

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Daniel Porath, Joseph Kozloff, Heidi Mercurief, Naomi Edensaw with Ray Melovidov on Zoom. CM Bourdukofsky was not in attendance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Second by CM Mercurief. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 6 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve the minutes of the June Regular Meeting. Second by CM Porath. There were no comments or questions. 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

Nothing to report.

B. City Manager

The City's new general engineering firm is KUNA Engineering. They have been helping with grant proposals and review of documents. For the electric utility, the City is still working with Electric Power Systems. Zavadil is scheduled to travel for meetings in Anchorage, funded by APEI.

Small boat harbor utilities, waiting on DNR to amend the patent for the leased tide lands. Also waiting for legal counsel on some language for TDX to put in the easement agreement to run utilities. The construction bid deadline has been extended, it should not affect the actual start date. Proof of ownership is needed once digging in started. CM Dan asked how close to the water line utilities will run and how seasonal activities will be affected. At the depth utilities will be, it shouldn't be an issue.

USDA loan documents were received.

USDA grant for airport feeder replacement, work order was issued on September 4th. Orders have been placed. The delay was the Build America Buy America Act, federal grants have to meet the requirements. Most of the electrical supplies to get in America have longer lead times. Had to wait and get approval from USDA to purchase out of country. Purchasing out of the country is saving hundreds of thousands of dollars and the lead times are quicker.

The new landfill, earth work is being done. The dump truck should be operational this week, the shift linkage broke. Scoria for the access road needs to be laid. Landfill equipment and materials arrived on Bowhead, waiting on new garbage truck and hook lift; they are currently being constructed. There were some design changes; some features were missing in slopes of the original design, due to erosion which created a big hole. The engineering firm will come out to do a topographic survey.

Bulk fuel facilities upgrade, by Monday EPS should have 95% design completed, awaiting on metering system on how it would work with credit card system. Norton Corrosion came out and checked wiring, Rich laid some wire to boost power. The system will have to be replaced in the next 3 to 5 years.

USDOT grant, Joe made it to Saint George in August and met with community and leaders. That information will be included in the draft plan. It will be available to review, and Council will need to do an adoption of the plan. Recently Mark Mercurief stated that they, Saint George, did not want to participate anymore. Zavadil met with the granting agency to figure out how to progress.

Thriving Communities technical assistance partners have been focusing on aviation challenges. They did a write up and are going to meet with DOT leadership in Washington. Meeting later today with the senate commerce team that had come out.

Village Safe Water lift station project received an additional \$331,000 in supplemental funding. The construction start date looks like November 1, waiting for the archaeology report to be approved.

Homeland Security grant, contract sent over today for the harbor security cameras.

Received a grant or local cyber security assessment. Issues with scheduling were resolved. Looking at where the City IT infrastructure may be vulnerable.

Due to plane cancellations, we need to reschedule preliminary engineering report onsite visit for KUNA to look at upgrades for water treatment plants and valve house, cast iron that runs through town. Grant award for the EPA resilience grant to replace treatment plant is about 90 days out. A position for a project manager was put in to free up existing staff.

Funding from Division of Forestry for the VOIP to ROIP box, converts 911 call to radio, was installed and tested. Once we have a VPSO, advertisements will be put out to inform people that 911 is available again. In the meantime, people should call the state troopers.

The harbor maintenance project was awarded to Western Marine Construction. Reached out to start talking about what their needs will be. Additional money is needed for rock work. Army Corp is working on that.

Public Safety, VPSO Swanson returned early from the academy, and resigned. A temporary VPSO will be on island by October 6. Scheduling a meeting with the VPSO director and Mike while in Anchorage to discuss issues. It would take an estimated million dollars to get a police force back, a rotating schedule is the norm, we'd need at least 4 officers to always keep two on island. Statistics show that it is less than 1% of our population that is causing the issues.

CM Melovidov asked about what can be done to provide coverage in the meantime with the Tribal Department of Community Safety and Peace. The department has changed since Phil ran it, so it is on the list to talk to the Tribe about. Zavadil is able to do citations; Candyfire is with the court as a navigator.

EMS provider resigned before coming back to the island. Allen Davis, who works with American Sea Food's, son came out temporarily to provide coverage. Right now, it is on the clinic to respond to calls. Held off on advertising position, hopefully get the crab disaster funds to move forward.

Roads are being graded when staff and weather allows. Reached out earlier in the year to the Tribe on D1, haven't heard back yet. The roads as they are now going to need major maintenance.

Waiting on parts for vehicles, the dump truck will hopefully be fixed this week. The compactor can't be repaired. The 926 is down with hydraulic issues. Awaiting a starter for the vacuum truck. The UD PTO shaft gave away, the replacement received was too long. The 140-excavator hose got caught and started leaking, a repair kit is on the way from Unalaska.

Bulk Fuel as of September 3 has an estimated 50,000 gallons of gasoline and 117,000 gallons of diesel fuel in tank 8 and 377,000 in tank 9. The new supply will bring the rate up a little. Waiting for the remaining of the delivery to set the new rates.

