilson moved to approve the swimming pool hourly wages that consists of: (1) 1st year \$14.25; (2) 2nd year \$14.50; (3) 3rd year \$14.75; (4) 4th year \$15.00; (5) 5th year \$15.25; (6) 5th year with operators license \$17.25; (7) swimming pool assistant manager \$18.00; and (8) swimming pool manager \$19.00. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Woodgate thanked everyone in attendance and to anyone that provided input regarding the St. Paul Senior Center and the St. Paul Swimming Pool.

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the Electrical Department purchasing two (2) I-Pads for \$50 each; a credit will be issued in the amount of \$100. Also approved are the purchases of two (2) mobile hotspot pucks (wireless Wi-Fi) in the amount of \$47 each, along with the purchase of two (2) I-Pad case covers limited to \$250 each. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. The items will be acquired through AT&T (First Net).

Chief of Police Dan Howard was in attendance to discuss the nuisance at 918 Custer Street. Chief of Police Howard stated that a nuisance public hearing is not necessary, due to improvements being made to the property. Council member Wilson moved to decline sending the resolution abatement letter to the property of 918 Custer Street. Council member Peters seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

A brief discussion ensued pertaining to the park improvement grant funds for sidewalks. Two (2) bids were received for the downtown park area and near the tennis/pickleball courts. Council member Wilson moved to approve the recommendation from the Park Improvement Grant Committee to award the bid to K & M Concrete & Design, LLC., Grand Island, NE in the amount of \$11,490.83 to install sidewalks in the downtown park area and near the tennis/pickleball courts; and approved Mayor Feeken signing the contract for the grant project. The cost of the project will be reimbursed by the NE Dept. of Economic Development (NDED) in accordance with the park improvement grant. Council member Woodgate seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

The 3rd Street Paving Improvement Project #025-04097 received two (2) paving bids. Council member Peters moved to approve awarding the bid to Diamond Engineering Company, Grand Island, NE per the recommendation from Olsson (City Engineer) in the amount of \$123,080.95. The estimated project cost was \$149,932. The 25% Infrastructure fund will absorb the cost of the project; all assessment proceeds will be reimbursed into the 25% Infrastructure account.

There was discussion regarding a home encroaching on a public alleyway (16 ft.) at 512 Baxter Street, more legally described as E1/2 of Lots Five (5) and Six (6), Block 108, Original Town, Howard County, St. Paul, Nebraska. Council member Woodgate introduced Ordinance No. 1070 to vacate the south half (S1/2) of the alley in Block 108, Original Town, St. Paul, Nebraska; and to declare an effective date. The property is more legally described as: commencing at the southeast corner of Lot Five (5), Block One Hundred Eight (108), in the Original Town of St. Paul, Howard County, Nebraska, said point being the True Point of Beginning; thence northerly along the east line of said Lot Five (5) to the northeast corner of Lot Six (6) in said Block; thence along an extension of the north line of said Lot Six (6) to the northwest corner of Lot Three (3) in said Block; thence southerly along the west line of said Lot Three (3) to the southeast corner of Lot Four (4) in said Block; thence westerly along an extension of the south line of said Lot Four (4) to the True Point of Beginning, and hereby vacated and title to the same is hereby reserved in the City of St. Paul, Nebraska; subject to all easements of record. Council member Kowalski waived the three (3) readings of Ordinance No. 1070 on three (3) separate occasions. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Council member Peters moved for final passage of Ordinance No. 1070. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. Utilities Superintendent Matt Helzer stated that the City still retains the easement. The City will have Ordinance No. 1070 recorded at the Howard County Register of Deeds.

The proposed amendment to the City of St. Paul Municipal Code pertaining to Sidewalk Obstruction Permits was tabled to a future meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding an amendment to the St. Paul Municipal Code to establish new Sections 5-403 to 5-406 of Chapter 5 related to the operation of Light-Weight E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Hoverboards. No individuals attended the Council meeting concerning the above subject. The Mayor and Council acknowledged that there were several patrons conveying more negative comments than positive comments on Facebook pertaining to the Light-Weight E-Scooters, E-Bikes, and Hoverboards. Other topics included safety training, wearing helmets, speed of the scooters and penalties. The item was tabled for future discussion.

Council member Peters moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items: (1) Minutes April 20, 2026; and (2) Disbursements May 4, 2026. Council member Kowalski seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

May 4, 2026 Disbursements

Gross Wages - April	116804.12
Advanced Climate Control (service)	93.50
Amazon Capital Services (books)	392.42
Anderson, Trae (reimb)	65.14
Aqua Aerobic Systems (supplies)	6614.56

