

**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 18, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky. CM Clarey MOVED to approve Minutes as a block. Seconded by CM Porath. Motion or amendment carried with 7 Ayes. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote with 7 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve minutes. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion carried by voice vote with 7 Ayes.

- A. December 15, 2022
- B. December 28, 2022
- C. October 26, 2022

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- A. None

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report to make.

B. Fisheries Report

Mateo Paz-Soldan provided an update on fishery issues. At the December North Pacific Council meeting, they took action significant to Snow Crab Fishery and Bristol Bay Red King Crab Fishery. Request for emergency action to restrict certain gear types. January through June period molting and mating – restrict fishing operations and gear types for that period – hope that over time the red king crab stock recovers. The council did not feel the request met the criteria as unforeseen or special event as fisheries has been in a situation for a while. A concern if adopted emergency action they could potentially create impacts elsewhere, such as salmon or halibut. The council did not take emergency action but did start a long-term action to take in ideas and recommendations of the crab industry. Snow crab upcoming NPC meeting taking final action on snow crab, low stocks. Making the argument that even at low levels the prices are high, the State and Council should consider having a fishery. Possible decision in the next couple of weeks. Related, is the work in Congress and with NMFS administration to secure a disaster declaration which took place on December 16. Disaster fisheries request, strong push and compelling argument, quick decision for emergency request, congress made determination needed to appropriate funding under section 3:12 to respond to disaster. Congress did act through Omnibus Appropriations Act in December 2022. The bill is over 4000 pages couple of provisions, one is 300 million dollars to respond to the fishing disaster, split among several fisheries nationwide. Congress made changes to section 3:12 to M. Stevens Act. Pushed for

clarification for funds to be used to replace lost municipal revenues. Until now there has been a restriction on use of disaster funds to cover lost municipal revenues. New language is that such funds can be used to replace municipal revenues.

Mayor Mercurief asked if a submersible drone can be used to scan the bottom to see how the crabs are doing.

Mateo does know that the industry is pushing for all methodologies so numbers are more accurate and might allow for seasons in the future.

Phil commented on the process for disaster relief – president sign spending bill? It is believed he has. NOAA will allocate monies to each fishery; state spending plan will need approval then a grant process that'll be developed at state level. Each process can take several months. Looking well into this year on any type of relief. The process will be monitored.

Mateo to have conversations with state and AFNG. Since that law is going to be changed, interested in reaching out beforehand to see if money can be allocated to cover lost municipal revenue.

Mayor Mercurief asked how the funds get split up between Alaska and Washington where crabbers are out of as well. Mateo – federal monies through NMFS through Pacific Marine funds that is funneling the funds pursuant to spend-plan by the state of Alaska. They didn't have a role in previous spend-plans but he can find out.

CM Melovidov commented that the State of Alaska determines the state spend plan. Industry agrees to have the disaster funds reflect the financial impact of how funds flow through participants in the fisheries. Washington not involved in the spend plan, but there will be Seattle based fishers who will get spend plan funds.

Mateo is working with CBSFA on comments on the proposed rule that will implement the halibut abundance-based management action adopted in December 2021. NMFS to write up proposed regulations and preamble which justifies action NPC took in December. 3.5 at time was a compromise, 4 was good, does result in significant bycatch. Was meaningful and an action that was supported. Rule to turn it into a law is out for public comment. Deadline February 7th.

At the October meeting on behalf of the City had the opportunity to work with some of other tribes to push for AK native advisory seats on the North Pacific Advisory Council. There will be a designated seat, the decision will be made in February, and they will be at the April council meeting. North Pacific Fisheries Management Council – hope to have 2 seats for natives and has been working on making it happen.

C. City Manager

Manager Zavadil introduced Police Sergeant John Murdock who arrived January 5th. Highlight grants EDA small boat harbor upgrade will be January 19th, not the 6th, it will run for 4 weeks and go through to make selection on who will complete engineering designs and architectural drawings. Due to federal rules, Polar Consult is not eligible to bid since they helped put together the grant proposal. Based on approval in previous council meetings working on finalizing USDA loan paperwork for elective utility upgrade to complete project work plan. The last load forecast was done in mid-2000s. Estimating March timeframe that loan paperwork will be finalized and able to start work on electric utility upgrades. Will forgo applying for a couple grants due to the cash requirements that would be needed. Met with departments on their budgets. Working with Murdock on working with DA office. Officer Recco's last day is February

2nd. A job announcement is out, got contact by someone interested. Not sure on getting someone here before Recco leaves, will do best to make that happen. State court trials coming up, the Rec Hall and council chambers will be used 24th-30th. At staff level, figuring out who may be out for jury duty to get their work covered. Calls for service are low; he will work with Murdock on calls for last year. Compiling data from the old RMS system and new Eforce system will take time.

Public Works - Shannon's last day is Friday, the position advertised, and interviews were being conducted. Budget meetings with all crews on conscious spending. Regular meetings are set to keep on top of projects and work orders. Did have an issue with the City backup generator not starting. Kyle did some diagnosing, check fuel filters, air filters, power, fuses. A Cummins tech is coming out as the engine is under warranty; they believe the electronic component is faulty. Installed in July 2021, not that old. Apply for funding to get the unit exposed. Motor Pool is working hard on garbage truck. Pumps slightly different, trying to make it work. Sewer truck working on getting a transmission. Borrowing some cutting edges for 160 from TDX.

