

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 28, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mercurief at 9:05AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Daniel Porath, Naomi Edenshaw, Victor Clarey, Joseph Kozloff, Ramond Melovidov, Jacob Mercurief

Members Absent: Jason Bourdukofsky

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion:

CM Edenshaw moved to approve the agenda, seconded by CM Melovidov. Motion carried by voice vote.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

CM Porath moved to approve minutes for October 7, 2022. Seconded by CM Melovidov. Motion carried by voice vote.

- A. October 7, 2022  [CCL min 10.07.2022.pdf](#)

Motion:

CM Porath moved to approve minutes for November 3, 2022. Seconded by CM Melovidov. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. November 3, 2022  [CCL MIN 03NOV22.pdf](#)

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

(Action may or may not be taken at this meeting on issues presented here. Individuals will be given 5 minutes to speak.)

- A. Cara Lestenkof-Mandregan

Cara will provide an update regarding TB in our community.

 [St. Paul letter final 12-2022.pdf](#)  [12-01-2022 StPaul TB WhatIsTB.pdf](#)  [12-02-2022 StPaul TB Symptoms.pdf](#)

Cara provided an update to Council on TB. There are no new cases. She is in contact with Drew, the Public Health Nurse, Dr. Cooper and the State. Drew will be traveling to the island to do a follow up. The State is available to help. Everyone is reassured that it is not a quick outbreak. Council did not have any questions.

VI. REPORTS

Council took a break at 10:19AM and were back on record at 10:29AM.

Council took a lunch break at 11:51AM.

Back on record at 1:16PM.

A. Mayor (Presenters: Jacob Mercurief)

No updates.

B. City Manager (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [CityMgrReport_09Dec22.pdf](#)

 [2022.12.09 Saint Paul Executive Session Memo.pdf](#)

 [Harbor Planning Team meeting minutes 11.1.22.pdf](#)

 [SPDPS_IncidentData_Sep-Nov22.pdf](#)

 [CSP_CommentsProposedADFGSpendPlanTannerCrab2019-20Fishery_14Dec22.pdf](#)

City Mgr. Zavadil gave his report - Temporary repairs have been made, so there will be no leaks, to the motor pool roof and public works roof; covered by insurance. Negotiations moving forward - the goal it to get it fixed and done properly. Staff and council have been working on budgeting. To finish updating Capital Improvement Plan and seek funding for projects.

We want to maintain current level of City services- insurance premiums decreased by 12% health insurance up by 3%

Mateo put together comments on a proposed spend plan for Bering Sea tanner crab, no money yet. Assumption, is the disaster of red king crab and snow crab can last 5 years.

During budget meetings, a number of reductions were discussed, travel for police officers, water operator, no money for donations, limiting purchases to essentials. Going to ask CBSFA and the Tribe to fund for next year, the annual community events and EMS. Reduced general legal by \$10,000, no positions in the budget. Signed up with Starlink for internet service. Discontinued internet service with TelAlaska, and gave OneWeb notice of not continuing.

CM Clarey asked if the OneWeb dishes were being kept? City Mgr. Zavadil commented that they were paid for and will act as backup.

Other changes are opting out of insurance, cell phone policy, discontinuing cell phones and some land lines, only retaining essential. Discontinue Delta contract, request funding from SCF and the Tribe. New taxes would go to public for vote, research to see if it is worth it, vote in October general election. Room tax - Guestimates of how much it would generate, cost and impact small businesses.

Legal council put together a memo on how to go into executive session.

KUNA engineering waiting on companies design specs on pumps, at 35% complete drawings, state will review, and at 65% complete the design go out for bid.

EDA grant for small boat harbor - still in discussion on USDA loan for electric utility work, to finalize construction work plan. State of Alaska emergency planning grant - attended meeting with City's grant specialist. Bryan with SCF is on island and offered to help City with their emergency plan.

Received three different grants. Surf group will return to hold a work workshop with youth, and present Island X to the community. More details to come. Lynn and he been working on two grants, community transportation grant - road upgrades - landfill and harbor road realignment and upgrade. City invited to submit a full application for both, reviewing, concern for requirement of percentage match.

Mayor Mercurief asked on requests sent to Murkowski appropriation. CM Melovidov asked if there was a deadline for harbor road grant.

New landfill permit for new location. Minimum match requirement 9.03%, in order to be competitive would have to increase match significantly. A 50% contingency on planning, would score additional points if agree to takeover maintenance portion of federal facility, maintain the airport at our cost, unfortunate how it's design does not seem geared for rural communities to get funded. City can put in for both, will have to put in a resolution for match as it do not allow for any in kind match, only cash.

