

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 14, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:31AM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote with 4 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Kozloff MOVED to approve February 16, 2023, minutes. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief. Motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote with 4 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

A. Simeone Swetzof addressed the council about concern for the road conditions. He's been helping the City with grading when needed. He commented that the roads haven't been repaired in a few years and are down to the 6 inch minus foundation. He suggested D1 needed to be put down in parts that need it as it's a better material to use and easier to grade. The black scoria from Halfway Point to Benson is good. He was informed, with the City's current financial situation that there are no funds to purchase material, but we do have the equipment and manpower. The city manager will check with entities on material. Currently the city is working on various grant applications that may address some of the needs through other projects.

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report

B. City Manager

NOAA ship Fairweather, 231-foot, will be doing a hydrographic survey in July and August to update nautical charts. The survey plans to do outreach with community, researchers will talk about what is going on. It's been planned for 3 years.

Grants and contracts EDA small boat harbor utilities deadline was Febr 24, approved to extended it a week. Received one response from an engineering firm, it is at EDAs council to see it'll work. City Manager Zavadil talking with Shirley with EDA, most projects are getting a low number of responses. Response back in the next couple of weeks, it's the same firm working on the lift stations.

Working on USDA loan for electric utility work. The financial forecast from Aldrich advisors should be finished this week. Three Tiers Alaska submitted a draft to USDA. Those are the last two documents needed to finalize the loan. Once everything is in place, end of the month or April, we can start moving forward with plans.

Village safe water lift station replacement project 65% design drawing are in. Still over \$400,000. DC will be requesting additional funding to cover that portion. Construction will be pushed to next year. Met with staff looking at some of the designs, made some changes that were adapted. Precast concrete wet well and a building that will house the above ground pumps. It will eliminate the need for confined space entry. It'll be a dual pump setup.

The City Manager and Sterbenz attended a Safer Streets grant webinar on March 1st. It's a joint grant between the Cities of Saint Paul and Saint George. To develop a safety action plan for the community safety issues for roads. Mayor Mercurief asked if it would include the roads out of town. The plan is for all the roads, trails, and transport option by air and water. More will be known after the kickoff meeting.

Received an appropriation from Murkowski, directed member spending. It's going through EPA State and Tribal assistance grant program – moving the landfill to the new site behind Polovina. Finishing up project narrative and documents to be submitted to EPA. Contracted with Polar Consult to redo the design to remove utilities. Plan to develop new class three landfill cells, fencing unheated/unpowered equipment building, drop boxes. Had a meeting last week with the Solid waste division with DC, will have to close out the current landfill to open the new landfill. Will work on it in 2028 with permitting, plan, operations guide then a closeout plan. There is still space out at the existing landfill, but we gave some time to close it out. Once the new site is open garbage can be staged at the old site, keep the sewage trench at the old landfill. Hopefully construction this summer but it depends on EPA approval for funding.

Public Works- Anthony Kushin resigned, last day on February 28. We thank him and wish him luck. Jared Zacharof transferred from electric utility to maintenance and operations. Powerplant operator position is currently being advertised. Mayor Mercurief asked if we are getting electricity from TDX. City is choosing not to do wind based on condition of unit 6. And unit 5 is bigger and doesn't work well with wind. Waiting for upgrades to make it happen. Kept TDX up to date on the plan. The fuel system will be the first thing worked on once we get funding.

Maintenance and Operations- Backup generator parts in, all the defaults codes are still there. Cummins tech may be sent back out to get it up and running. Snow removal, road grading, thanks to Simeon for helping. Will continue to monitor and work on getting material. Met with staff on planning and scheduling project for facilities maintenance. There is some equipment to install on the playground, water well building, complete siding on 163, and potentially installing fencing at new landfill.

Garbage truck is still down, purchasing Honda hydraulic pump today. The preventative maintenance schedule for vehicles and equipment is in asset essentials.

Bulk Fuel utility- Tank dips as of March 2 had 38,854 gallons of gasoline and 235,377 of diesel. Vitus plan for their delivery this summer, 100,000 of gas and 550,000 of diesel. Looking at the first part of June for delivery. The City hasn't been selling to boats; there is enough supply to carry the City through to August.

Tank farm maintenance supplies, paint do some work this summer, take off anticorrosion tape, build soil up against the pipes and touch up rusty spots. Ordering paint, spill response equipment to updates has been ordered. This summer there will be a joint spill response training between the city and Saint Paul Fuel.

Electric utility- Smart Reader system going into place. Call with IT provider to figure out interface. Changing out all meters is the next step. Ampy box meters will be going away, a brief power outage when meter replace. Numbers on meters will have to be recorded before changing out; a credit or

debit will be adjusted by accounting. Mayor Mercurief asked if payments can be made online. City Manager informed him that it will be a separate system; the change is happening because they don't make Ampys anymore and we are getting refurbished ones. There will be a cost for the online payment system.

Still working on connecting Trident to the city grid, yesterday received design cost estimates. Trident has a 750kVa transformer city would purchase. Need to review the material list to see what we have, what Trident can contribute and what is needed. When not operating and purchasing power from the city, they would be able to back feed if city has a failure. It's a plan from 20 years ago, confident it will happen this year.

Water utility- The state contracted company to test for PFOS, from firefighting foam. They did pick up low levels of PFOS in the water system. The state will continue to monitor. Levels are under and there is no cause for concern. Finalize the standard operating procedure for emergency repair of water mains. Sewer utility, how to get the public work lift station back up and running, the getting a quote on new pumps. Broken adapter, evaluate the sewer line from public works to below Stephanie's house. Pumping it about once a week.

Refuse- Nothing to report but garbage truck and the new landfill site.

