

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
COUNCIL MEETING
January 30, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:14AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Naomi Edenshaw, Daniel Porath, Heidi Mercurief, Joseph Kozloff, and Raymond Melovidov. Council member Bourdukofsky joined at 9:35AM.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Mercurief. CM Melovidov had a question on Agenda Item C under New Business being back on the Agenda. An explanation was given. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 6 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Mercurief MOVED to approve the December 12, 2023, minutes. Seconded by CM Kozloff. There were no questions, comments, or changes. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 6 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was no one to address the council.

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report

B. Fisheries

The final spend plan was issued January 10; the State wanted stakeholder input on what to do with the 1.96 million in funds that was appropriated by Congress in response to the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 snow and red season crab disasters. This process lasted over 6 months. The city worked closely with 5 other crab dependent communities on a proposal on how the funds should be distributed. For municipal governments, 5% off the top to be split among the communities based on landing taxes. Those impacted communities had other fisheries to depend on, due to Saint Paul's extreme dependence on crab, Saint Paul (SNP) asked for an extra 1%. Saint Paul's unique position was supported by the communities, however, there was an initial resistance from the state before approval. The 1,870,000 for Saint Paul is to be split, 1/3's, among City, Tribe and TDX. Overall, the City's total figure is 2.9 million dollars to respond to the 2 years' worth of disasters. Now that the state has approved the spend plan it goes to NMFS for review then the Office of Management and Budget. Twelve percent of the funds were set aside for research projects responsive to the crab situation. 6 million of 22 million will be available in an open and competitive request for proposals. CBSFA has been taking the lead, working on feasibility studies on how the plant could be used for crab research and potential economic diversification. City Manager Zavadil added that the

disaster funding will be a reimbursable grant from the Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission. City will have to develop a project narrative, and budget; it won't be a lump sum check. CM Melovidov thanked Mateo for all his work on the spend plan. A disaster determination request has been submitted for this year's crab season on January 5th. The spend plan already developed will most likely be the model. The NPC is working on a number of crab fishery topics and efforts; one to be addressed next week, the council is working on a program to develop protections for the BBRKC fishery within its habitat area, if successful, it can be a model for other fisheries. Action proposes to restrict trawling during the season in which the BBRKC mate and molt, which is the time of year they are vulnerable. There has been resistance from trawl operations; Council started a review of the crab rationalization program. It made people who have historically delivered to SNP to continue to deliver to SNP. Northern PQS require trident to have a plant and to process on SNP. Allowed to process PQS of other processors. The program worked well for SNP for 21 years. Concern is whether there will be changes to the program being proposed to make it fit today's reality, including doing away with regionalization because there is not enough crab. CM Melovidov added that one of the issues SNP is going to face is whether processors can make money here. There is a formula that determines how much the boats get paid based on the market prices. Processors might want to look at that, if they feel SNP is not a viable place to make money they might object to regionalization.

C. City Manager

Harbor Maintenance Dredge- Army Corp had an open public bid process. All the bids came in higher than what the Corp had funds for, they have 30 days to respond back to bidders. Higher bid estimates due to armor rock that would need to come from sources outside of SNP. The Corp put a requirement for small businesses only it limited the companies that could bid. That requirement drove up their costs. There is a risk of it not getting done, will need to lobby for additional funds for the rock work to happen.

Small Boat Harbor Utility Extension- KUNA to have 95% design completed this March. Got requests in for easements for running some of the electrical/water/sewer lines across properties. When tidelands are filled in the state will grant a lease for ownership rights to the City and the City can lease them. There are two leases, one for Aleut community of Saint Paul and one for CBSFA. For CBSFA, the patent to the land wasn't completed, so no payments have occurred. Reengaged with DNR to get the process completed. It could slow down getting utilities in that area. Working to resolve so can move forward with utilities in that area.

Waiting on the USDA loan, answered follow-up questions that came through on Monday. It must go through another committee for review, and we should receive loan documents next month. Tied with it are funds for the airport feeder.

New Landfill- started making bigger purchases, taking quotes for surveying and will do selection next month. Had a problem getting into the payment system for this grant. Stephanie worked on it for a month, it was a problem on grantor's end. Got payments out for items under the grant.

Bulk Fuel Facility Upgrade- for the ADA grant and state of Alaska Community Development block grant, Polarconsult is working on the 95% drawings and should have those here this week, once reviewed will prepare the bid documents for construction. Not included in the grants, the controls for pumps need to be addressed, the whole system needs to be replaced so Polar will put together a report and cost estimate. If funders can't provide additional funds to cover costs, an additional grant will need to be looked for.

USDOT Safer Streets for All grant- had a couple planning meetings, KUNA engineering will be out in March or April to do community meetings for SNP and Saint George. An interactive web map that shows accidents, and issues is being worked on. It will be shared on City Facebook and website. The plan will identify the safety issues and solutions on roads, then we can go after funds to prepare.

Thriving Communities Technical Assistance- finalized the workplan, assisting us with better data collection for grants. Put in comments for the CEDS plan. Will help with the RAISE grant which will focus on harbor improvements.

Homeland Security Grant Program- for harbor security cameras. An environmental preservation form had to be completed before any work started. A request for quotes is out, the submission deadline is the end of next week. Update granting agency of dispatch changes.

Submitted funding request to CBSFA, they are meeting next week.

