

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 28, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mercurief at 9:01AM.

II. ROLL CALL

CMs present were Daniel Porath, Joseph Kozloff, Naomi Edenshaw and Raymond Melovidov. Absent were Jason Bourdukofsky and Victor Clarey. A quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: CM Porath moved to approve the agenda, seconded by CM Kozloff. Call for Question. Motion to approve carried by voice vote.

IV. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There were no people to address the council.

V. REPORTS

A. City Manager (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

City Mgr. Zavadil gave a verbal update on Fisheries Disaster Relief information released, December 21, 2022, by the Secretary of Commerce concerning the various fisheries disasters. There are multiple Alaska fisheries involved, crab and salmon. There are a total of 8 disasters, 6 in state, some haven't received funding yet. Bill to fund passed the senate and the house, going to President for signature. In that bill 300million included for fisheries disasters. Once funding specified by NOAA on how to allocate, it will go to the Fish and Game to develop a spend plan to Feds for approval then to affected parties such as harvesters, processors, CDQ groups and communities. Each process can take several months, no one has committed to how long it will take, hopeful to get funding but not likely to know until well into 2023. City's active participation in the process is beneficial. We can probably count on enough funding to "ease the pain" and lessen the amount needed to spend of investments.

CM Melovidov discussed percentages but wonders how they will make the 300million stretch. Mateo is tracking the process for the City, he responded to a letter from NOAA. Will provide data to ADFG needed to develop spend plan.

Mayor Mercurief asked about what communities process, Saint Paul, Atka, King Cove. CM Melovidov, considerations should be made for communities that are more dependent on the crab fisheries, other communities have other fisheries going on, ground fish, pollock, and cod. Mgr. does not think the amount awarded will make a big impact on the current financial situation the City is in.

Update on grants, submitted a Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities application - the project is reconstruction activities for salt lagoon and pond. It will help with design, scope and engineering with how to deal with water when it comes into the pond. During the typhoon water was close to coming onto the road at the north end. It will look at slope protection. Raise road elevation at intersection of Polovina Turnpike and Bartlett. Concern is water was being pushed over towards the clinic. Extending Polovina Turnpike from Cliffside to Rimrock. Put in culverts to let water out, examine how water flows. There has been some elevation loss in road leading to Public Works. Evaluating the DOT RAISE grants - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability

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and Equity and if it would be good for landfill roads, harbor improvement Phase 1A. Also working on State Homeland Security grants for training, sirens, local channel, and possibly to put cameras at harbor to be monitored from Public Safety. Getting started on the EDA grant for the economic diversification plan.

The City Christmas party went well as did the community Christmas program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 22-23 - A Resolution Approving the City of Saint Paul Refuse Rate Schedule (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

Second Reading and Adoption

-  [Res22-23 RefuseRates 2ndReadingAdption 20Dec22.pdf](#)
-  [CSP RefuseRateSchedule Approved 1stReading 15Dec22.pdf](#)
-  [CSP RefuseRateComparison 21Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion: CM Melovidov moved to approve Resolution 22-23 - A Resolution Approving the City of Saint Paul Refuse Rate Schedule, seconded by CM Edenshaw. Discussion. Call for Question. Motion to Approve Resolution 22-23 carried by Roll call vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

City Mgr. gave an update on Resolution 22-23. Edits from direction of last meeting were made, the bin charge and extra bag fee were dropped to half the recommended increase. The changes and schedule were reviewed. There is a new charge of extra bags at \$4. The pumps for the garbage truck are in Anchorage.

Mayor Mercurief asked once it's approved, when will it go into effect. He was informed it would go into effect in the next billing cycle.

The budget reflects approval. Utilities is not making much money, \$9300 from general funds needs to be put into refuse to break even.

- B. Ordinance 22-01 - City of Saint Paul CY2023 Budget (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil, Stephanie Mandregan)
Second Reading, Public Hearing and Adoption

-  [Ord 22-01 CY2023CSPBudget-2ndReadingAdpotion 20Dec22.pdf](#)
-  [CY2023 BudgetwAttachments 2ndReading 20Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion: CM Melovidov moved to Approve Ordinance 22-01 - City of Saint Paul CY2023 Budget, seconded by CM Kozloff. Discussion. Call for Question. Motion to Approve Ordinance 22-01 - City of Saint Paul CY2023 Budget passed by Roll call vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Finance Director Mandregan made adjustments for internal utilities for refuse. Budget doesn't account for any disaster relief. Based on balancing the General and Utility funds we're going to end up dipping into investments by \$915,210. Did up the investment income had \$50,000 and put it up to \$75,000, have to wait to see which investments can be used to make up the difference and which can be reinvested; interest rates are good right now and hopefully they stay good.

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The 7% COLA approved by the board was added to the budget. Did have to add money in for Alpine to come up to continue to do work on electrical, reduced to \$80,000. Put expense in General fund. There are transformer change outs to be completed when they are ordered and arrive. Upgrades will be covered under USDA loan. Hopefully in place by March 2023, paperwork needs to be completed. That fund zeroed out with the investment funds.

Bulk fuel is doing okay for now, did put in for new mechanical meters and supplies for touch up paint. If City gets the CBDG grant, it covers the meters and the City \$17,500 funds can be accounted elsewhere. \$1 over in marine sales and electric utility by \$437.

Water utility needed a transfer, Council didn't approve the recommended water rate increase, so \$42,827 of investments from General fund had to be moved over to balance out water utility. Water utility doesn't include current needs for maintenance, currently looking for grants for water treatment plant as the well houses need some work on doors, and siding.

Waste water utility over by \$200, will manage closely. Refuse utility, \$392.87 transferred in. Harbor, to balance out, \$90,570, bulk portion is payment on small boat harbor, did request CBSFA for help. Mateo is writing a letter to the Army Corp for a moratorium on payment.

CM Melovidov asked if usages fees were assessed for the small boat harbor. Mgr. mentioned that its on CBSFA. Would generate revenue. It may be something the City can manage, can talk to CBSFA. Duck hunters are staying in City housing. Sales tax on sales of their hunt package; the changes was made before the pandemic. Estimating \$30,000 tax revenue from 3 guide groups. There is no historical data to pull from and it is not reflected in the budget. With development comes impacts to the community. The economic development plan, EDA grant, will have a planning team that walks through and has community meetings, identifying tradeoffs.

Mayor Mercurief asked when the COLA would take effect. It will take effect next pay period. Staff was informed about the COLA, they were appreciative to council. Council believes it is money well spent and wish they were able to do the full federal amount with the cost of living. The City is running with minimum staff, 28. Due to the financial situation, many positions could not be budgeted for.

Alpine employee is due 1/2/23, Mayor Mercurief repaired Rimrock light and tried repairing the one near the old clinic. The one near the ballfield has a small circuit breaker and it tripped so wouldn't stay on.

CM Porath inquired if there was a way to stabilize the siren pole, it was flexing in the high winds. It is secured 10 feet deep; it needs to be compacted.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

- A. January 18, 2023 at 9:00 am
- B. February 15, 2023 at 9:00 am

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IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: CM Porath moved to adjourn, seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion carried by voice vote with 5 ayes. Meeting adjourned at 10:02AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date