Electric utility, the inframe overhaul was completed. Trident was brought online with no issues. The surges that happened around the end of August, TDX was going to bring wind on line, there were issues with their load bank. Roy is here doing replacement on unit 5 rear main, will adjust unit 6. Load bank is 7 to 8 weeks out.

Water samples collected in August included coliform, HLA5 and nitrate. Didn't make the July coliform sample. Samples have to get out on a Tuesday to make it to the lab, with only 3 flights the whole of July, it was hard to get any samples out.

ANTHC came out in August to do a sanitary survey. There are a few things that need to be fixed such as the vents on the water tanks. ADC will say what's acceptable to correct. A corrective action plan will be created and submitted to DEC.

Water usage is still high, a water leak was found in an abandoned home and shut off but we are still beyond what we should be using.

Refuse inspection on current landfill to happen next year. The old burn box was taken down and the new one put in place. It is easier to clean out. Prepping for when the new landfill opens in 2028.

Alpine Electric wanted to renegotiate their contract. It is going to cost a little more. But it has been invaluable having them.

Break taken at 10:14AM.

Back on record at 10:24AM

C. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions.

D. Finance Director

Mandregan provided a written report and as available for questions.

E. Project/Grants Specialist

Sterbenz updated the council on grants since the last meeting, reviewing her written report. Three grants were awarded totaling \$20,136,265. Two EPA grants and a Denali Commission grant. Seven new applications were submitted totaling \$4,175,078. Projects include: a food waste reduction and composting initiative; a feasibility study of the harbor improvement and expansion project; a Saint Paul/George regional supplemental transportation equity plan; removal and disposal of abandoned and derelict vessels on Saint Paul; a gas cylinder hydraulic lifting hand truck and oxygen cylinder cart; community farm; harbor risk management and continuity of operations plan. There are 17 pending applications totaling \$61,591,166. There are two applications under development.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 24-02 First reading to amend the CCO by adding Title 13, Chapter 13.25 – Bulk Utility.

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Second by CM Edenshaw.

This new ordinance is to regulate and guide the bulk fuel operations, making it an official utility, which it currently does not have. CM Melovidov asked if the rate schedule would now be approved by council. They will be provided by resolution at the next meeting. The council would not have any control over interest rate.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

B. Ordinance 24-03 First reading to amend the CCO by revising Title 11, Chapter 11.05 – Public Works Departments.

CM Mercurief MOVED to approve. Second by CM Edenshaw.

This adds bulk fuel as a utility to the chapter.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

C. Ordinance 24-04 First reading to amend the CCO by revising Title 4, Chapter 4.30 – Uniform Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax.

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve. Second by CM Kozloff.

The City is a member of the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission. The commission recently made updates to their code; this ordinance updates the CCO chapter to reflect the Commission's code.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 5 Ayes and a No from CM Porath.

D. Resolution 24-11 authorizing to accept US Department of Agriculture RUS Rural Electric Program loan for the municipal electric utility upgrades.

CM Mercurief MOVED to approve. Second by CM Edenshaw.

This process was started back in November 2022 when the council was asked to authorize the City Manager to apply for a USDA Rural Utility Service Program loan. On February 27 a letter was received from USDA stating that the City was approved for a loan in the amount of \$13,695,000. It's taken until now to get all the loan documents. This resolution is to accept the loan. The upgrades include replacement of generators with John Deeres, getting unit 2 on

line, switch gear, fuel system, everything will be direct exhaust so the stack will go away, transformers, switching cabinets and other to make the plant more efficient. There is a process for legal counsel to write an opinion then money can be released.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

E. Resolution 24-12 affirming council review of revisions to the City Personnel Policy 12- Separation of Employment.

Mayor Mercurief MOVED to approve. Second by CM Mercurief.

This is to make policy consistent. In terminating someone for job abandonment, there were two different time frames in two different policies. Policy 12 stated 3 days, and the attendance policy stated 5 days. We follow the 5 days.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

F. Resolution 24-13 affirming council review of revisions to City Personnel Policy 03.06- Differential Pay.

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Second by CM Edenshaw.

With emergency dispatch differential pay was used, if they worked graveyard or weekend they would get an added wage to their normal wage, an additional \$1.75. This is an option that would allow for differential pay for permanent employees doing secondary duties permanently. It allows for more flexibility and incentive while becoming more efficient.

Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

CM Kozloff MOVED to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation update. Second by CM Mercurief. Motion carried by Roll Call vote with 6 Ayes.

CM Porath excused himself.

The Council went into Executive Session at 11:35AM

The Council came out of the Executive Session at 11:45AM.

There was no action taken.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

Next regular meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2024 @ 9AM

Budget and Regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2024 @ 9AM

X. ADJOURNMENT

CM Mercurief MOVED to adjourn. Second by CM Edenshaw. There were no comments or questions. Motion was carried by Voice vote with 5 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56M.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date