Lynn is looking at other state and federal opportunities for potential funding. Denali commission is a possibility but Saint Paul is not listed as a disadvantaged community. CM Melovidov suggests looking at other funding sources.

With Public Safety, Officer McMicken, and Sergeant Carter have resigned. A new sergeant accepted City's offer, John Murdock will be here January 5th. He has over 25 years in law enforcement. Officer Recco is the only officer on island. Dispatch is down to 2 dispatchers, one quit starting tomorrow. Dispatch phone will be switched over to the officer during certain times so not to burn out the 2 dispatchers. EMS met with Cara and Seth with LifeMed on how they can work together. Jerry is currently here and Courtney is coming back. Calls for services attached to report indicate minimal calls. Lost the ability to access apsin, have been going through Seward for 10 years but they don't do it anymore; paperwork signed with Cordova to continue background checks.

Update on break ins, received a message from juvenile officer in charge of cases informing that the cases are being dismissed. Juvenile ADA dismissed them due to problems with evidence and meeting attendance. Youth involved have gone out for various types of treatment, they don't feel there is a strong case. Addressing after the fact has been difficult, had a meeting with DA with officer. Unfortunate they weren't able to bring those cases to state level.

C. City Clerk (Presenters: Aubrey Wegeleben)

 [City Clerk Report_1NOV_9DEC22.pdf](#)

CC Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions. There were no questions.

D. Public Works Director (Presenters: David Joyner)

 [PublicWorksDirectorReport.pdf](#)

Note PWD Joyner provided a written report and was available for questions. CM Melovidov inquired about pictures, in the written report, of items that look like they need some work and if there were plans to do some preventative maintenance. The PWD mentioned that they have very little spare parts, there once was a plan to move the chlorine system, but it hasn't happened. It is not just the bolts that are rusting it's the phalanges. Water pressure going through can explode, water will have to be cut off. The water tower is fixed and leak fixed at the sink hole. With the two water towers filled it can do two weeks without adding water to it without getting to a danger level. Contractors will be needed for repairs, it's not something that can be done ourselves on island, and that's just in the treatment plant. There was an incident that could have been a bad incident, an insert broke from corrosion. It was the fitting that screwed inside the pipe that broke. Pictures in the written report are to show how bad it is for future.

E. Finance Director (Presenters: Stephanie Mandregan)

 [Finance Director Report.pdf](#)

 [Budget Analysis.pdf](#)

 [DEC 22 financials.pdf](#)

FD Mandregan provided a written report and was available for questions. There were no questions.

F. Grant/Project Specialist (Presenters: Lynn Sterbenz)

 [Grants Update Dec 2022.pdf](#)

Lynn - the emergency management position received funding, also received \$45,000 from the State of Alaska Emergency Management to write a plan.

Reviewed the grants table in the Grants update pdf. on status of grants submitted, grants to be submitted and documents involved.

Denied for phase 1 a will try again next year. Asked for 2 appropriation requests from Senator Murkowski's office. Not much communication on harbor road, looks promising to get landfill appropriation due to extensive communication.

The surfing grant planned for mid April to bring them out to the island. Working on a summary of the program, would be 5-10 days to premier the film and interviewing of locals and additional filming with a surfing workshop with kids and a film making

workshop. There will be a long distance several month project with Denali art project in Talkitna sharing and networking between the two groups of youth to learn about each others culture, filming, each other and connect. Grant to buy surfboards, wetsuits.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Motion:

CM Porath moved to approve Emergency Ordinance 22-99. Seconded by CM Edenshaw. Discussion. CM Melovidov call for Question. Role Call vote 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motioned carried.

- A. Emergency Ordinance 22-99 - An Emergency Ordinance of the Council of the City of Saint Paul Regarding Mitigation/Protective Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Throughout Saint Paul Island (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [CSPEmergencyOrdinance22-99_Draft_09Dect22.pdf](#)

 [Alaska COVID-19 and Influenza Weekly Case Update- November 27 – December 03, 2022.pdf](#)

 [State of Affairs- December 6, 2022.pdf](#)

 [Fall bivalent boosters- Science update round 3.pdf](#)

 [Domestic Travel During COVID-19 | CDC.pdf](#)

City Mgr. Zavadil commented that there were no changes to the ordinance.

CM Clarey proposed to drop the ordinance, wondering if it is still needed. Mayor Mercurief indicated that it seemed like cases were picking up and suggested keeping it for another month. CM Melovidov suggested it be kept through December due to many travelers in December, would prevent any outbreak over Christmas break.

