

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 16, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Naomi Edenshaw, Daniel Porath, Joseph Kozloff, and Raymond Melovidov. 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 5 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Kozloff MOVED to approve April 12, 2023, minutes. Seconded by CM Porath. Motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote with 5 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was no one to address the council.

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report

B. City Manager

Zavadil highlighted there was a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Open House on April 19 with an entity meeting the following day to develop the next steps. The plan is to take the lists created and have focused discussion topics with community members based on the list suggestions. Emerging strategies are still being worked on to incorporate what community members suggested.

Nadia is working on insurance; having to implement multifactor authentication. With all the property damage throughout the US due to storms, the insurance premiums will be going up. It could significantly impact on our finances, still looking at it. Once we have a final rate, recommendations will be put together for the council to review including possible sale of property to try to keep our costs down.

USDOT put out a notice for proposals for Essential Air Service to serve Saint Paul, due June 1. Zavadil has reached out to RAVN and Aleutian Airways. Aleutian Airways are not prepared at this time to make a proposal. Community Q&A meeting with RAVN personnel on May 30th at 6PM.

Grants: Received EDA grant for small boat harbor utilities, received three proposals from the RFP, on the 17th. Through a selection process, evaluated proposals and made a selection. The evaluation team was Phil, Aubrey, Caitlin Stephanie, and Lynn. Kuna was selected, the other two being RESPEC and PTS. KUNA has prior work experience on island. Finalized draft contract the day prior. Hoping they can start the first full week in June next year and construction. For Village Safe Water lift stations had a meeting with KUNA, ADC and an independent engineering firm who reviewed. The independent firm had a few questions. The independent firm didn't like that a submersible pump wasn't being used, but instead an above ground non submersible pump was being used. They were concerned about flows. We want

the above ground due to ease and maintenance. Staff Quarters had an issue with their submersible pump and it was an issue to try get it out. USDA loan and environmental review completed. The financial forecast submitted for approval and will take 2-3 months. Hope to have approval by September and to get things going on the fuel system to get it done this year. Safer Streets and Roads, we need to prepare our own grant agreement. The whole process can take up to 6 months for the grant agreement to be processed. An update will be provided to the council once an agreement is in place. EPA grant for the new landfill environmental review completed, and a workplan and budget were submitted; awaiting approval that can take up to September. We can start purchasing equipment and get ready but construction won't begin until next year. Alaska Energy Authority providing an initial \$500,000 for the CDBG grant; paperwork submitted. Hopefully next year construction will begin as well. Did receive funding through ANTHC that was a request in 2019 when we had the landfill inspection for a new burn box as ours was falling apart. The burn cage will be in the same style as will be out at the new landfill. The EPA grant has to be changed as it included two now one being provided by Village Safe Water. Hopefully this summer we will have the burn box installed. Lynn is on vacation; her report is submitted and shows the PowerPoint of grants and their status.

Department of Public Safety: We had a new officer arrive and leave, stating he didn't realize how remote we were. Chief Murdock had conversations with him prior to arrival as well as administration. That put us in a bad spot, officer Recco came for a month to help, and it was hoped he'd train the new officer. He had to leave to start his new employment. Looking for some dispatchers. Delta Medical Transport decided not to provide service anymore. Advertised for a paid EMT on staff position. Checked with funders CBSFA and the State, they were okay with switching it from contract to personnel. Received 18 applications in 16 days. Position offered to a guy currently working for Delta. We don't have a certified police officer on island. When Chief Murdock was here, we decided to hire a Community Service Officer, so he continued to patrol and respond to EMS calls. Our process is to advertise in Zip Recruiter, Deed, Police One, City Facebook and website and hirelawenforcement.com. We haven't been able to recruit people. Last time the pay was upped by 20% and it is not attracting anyone. Zavadil has reached out to Troopers, with no response, and Michael Nemeth with APIA on VPSO program. Good conversation on option of VPSO. On agenda is approval of MOU with APIA for VPSO. That could save us up to \$200,000. EMT and CSO would still be kept on staff and CSO would be open to doing more activities with youth and focus on prevention. The VPSO encompasses law enforcement, fire and EMS and integrates the person into the community. VPSO program has no lack of applicants. The Director of the program is under the Commissioner of Public Safety and that has helped in management. The pay and benefits were upped; there is a tiered structure of advancement. City would provide housing, and space to work. Calls for service are lower than previous reports.

Public Works: Cummins came out to look at the backup generator and got it working. We need to get a proper cover as corrosion was an issue. Will work with Lynn to find funding. USCG caretaker contract—they are gearing up to transfer portions of property to TDX asking for help to identify things. Some of the work they are asking for our guys are not comfortable with doing and beyond the scope of the contract. Might be some replatting, need to have a planning and zoning meeting.

Motor Pool: Garbage truck running. Went with a Honda hydraulic pump. Tested without garbage and functioned normally, then tested with compacted garbage and it wouldn't open the back. Went with a larger pump with 3000psi, got it from Northern Tool and it should be on Coastal.

Bulk Fuel: As of May 1, we have little over 29,000 gallons of gas, and 175,000 gallons of diesel. Resupply looking at mid-June as this month Saint Paul Fuel is getting diesel and Jet-A on the barge, leaving no room for City resupply. City gas and diesel delivery is going to be spread out over three months; 110,000 of diesel mid-June and 65,000 of gas and 295,000 of diesel in July and 55,130 of diesel in August. The prices are both going down, need to look at calculations and loan. We purchased diesel

down over 70 cents and gasoline down about 13 cents. The plan will be to go through the supply that we have and get a new price.

