

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 30, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 1:06PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Joseph Kozloff, Heidi Mercurief, Ray Melovidov, Jason Bourdukofsky, Daniel Porath and April Kushin.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Melovidov 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 5 Ayes.

IV. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION

CM Mercurief MOVED to Certify the election results. Second by CM Bourdukofsky. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was CARRIED by a Voice Vote with 5 Ayes.

V. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBERS

Daniel Porath and April Kushin were sworn in as City Council members.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CM Bourdukofsky MOVED to keep Status Quo. Second by CM Melovidov. There were no comments or questions. Motion was CARRIED by Voice Vote with 7 Ayes.

VII. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was no one to address the Council.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Mayor

While at AFN, networked with Representative Peltola, and Senators Murkowski and Sullivan.

B. City Manager

Provided highlights from written report. Fisheries disaster funding is expected next week; it is not known yet how much after commission deductions. For the 23/24 disaster the second draft for the spend plan has come out, Saint Paul has 1% extra to be divided between TDx, City and the Tribe.

USDA loan grant documents have been mailed, waiting on our legal counsel to provide the opinion that City has the legal authority to enter a loan agreement with the government.

Did receive \$125,000 in reinvestment fund for healthy food finance initiative planning grant. Going to look at the concept of a big greenhouse, part of it is doing a feasibility study and business plan.

Contractors for the harbor project plan to start in 2026 as they wait for the additional funding the Army Corp is trying to get for the rock work. They may start mobilizing next year to stage supplies.

Mike Nemeth provided input on the VPSO program. The VPSO position notice was posted on Indeed, there are 61 applicants for the two Saint Paul positions. Throughout the state, law enforcement is experiencing staffing issues.

C. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions.

D. Finance Director

Provided a written report. Noted that the City did have some audit findings this year. Worked to rectify them so they do not happen again.

E. Grants/Projects Specialist

Sterbenz provided a written report and was available for questions.

F. Fisheries and Lobbying Report

Paz-Soldan provided a written report.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 24-02 Second reading, Public hearing and Adoption, to amend the CCO by adding Title 13, Chapter 13.25-Bulk Fuel Utility.

CM Melovidov MOVED to approve. Second by CM Kozloff.

This Ordinance adds a Bulk Fuel Utility chapter to the City Code of Ordinance.

Motion CARRIED by Roll Call Vote with 6 Ayes, and 1 Abstain from CM Porath.

B. Ordinance 24-03 Second reading, Public Hearing and Adoption, to amend the CCO by revising Title 11, Chapter 11.05- Public Work Departments.

CM Bourdukofsky MOVED to approve. Second by CM Melovidov.

This Ordinance amends the current chapter, adding Bulk Fuel as a utility.

Motion CARRIED by Roll Call Vote with 6 Ayes, and 1 Abstain from CM Porath

A. Ordinance 24-04 Second reading, and Public Hearing, to amend the CCO by revising Title 4, Chapter 4.30- Uniform Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax.

CM Merculief MOVED to approve. Second by CM Bourdukofsky.

This Ordinance updates the Chapter to mirror the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission edits.

Motion CARRIED by Roll Call Vote with 5 Ayes, and 2 Nos from CMs Porath and Bourdukofsky.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Isabelle Knoll from Altman, Rogers and Co. provided a review of the financial statement report. The City received an unmodified opinion for the December 31, 2023 financials, which is the highest opinion one can get. It means all materials are presented fairly and in accordance with auditing standards.

B. Joe Rolfzen with KUNA Engineering presented on the draft Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. It is available for review online for input before it is finalized by January 2025. Utilized

information gathered from public meetings in Saint Paul and Saint George. When being developed, the plan can be utilized to provide support for transportation projects. Some goals included are commitment to the vision zero plan to eliminate and reduce fatal accidents or crashes and the safe systems approach which meets metrics and milestones included in the plan tool review. For Saint Paul, some of the components include modernizing existing transportation infrastructure for all users, safety to include lighting, drainage, signage and road conditions.

C. David Peters and Jessica Mimbs presented on the Thriving Communities Program and informed the council of a community meeting taking place later in the day. Four Organizations make up their team, the Ray, Arcadis, InfaStragies and Beverly Scott LLC, that the City of Saint Paul was assigned to as part of the first cohort of communities to provide no cost technical assistance for 2 years focused on transportation. Will work with the City to help identify and develop projects that could help the community thrive. There is eight months left in the program.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

CM Porath excused himself.

CM Melovidov MOVED to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation update. Second by CM Merculief. Motion to approve was CARRIED by Voice Vote of 6 Ayes.

Council went into Executive Session at 2:06PM
Council came out of Executive Session at 2:47PM
There was no action taken.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

Fisheries workshop scheduled for November 12, 2024 @ 9AM
Budget workshop and Regular meeting scheduled for November 26, 2024 @ 9AM & 1PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

CM Merculief MOVED to adjourn. Second by Mayor Merculief. There were no comments or questions. Motion was CARRIED by Voice Vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date