Discussed having tests kits at RAVN for community - ones at the airport cost \$180-\$190. CDC still recommends testing before and after travel.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

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

 [Res22-22_HarborRates_09Dec22.pdf](#)

 [CSP_HarborRateSchedule_Draft_05Nov22.pdf](#)

 [CSP_HaborRatesCompared_09Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion:

CM Clarey moved to approve Resolution 22-22. Seconded by CM Melovidov. CM Melovidov moved to amend motion on Resolution 22-22, to keep the warfage the

same. Seconded by CM Clarey. Call for Question. Roll Call vote, 6 Ayes, CM Porath Nay. Motion with amendment carried.

Discussed changes to harbor rates - dockage rates wouldn't change, the change would be going to 10 dollars for the first 1000 pounds and 1.2 after.

CM Melovidov does not support the increases rate schedule. It is thought that an increase would work against St. Paul. City Mgr. asked to provide updated adjustments after break.

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

 [Res22-23_RefuseRates_10Dec22.pdf](#)

 [CSP_RefuseRateSchedule_Draft_10Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion:

CM Clarey moved to approve Resolution 22-23. Seconded by CM Edenshaw. Discussion. CM Melovidov moved to amend initial motion to include a reduction in drop of fee to \$4 with rates being \$36.26 for one bin and \$21.64 per additional bin. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Discussion. Call for Question on amended motion. Role Call vote, 5 Ayes, CMs Porath and Edenshaw Nay. Call for Question, on Resolution. Role Call vote, 5 Ayes, CMs Porath and Edenshaw Nay

City Mgr. Zavadil stated that for the refuse fund to run in the black and not the negative rate adjustments were needed. Bulk of customers are residential. It would be \$10 for per extra bag not in the bin. CM Clarey thought an extra \$10 fee would be to high an increase. City Mgr. noted there are 155 residential customers, 20-24 commercial customers. Utility cannot operate in the red.

CM Melovidov wondered how it would effect various locations, he agrees that \$10 is too high for an extra bag. Currently there is a flat charge, no matter how full a resident's bin is. To track that would require more labor and cost. In the red for refuse at \$8,336 if did 15% on residential. the Increase would be \$5 a year. It would be \$36.26 for one and \$21.64 for additional bin, not wanting to burden residents with a full increase.

No further comments or questions.

C. Resolution 22-24 - A Resolution Approving the City of Saint Paul Water Rate Schedule (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [Res22-24_WaterRates_10Dec22.pdf](#)

[CSP_WaterRateSchedule_Draft_10Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Edenshaw to approve Resolution 22-24. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Discussion. Role Call vote 3 Ayes, CMs Clarey, Edenshaw and Porath Nays. Motion failed.

City Mgr. notified Council that per Ordinance on utilities, 2 readings are required and resolutions would come up at next meeting as well. Trident operates using a lot of water, there will be a loss to the City without a 2023 season. Reviewing rates reflected in attached spreadsheets, Utility \$1,400 in the black, the rates change proposed for residents at 10% would be from \$33.00-\$36.30 per month. For small business \$52.80-\$63.36. The school at tier 3, change kept at 10% as well with \$486.42. Commercial Tier 1 would change from \$178.20 to \$213.84 per month, Tier 2-\$310.00 to 37224, Tier 3 \$442.20 to \$530.64, Tier 4 \$574.20 to \$689.04. Meter \$11.22 per thousand gallons to \$13.46. Minimum charge at \$600 month. Commercial temp meter rate from \$12.21 per thousand gallons to \$15.87. Commercial processing \$8.97 to \$11.09 per thousand gallons also a \$600 month minimum charge. Residential hookup fee \$52.80 to \$52.08. Hook up at the dock \$79.20 to \$95.04.

CM asked what Trident charged while not operating. Charging minimum rates on meter. This is assuming there is no processing whatsoever such as for halibut. CM Melovidov mentioned that there was not, ammonia was going to be taken out of their tanks for storage.

There would be a \$3.30 increase for residents. The budget needs to be in the black to function. If not the black funds needed from elsewhere. Budget does not reflect repairs needed indicated in Public Work director report from last meeting.

Water rates hasn't been adjusted in 5 years.

No further comments or questions.

- D. Resolution 22-25 - City Personnel Policy 05.07 Cellular Telephones and Plans Policy Directing City Administration to Implement the Policy (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [05.07 CellularTelephonesPlans_v2_Draft_04Oct22.pdf](#)

 [Reso22-25_CellPhonePolicy_09Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Clarey to approve Resolution 22-25. Seconded by CM Melovidov. Question called. Roll Call vote 6 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Individual City phone plans would cease and a stipend would be given to identified staff; would be \$800-1200 a year in savings. Done with remote employees Lynn and Nadia already.