Auction duck hunter snagged trucks, about 16000 dollars from the auction. Loader didn't go and f350, looking at how to advertise again. Motor pool will work with the person hired to get preventative maintenance schedule in Asset Essentials. Schedule is every 6 months to get oil change. Bulk fuel – ADC out in October did their inspection in tank farm. Did a joint exercise spill response. Did well have some minor things to fix. Get corrective actions in place by next month. Arm at truck rack an engineering issue. Applied to CDBG grant to include that fix. Joint exercise spill response working with Integrity to improve that. MOU with St Paul fuel that outlines that. Electric utility working on USDA loan; smart reader system working with Kyle and Carlos to figure what is going on. Need two \$50 fiber box. Goal is next couple months to get the system running and get off the Ampy system.

CM Bourdukofsky asked for a status of Powerplant? 2 generator Operating on unit 5, unit six needs a work in \$250,000 range. Backup on unit 6. 4160 going away will be 480. If USDA loan falls through will have to meet to come up with a plan to get cash.

CM Melovidov inquired if timing wise if the loan goes through what is best estimate to get installed. Manager Zavadil- fuel system is first in spring. Generator purchased tied to replacing switch gear-long lead item; ideally will be done next spring. Everything in the Powerplant is expensive, the loan will help cover needs. 6 needs to be overhauled. Will cost \$600,000. A new John Deere would be cheaper. 5 and 6 are CAT generators. Switch gear set up to convert electronic to analog.

Water system tanks are repaired and seem to be holding. Adrian feels confident he can address future leaks. Working on plan to address water-well building and treatment plant repairs - doors, sidings, to be done spring/summer. Put in a bulk order on chlorine. Pictures of corrosion from last meeting, temporarily remove chlorine tanks. Apply for state revolving loan funds to address water issues, they can get costly instead of waiting for village safe water funds.

Sewer- everything is working well. Waiting for work on lift stations. Temporary repairs right now on the station under the Tribe. Hoping this summer work will begin. Refuse -coming up with plan to replace burn box with incinerators. Will use walls of incinerators to make a new burn box. Fencing is needed at lagoon where pumper truck dumps. New landfill did receive the 3 million from federal funding based on ask from Murkowski's office, did not see grant paperwork yet. Once received, will develop new cell, put a burn box, road improvement to new

site. Still operate at old cite. Start migrating to new site. There is no word on when the funding will be out.

Mayor Mercurief inquired about plans for power at the new site. Yes, there are some buildings out there for power. Running an electrical line would be expensive.

CM Bourdukofsky inquired about what is being done to address the problem of home break-ins. Last break in there was an automatic weapon stolen. Right now, Murdock is investigating cases. Previous cases as mentioned in previous meeting, they were dismissed. Lack of evidence and cases went to Tribal Court. CM Bourdukofsky thinks there should be a reward for information, someone would come forward to give evidence. Right now, everyone claims they know who did it. Murdock – ongoing investigation, have the two cases, identified one suspect, can't be tied to the incidents. Inquiry in with Dimitri on performing warrantless searches. Waiting to hear back. There is not enough evidence to get a search warrant himself based on ongoing investigations. Still actively searching for the weapon.

Break taken 10:12AM. Back on Record at 10:25AM

D. City Clerk

CC Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions. No questions were asked.

E. Grants/Project Specialist

City to hire a contractor to write City Emergency Operations Plan. Lynn made a proposal to Phil that would like to change grant working – if allowed by state – limited part time position. Lynn worked for 13 years in emergency management. Has written a few plans. ½ time grant writer and ½ emergency response plan writer just for 2023. There will be no impact to the city budget, all grant funded. Will have enough funding to come to island to meet people and hold workshops.

Reviewed PowerPoint presentation, Successfully Awarded in 2023 slide. None for 2023. Pending applications – some can take up to a year for feedback. She will update everyone monthly on what she's heard back on. December 23rd submitted State of AK Homeland Security – building, infrastructure for communities – Pond and road flooding. She will write a grant for actual construction for work. This grant is preconstruction for design and engineering, cost benefit analysis prior. There is a 25% match that can be provided as in kind for staff support as well as for contractors and engineers to stay in housing or use a vehicle. At the end of November, community development block grant. Waiting to hear from US Dept. of Transportation.

Appropriations from Murkowski office, have 2 in. City Manager put in request to hear status. Planning assistance to state request to army Corp engineer for technical planning in navigations deficiencies in harbor. 50% match if city sponsor. 0% if tribe sponsor. At the end of 2022 a meeting with Tribe and Army Corp, agreement by Tribe to be the sponsor. Communication came to a halt in fall and Army Corp reached out to the Tribe and has not been able to get feedback response or documentation. The City Manager has a meeting with Pat today. Army Corp staff would work on the plan; with the Tribe sponsoring it there would be no money exchanging hands. The entrance of harbor, surge in the harbor to be studied. Mayor Mercurief questioned safety and roads, cash match or in kind between St Paul and St George. Lynn – it is a combined in kind a small portion is St George and the bulk is St Paul. St George able to offer

lodging and a vehicle. St Paul is the lead applicant with primarily our staff to support the project. CM Bourdukofsky asked if it was a regional grant and was that why St George was included. City Manager- we do get more points, reached out to Mark. Their needs are far greater than ours, though a way to address some of our needs as well. It doesn't typically include harbor, mainly streets and safety on roads.