Electric Utility: September next training for power operation. Looking to get Miron into hat training. The smart reader system is close to completion. At the time they were ordered we did not get enough so need to purchase more; next month will put together a budget amendment. Some homes could not be changed as their meter bases were corroded; a letter was sent that they needed to be changed. We have most of the meter bases here. Rich with Alpine Electric will be back to change them out. We were looking into a convenient prepay option for customers. We talked the service down from \$4,500 a month to \$2,000 with a \$20,000 down payment. Right now, the City can't afford it. Currently customers have the option to come to the window and prepay and ask about their account. Mayor Mercurief asked if guys were checking meters. There will be a hybrid where guys will check those meters that haven't been changed out. We'd need about 55 more meters to have as a backup. Connecting Trident to the grid, got all approvals from TDX, working on the cost with the engineers. The estimate right now is \$180,000.

CM Porath MOVED to waive the order of the day. Seconded by CM Kozloff.

Motion to approve carried by voice vote of 5 Ayes. Discussion moved to New Business Item F.

C. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report.

D. Finance Director

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

E. Grants/Project Specialist

Sterbenz provided a written report.

F. Fisheries Report

Mateo was in another meeting and unavailable to report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 23-08 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul for the Appointment of a New Council Member

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-08. Seconded by CM Kozloff.

An announcement requesting letters of interest was put out. One letter was received from Heidi Mercurief and no others came in. The council can choose to appoint her; the position has to be filled according to Ordinance.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-08 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes.

B. Swearing in of the New Council Member

Heidi Mercurief was not in attendance to be sworn in. She will be sworn in at the next meeting.

C. Resolution 23-09 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Apply to the EDA FY23 EDA Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-09. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief.

This just came up, EDA getting money for disasters. This would focus on relocating and building a new harbormaster office. Construction money usually doesn't include demolition, so it'd be up to us to do it. The marine sales shed has oil and pads. Once the package stock is gone, we are not ordering it again as we don't have the volume to support that function so we won't be selling anymore once it is gone.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-09 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes.

D. Resolution 23-10 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Apply to the RURAL CAP Thriving Communities Grant Program

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve Resolution 23-10. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief.

CM Melovidov stepped out of the meeting.

Various agencies have a Thriving Communities program. Most of it is focused on health. Zavadil checked with a few people on whether they were applying. Funding will pay for staff time but not construction. Tribe wanting to build educational program with a small garden. What this position would do for 3 years is help write grant to get things started for a community green house to produce and sell at cost to the community. Looking at a few other grants for construction. Working with a guy from Greenhouse Megastore to come up with a concept for the 1-acre lot by the fire station. A community greenhouse was brought up on the CEDs. There are many grants to do construction. The person would also set up to do a business plan. Conversation with Tribe they are moving towards education. Plan to reach out as an internship opportunity to a university student, someone who has experience. There is no cost match requirement. Mayor Mercurief asked what size greenhouse we'd have. It would be a 30 by 80 high tunnel design that would integrate waste heat from the fire station. The company is designing at no cost. A food security assessment was done by APIA and Tribe, the majority of people wanted a fresh produce option.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-10 fails by Roll Call vote of 3 Ayes with CM Porath voting No.

E. Block Approval of Required CDBG Grant Program Resolutions

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolutions 23-11, 23-12, 23-13. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

- 1. Resolution 23-11 - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Establish an Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Plan**
- 2. Resolution 23-12 - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Support Fair Housing for All Persons**
- 3. Resolution 23-13 - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Adopt and Implement Plan of Proposed Action to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing**

This is a requirement to get the CDBG grant. If we don't do it we can't finalize the grant.

MOTION to approve Resolutions 23-11, 23-12, 23-13 carried by Roll Call vote of 4 Ayes.

F. Resolution 23-14 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Approving MOA Between APIA and City for Placing a VPSO in Our Community

CM Porath Moved to approve Resolution 23-14. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief

Michael Nemeth with the APIA VPSO program wanted to make himself available for questions, thoughts, and concerns of having a Village Public Safety Officer back in Saint Paul. He gave some personal and professional background. Currently has two applicants with an officer in a community

that has a population decline interested in moving to Saint Paul. He is a solid candidate with fire and EMS background. In the last year and a half, the VPSO program has doubled. Program recently approved to provide up to two VPSOs in a community and thinks Saint Paul would benefit from having two. Michael will route the agreement at the end of the day if MOA is signed. Right now, don't have funding for Saint Paul but can write it into budget FY24, may be able to amend it. The VPSO in Adak is already in the budget and a transfer should not be an issue. The second position wouldn't be available until July 1. He will need to attend the Rural Basic Fire Fighter training and the three-week recert course in January in Sitka. In Chapter 5 of Ordinance, working with legal counsel on wording; it will take two readings. The Statewide VPSO program is three years retention and APIA program has been up to five years retention. APIA provides equipment, SAT phones and supplies. Their schedule is 7.5 hours a day but are on call 24/7. They are allowed a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the community. CM Porath asked if the VPSO would be Tribally sworn in. That conversation needs to be had with the Director of the program. Michael would be happy to speak again at an open meeting with public comment.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-14 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes.

Break was taken at 10:39AM

Back on Record at 10:53AM to continue with Reports section.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A. June 13, 2023, at 9AM/CY2023 Budget Amendment

Date to fit everyone's schedule was changed to June 20th.

B. July 18, 2023, at 9AM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Merculief MOVED to Adjourn. Seconded by CM Porath. MOTION carried by voice vote with 4 Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:27.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date