Insurance – Renewal time. Nadia to prepare insurance documents. A new requirement of cyber security needs multifactor confirmation. There is a cost to doing it. LMJ is doing it for other clients. Accounting database and public safety do have sensitive data to protect. Small cities and school districts are vulnerable.

C. Fisheries

Mateo- An important provision secured in consolidated appropriations bill, signed by President on December 29, were changes to section 312 of Magnuson-Stevens act. We used that provision to obtain funding from congress to upgrade the water tanks in 2000. The prohibition obstacle, discriminated against communities, came from OMB, so last fall Mateo reached out; it wasn't a restriction on NMFS part. New provision allows direct payments to be made to communities. Other provision, to the 300 million for fisheries disasters, change require secretary of commerce to make a fishery disaster determination within a certain amount to time.

Been working on CIP impact program loan that was taken out in 1987 to build fuel farm and utilities in breakwater harbor section. Paid for 10 years through the 90s in boom years of crab fishery. Entered renegotiation in 2000 with payment that didn't work out. Entered negotiations again in 2005 secured moratorium that city would not need to make principal or interest payments from 2005 to 2015 without penalties. Payments put on hold for 10-year period. In 2015 agreed moratorium would continue. In 2019 both the Mayor Mercurief and Phil met in DC with CIP division. They are prepared to make a recommendation of forgiveness to congress but are waiting for final check off from legal office at NOAA. Mateo is drafting a letter to the secretary of commerce for final disposition. There have been several bills that have gone through that we missed out on. City owes about 5.8 million in principle and 2 million in interest. Loan been recommended for forgiveness would help city credit. In DC working on congressionally directed spending requests, looking at possible request for different projects that are due Friday.

North Pacific Council – crab opted snow crab rebuilding plan. Should the state's harvest strategy consider it safe, it would allow for a small crab fishery while snow crab is rebuilding. Snow crab is considered overfished. If stock is healthy enough the state can allow for a small fishery. It would be

helpful to the community to generate revenue. Council took action on it, also took action at February meetings to allow for the waiver of processing use caps in the southern regions for custom processing.

At the February meeting the city council supported the waiver on vessel use caps, Area 4 has vessel caps in place to prevent consolidation. Waived through emergency action in 2020 in response to the covid situation. Having the full fishery on Saint Paul was a risk. Extended for another 2 years. What council has done at request of CBSFA and Saint Paul extend in regulation that waiver of use caps until the end of 2027. In interim council work on a more permanent fix that establishes caps at higher thresholds. Done due to concern from halibut fishermen about over consolidation. Important to restore halibut fishery. Halibut abundance-based management December of 2021,

March 9 NMPHS halibut abundance-based management published in federal registry there are 30 days if someone wants to sue or challenge the action to file a petition. Alternative 5 selected. December 9, 2022, NMPHS published amendment 123. On hold to see what is going to happen.

Break taken at 10:38AM. Back on record at 10:50AM.

D. City Clerk

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

E. Finance Director

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

F. Grants/Project Specialist

Sterbenz reviewed her Grants and Contracts Update PowerPoint. There have been 0 grants awarded since the last meeting. There are 6 grant applications with a pending status. Three with the USDOT RAISE, one for planning/construction and two for planning. The other three with a pending status are with the Village Safety Water Program. There are 7 applications currently under development. Four with the AK Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, one with USDOT Maritime Administration, one with the Economic Development Administration and one with the USDA Rural Utility Services.

G. Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

Chief Murdock reported that he was cross deputized through the Tribe. Public Safety needs taser cartridges. Three police vehicles are awaiting repairs. Funding for a saferoom is in the works with the location being the EMS office, unsure of the timeframe. Dispatch is fully staffed with 3 new dispatchers. Denise is a supervisor. Exploring other options for dispatch unsure on a time frame. EMS funding is being sought.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Emergency Ordinance 23-90 - 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

CM Kozloff MOVED to approve Emergency Ordinance 23-90. There was no second. Emergency Ordinance did not make it before the board for discussion.

B. Ordinance 23-01 – An Ordinance for the City of Saint Paul Adding to the City Code of Ordinances Chapter 14.25 Passenger Wharfage Fees:

CM Porath MOVED to approve Ordinance 23-01. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief.

Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance 23-01. It was approved for the first reading. Any fees would be dedicated to the harbor fund. Alternative would be to raise dockage and wharfage fees; council chose not to do that. Preliminary discussion with representatives from cruise lines. Would be 8-12 per person, roughly about 100 passengers 4 times a year. It's not a huge amount. The city's legal council has reviewed. If the council passes, will be communicate with cruise ship representatives. Meeting with Saint Paul tour on logistics of transportation and resources. There is a minimal cost to implement and harbor fund is currently running in the hole.

CBSFA could charge dockage if they wanted to, it would be in addition to passenger wharfage fee. The dockage would be separate from passenger wharfage fee. Requested CBSFA to help pay from some debt, it was not approved, want to have further discussion on small boat harbor.

MOTION to approve Ordinance 23-01 carried by Roll Call vote of 4 Ayes.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 23-05 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul Authorizing the City to Apply for the U.S. DOTMA FY'23 PIDPG

CM Melovidov MOVED to approve Resolution 23-05. Seconded by CM Porath.

Resolution asks for permission from council to submit an application for USDOT Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure port program for Phase1A South dock and new harbor master office. Applied to PIDPG 2 years in a row, this would be the 3rd time submitting. Our application is less competitive due to inability to match, we'd do typical in-kind.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-05 carried by Roll Call vote of 4 Ayes.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A. April 12, 2023, at 9AM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

CM Porath MOVED to Adjourn. Seconded by CM Kozloff. MOTION carried by voice vote with 4 Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date