- E. Resolution 22-26 - Cost of Living Adjustment for the City of Saint Paul Employees in CY2023 (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [Reso22-26_CY23COLA_07Dec22docx.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Edenshaw approve Resolution 22-26. Seconded by CM Porath. Discussion. CM Melovidov moved to amend motion, adjusting from 6% to 7%. Seconded by CM Clarey. Discussion. Call for Question on amendment. Role Call vote 5 Ayes, Mayor Mercurief Nay. Motion carried. Call for Question on Resolution 22-26. Roll Call vote 7 Ayes 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Proposed is 6% vs 7% or 8%. 6% is needed to stay in the black.

CM Melovidov asked what the differences were. More would need to be drawn from investments and it would not be sustainable.

If City does not keep up with the rates and increases COLA, budget will be going backwards. 8.7% is the Federal COLA.

CM Melovidov that the community is seeing the highest inflation in years. He'd like to get close to 8.7%. CM expects to see inflation to slow down for next year.

City Mgr. comments that once investments are gone, they are gone. City can go out of business.

- F. Resolution 22-27 - A Resolution Approving the City of Saint Paul Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [Res22-27_P&ZFees_09Dec22.pdf](#)

 [CSP_Planning&Zoning_ScheduleofFees_DRAFT_10NOV22.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Edenshaw to approve Resolution 22-27. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief. Discussion. Call for Question. Role Call vote 5 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

City Mgr. reviewed attachments. Current rates passed in 2016. A 15% increase is the change proposed.

CM Porath asked about fees and fines if filed after the fact. Are they reflected. City Mgr. noted that violations were reflected. CM Clarey interjected.

Point of order called.

City Mgr. noted a failure to apply would be 3-5 times the cost. CM Melovidov mentioned it is covered under items 2 and 3. CM Porath inquired about permanent structures built over utilities. CM Clarey interjected.

Point of Order called.

Break at 2:06PM. Back on record at 2:16PM. CM Clarey was not present.

CM Melovidov asked for on clarification on the increase. The more complex the project, the more the fee. City is not making money off of it, it wont prohibit development. Time and effort on the City end to make sure things are cited correctly. City Mgr. paid \$100 for his green house; it didn't cover the cost for labor and review by Mike D.

- G. Ordinance 22-01 - City of Saint Paul CY2023 Budget (First Reading) (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil, Stephanie Mandregan)

 [Ord 22-01_CY2023CSPBudget, First reading_09Dec22.pdf](#)

 [CY2023_Budget_Attachments_10Dec22.pdf](#)

 [BudgetCompare_12Dec22.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Edenshaw. Seconded by CM Porath. Discussion. Call for Question. Roll Call vote 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

City Mgr., due to resolutions not passing. Need to cover negative in the harbor fund which is at \$90,548. Request into CBSFA to help. Bottom line, the change would be \$853, 812 from investments to transfer out \$90,548 to harbor, \$8,336 to refuse, \$42, 410 to water, \$714, 344 to general fund.

CM Melovidov asked for clarification. To balance the general fund, \$714,344 would be to cover public safety, motor pool and City services. Not to funding Delta for EMS services and other contract services. Mayor Mercurief asking if funds were put aside for a situation we are currently in. Any money the City gets has to be allocated and accounted for, nothing rolls over. With agreement with Northrim, City needs to keep the balance above 1million. There is no money sitting from last year or the previous year. Only money available to draw upon of when CDs are matured.

CM Edenshaw leaves at 2:30PM

City Mgr. going forward 2024, things are flexible with fisheries. Looking at EDA grant to develop a diversification plan. City Mgr. and Finance Director to work with investment manager on investments, cash out and reinvestment.

CM Melovidov, spending wisely, is comfortable with the amount to draw from investments. If work gets demanding without positions not being hired, we'll have to review if those positions need to be hired. It is great that there are staff that are undertaking the tasks.

CM Melovidov asked about the items the Public Works director noted in the last meeting. It is something that money should be spent. There are no numbers right now on cost. There is potential to lessen the amount to take out of investments with entities taking over costs and grants.

- H. Resolution 22-28 - A Resolution Adopting Alternative Method Allocation for FY23 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program (Presenters: Phillip Zavadil)

 [Reso22-28SFBTaxProgram.pdf](#)

 [DCCED letter and forms.pdf](#)

Motion:

Motion made by CM Porath to approve Resolution 22-28. Seconded made by CM Melovidov. Discussion. Question. Roll Call vote 4 Ayes, 0 Nays

City Mgr., this resolution is done every year, split between Saint George. Deadline is February 15, 2023.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

December 28, 2022 at 9AM - Regular City Council Meeting

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

CM Porath moved to adjourn. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 2:48PM.