Bulk Fuel Utility- scheduling Northern Corrosion to do repairs and inspection. Once it warms up, will work on pipe maintenance to address soil to air interface, must take off the anti-corrosion tape, grind it down, paint and retape. The fuel truck went off the road when the roads were icy; an attempt was made to sand, but it just washed away. Operation was suspended, there was no fuel spilt, no one was hurt, nothing was damaged, and there were chains on the tires.

Minor amendments to Spill Plan included name changes, procedures, specifically put in use of VHS radios as use of cell phones did not work. It should be finalized this week and will be included in the next report.

Electric Utility- NC Machinery scheduled, in May, to do in-frame overhaul on unit 6. Trident connection, electric power construction will be out in March to start. Rich started on some of the meter base replacements around town for homeowners.

Water samples gone out for December. No presence of coliform detected in samples. Based on water usage, there is a leak somewhere. Based on Adrian's calculations it is a possible service line break and not a home. ANTHC will do a Sanitary Survey to identify deficiencies in the water system. Any findings will be included in a corrective action plan.

Sewer Utility- Ongoing clog issues with current lift station with non-flushable items. Clog in Tribal duplex will be looked at by City crew. A hot water jetter was included in the request to

CBSFA, it would help with clogs. Waiting on Alaska Pump on a rebuild of one of the old pumps. Right now, for Ellerman there is no backup.

There is a landfill inspection for, every three years, permit renewal. Once the old landfill is closed, a new permit will have to be competed for the new landfill. CM Porath asked about lift station updates. A review meeting was held on Friday for 95% drawings. Village Safe Water (VSW) requires a third-party engineering review. VSW would get the bid documents done and sent out for bid, it is expected to be out in March. Pushing for construction for this year. Currently, Ellerman is powered from the staff quarters transformer. The new lift stations will be above ground.

Break taken at 10:26AM. Back on record at 10:35AM.

Resolution from the Tribe on addressing fur seal issues at the North Pacific Council. They are asking for a support letter. Mateo will work on drafting one up for review.

D. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report.

E. Finance Director

Mandregan provided a written report.

F. Project/Grants Specialist

Sterbenz reviewed her submitted Grants and Contracts report. Three new grant applications have been submitted since the last council meeting. There are seven applications pending and fourteen applications under development.

G. Public Safety

1. Emergency Medical Services

Nason invited the community to take ETT courses he is offering and is flexible; it opens career opportunities for community members. There are two ETTs that have been onboarded. Two people are currently taking the ETT class. He will be getting his paramedic license and will be able to teach EMTIII courses.

2. Village Public Safety Officer

Davis provided a written report.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 24-02 - A Resolution Approving the City of Saint Paul Harbor Rate Schedule for 2024

CM Melovidov MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Mercurief.

The biggest change was in wharfage loading and unloading. Suggested .015 per pound and .006 per pound if a private party does the offload. If a vessel stays at the dock, if under 3 hrs. it's the minimum fee. Fees would open the opportunity for a lower rate for someone else to do the offloading. The other fees went up 15%.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 7 Ayes.

B. Resolution 24-03 - A Resolution Rescinding Resolution 21-10 and Indefinitely Suspending City Personnel Policy 10.34 - Employee COVID-19 Vaccination

CM Mercurief MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Kozloff.

A broader audience would be reached for open positions.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes with No votes from CMs Bourdukofsky and Porath.

C. Ordinance 24-01 - An Ordinance Revising the City Code of Ordinances Title 4 - Revenue and Finance, Chapter 4.25 - Sales Tax 4.25.040 - Exemptions from Sales tax - Generally, Subsection (E)

CM Mercurief MOVED to approve First Reading. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky.

This would remove the exemption on small boats. There is an \$86,000 a year debt on the small boat harbor and it is coming from limited saving. Scheduled to take out over \$600,000 out of savings this year. It can change if crab comes back. The situation the city is in with finances, we need to raise revenue or make cuts. It is all based on what the sale price is, it can bring in \$30,000 to \$50,000, cutting down on what is taken out of savings.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 4 Ayes, with Abstain votes from CMs Porath and Melovidov, and a No vote from CM Bourdukofsky.

D. Resolution 24-04 - A Resolution to Apply for the USDOT FY24 RAISE Grant for City South and North Docks and Piers Planning

CM Bourdukofsky MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Porath.

This resolution gives permission for the City Manager to apply for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability and Equity grant. Although allowed to request 100% federal funding, even if a small amount of in-kind match is provided there would be a better chance.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 7 Ayes.

E. Resolution 24-05 - A Resolution to Support Efforts to Improve Competitiveness and Resilience of Alaska Seafood Industry

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

Request for support to improve and expand existing seafood industry efforts to change federal policy to promote Alaska seafood industry. CM Bourdukofsky asked if the resolution puts the City on one side or another. Mateo gave a brief explanation on PSPA. It is an influential seafood association. They are asking for broad stakeholder fishing industry support to improve the standing of seafood in trade and consumption. It directly affects Saint Paul's partners and Saint Paul.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 7 Ayes.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

- A. February 27, 2024, at 9:00 am
- B. March 26, 2024, at 9:00 am
- C. April 30, 2024, at 9:00 am

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CM Porath MOVED to adjourn. Seconded by CM Edenshaw. Motion was carried by Voice vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 12PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date