Review Applications in Development slide – allowed 4 different proposals for State grant. Put in for small and main boat harbor another for training for city plan training to city staff and partners who'd be involved in disaster response. Proposal for search and rescue training. Adding 5th generator for fire. Another grant hazard mitigation – asking for 2 additional all hazard broadcast sirens. The feedback is that not everyone is able to hear the 2 installed last year. Ability to broadcast through local station. Construction phase of community pond construction phase project, to help mitigate against disasters. RAISE grant requires a cost benefit analysis. Going to ask for planning moneys to do it. Two opportunities to fund phase 1A, getting quotes from consultants. City Manager – community member asked about fixing houses. There are no grants to help with that. The City is working on making sure residents have water/power/sewer. City is not eligible for grants to fix up individual homes. The Tribal Government has funds for and has been doing it over the years. Residents have different programs they can access to fix their homes.

F. Finance Director

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

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old news discussed.

VIII. NEW 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 Porath moved to approve EO 23-90. Seconded by M Edenshaw.

There are no changes in the ordinance. City Manager Zavadil commented that there are various viral illnesses going around town. At the last meeting, the possibility of lifting the ordinance was discussed. There is a new variant on the rise, and Saint Paul is probably behind 5-6 weeks from the rest of the country. It is still a CDC recommendation to test before travel. The duck hunters have been vigilant on testing. It would be up to the Council to lift an ordinance, the City Manager can't. Low community wide on booster shots. Had couple people go to hospital with issues related to covid. Covid is still there, people know what to do. Lifting this would not require testing and hoping people know to do those things. Many people have been out sick with the flu.

CM Clarey mentioned that people know what to do. It would introduce a level of risk that we'd have to adjust if something happened.

An outbreak would be expected, with flu going around and people being out sick. Mayor Mercurief thinks it would be best to keep the measure for another month. Read some place dropping mandates if country does it, things are still going. CM Clarey mentioned that most of

country lifted their measure long ago, we keep saying hold on one more month. Mayor Mercurief commented that Alaska have uptick in cases. CM Clarey inquired, this is how is going to be for the rest of our lives, it's not going anywhere. How the flu is.

CM Melovidov brought up a study that tested the toilets of 29 planes and 28 were positive for Covid. He believes having the testing requirement is a low burden for a good benefit.

MOTION to approve Emergency Ordinance 23-01 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes with 2 Nays.

B. Resolution 23-01 - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul Authorizing to Apply for a US Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service, Rural Electric Program Loan for the Saint Paul Municipal Electric Utility Upgrades

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-01. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky.

Difference from previous Resolution is an increased amount up to 14 million. The increase is due, in part, to an increase in cost estimates. It will be an investment in the power plant that is in dire need, fund the replacement of all transformers that haven't been replaced in the last 23 years and is in various states of need. Work is necessary to get done. Cost overrun, airport feeder line, getting fiber line out there. Taking in more wind. And more alternative energy as it comes up. In conversations with John Lyons. To modernize it to better capture alternative energy in the future, have been looking for funds. The 8 million is still approved, just updated. CM Clarey asked how long it will take to pay it back. City Manager – 30 years with low interest. Possibly 2 ½ to 3%. Current ADA loan that'll be paid off in October. We can back out at any point, just keep going through the process, what loan included and payments, might have to reevaluate, still have opportunity to review before committed.

CM Melovidov asked about the airport heating if we're buying their power is City covering full cost. The city owns and maintains the distribution system. Inquired if there are discussions about TDX/City sharing cost.

CM Bourdukofsky worried about the large sum, can it be broken apart into phases. City Manager stated with a loan there is no match, we would pay interest and principal. We can only take in so much wind, generator needs at least a 40% load and doesn't like running low. A John Deere would allow for more load. Conservatively will savings in 40% in fuel. Making upgrades will drive down operating costs to be able to make payments on loan. When trident is at full capacity, they are 1000kw, trying to get them at hotel rate and running a line down there, they are open for discussion. Payments on loan would be fund 310. Can make a conscious effort to subsidize with general fund dollars. City Manager is comfortable City can make payments work. CM Melovidov stated with the loan amount, schedule, it's helpful the loan is structured for 30 years. City Manager commented that all systems are 40 years old. Tied to rates- there is one electric grant to run fiber line between wind farm and electric plant. The loan will make up the difference of cost to complete the project. Halt on grant to guarantee city has money to complete the project.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-01 carried by Roll Call vote of 7 ayes.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A. February 16, 2023, at 9:00 AM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

CM Porath MOVED to Adjourn. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky. Motion carried by voice vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:28AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date