Banyon Data Systems (service)	3780.00
Beck, Connie Jo (uniform)	321.26
Biblionix (subscription)	2700.00
BOK Financial (interest, fees)	44125.00
Bomgaars (supplies)	2096.85
Bryan Jensen Clothing (uniforms)	1009.86
CEI Security Sound (repairs)	438.00
Cengage Learning (books)	32.80
Central District Health Dept (lab)	162.00
Charter/Spectrum (service)	249.97
City Health Deductible Savings (insurance)	5808.00
City of St. Paul 125 Plan (insurance)	90.00
Custer County Recycling (Service)	29.00
Crescent Electric (supplies)	70.40
Dick's Repair (service)	116.94
Dutton Lainson (supplies)	529.52
Eakes Office Solutions (contract)	10.35
Elan Financial (supplies, fees, postage)	2032.56
Elmwood Cemetery (service)	200.00
Fastenal Industrial (supplies)	1271.99
Greenough, Jarod (reimb)	29.97
Hastings Fiber Glass Products (supplies)	534.56
Hamilton Information Systems (supplies)	269.00
Heartland Disposal (service)	203.68
Heritage Bank: City Utility Bill ACH Fee (fee)	25.00
Hometown Leasing (contract)	39.12
Hometown Market (supplies)	47.25
Howard Co. Register of Deeds (fee)	40.00
Howard Co. Treasurer (Dispatch Fee)	3481.65
Inland Truck Parts (repair)	24342.79
Jacobs Ford (service)	589.51
League of NE Municipalities (education)	1230.00
Library Maintenance (transfer)	2500.00
Madison Nat'l Life (insurance)	212.42
National Sign Company (supplies)	3235.33
NMVCA (education, testing)	70.00
Omaha World Herald (subscription)	562.49
On the Spot Cleaning (service)	290.00
Parts Bin (supplies)	317.46
S E Smith & Sons (supplies)	97.55
Sargent Drilling (service)	1400.00
St Paul Civic Center: Recreation Program Budget Funds (oper expense)	8000.00
Wesco (supplies)	3788.87

Wroblewski, Liana (uniform) 170.04

Non-General Disbursements

Health Ded - Medica OneSource - health ded (reimb)	14244.15
Sales Tax: Street: Mtr Veh Tax: February 2026 Proceeds (Mtr Veh Tax)	17039.90
Sales Tax: Fire Station: February 2026 Proceeds (Fire Station)	15678.71
Sales Tax: 25% Infrastructure: February 2026 Proceeds (25% Infrast)	7839.36
Sales Tax Transfer #504420 to #300277 Pay Disb (funds transfer)	75000.00
Park Money Mkt: Overland Ready Mixed - sprinkler repair (repair)	1081.50
Park Grant: SCEDD - grant admin (fees)	6250.00
Park Grant: Olsson - engineering (fees)	1799.29
25% Infrastructure (Sales Tax): Olsson: 3rd Street Paving (eng fee)	2227.11
Park Grant: Custom Upholstery of NE - shade awnings (supplies)	11321.57

Council member Kowalski moved to approve the attendance at the League of NE Municipalities 2026 Accounting and Finance Conference on June 17 - 19, 2026 at the Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln, NE. Attendance includes: Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer; Laura Berthelsen, Deputy Clerk; and Sally Einspahr, City Treasurer. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0.

Council member Woodgate moved to delay the discussion and approval pertaining to the City posting in-house and advertising for the St. Paul Police Department positions regarding: (1) Sergeant and (2) part-time Police Officer until the next regular City Council meeting. Council member Wilson seconded the motion. Council members Kowalski, Peters, Wilson & Woodgate voted aye, nays none. Motion carried 4/0. City Police Sergeant Jon Howard will be retiring on June 30, 2026.

Chief of Police Howard stated there was progress on nuisance property at 1120 Custer Street; the property will be given more time to complete the clean-up. If the clean-up does not improve, then a citation will be given to the property owner.

Chief of Police Howard updates: (1) provided a police activity report; (2) nuisance at 204 5th Street will be provided a first (1st) letter; (3) 2016 Ford Explorer computer is bad, a new one is being installed in the amount of \$1,500; (4) Police Officer Mat Sample is attending the Special Response Team (SRT) training; and (5) numerous nuisance complaints were conveyed to Chief of Police Howard from Jordan Bottolfson.

Utilities Superintendent Helzer updates: (1) St. Paul Tennis/Pickleball Court grinding has been completed; (2) Tennis Court Unlimited has completed the acid wash to the Tennis/Pickleball court; and (3) if the Tennis/Pickleball court is being utilized, the lights will be on from sunset to 11:00 p.m.

Mayor Feeken updates: (1) progress is being made pertaining to the Hamilton Systems cybersecurity grant; (2) Hamilton Telecommunications fiber deployment will be happening

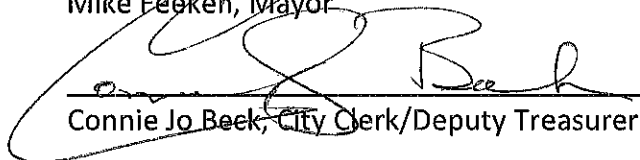
soon; the deployment will come with three (3) stipulations: (a) City can utilize Hamilton's generator for the City Office building, if needed; (b) provide fiber to the City and St. Paul Civic Center offices; and (3) provide fiber line to the new sewer SBR facility.

For public announcements: St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Executive Director stated that the outside speaker system has been completed; and Howard County Crime Stoppers will be holding a 3-Man Scramble fund raiser on Saturday, June 13, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Feeken adjourned the City Council meeting at 8:50 p.m.

May 18, 2026
Date


Mike Feeken, Mayor


Connie Jo Beck, City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer