

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 27, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:05AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Daniel Porath, Heidi Mercurief, Joseph Kozloff, Raymond Melovidov and Jason Bourdukofsky. Councilmember Edenshaw joined at 9:18AM.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 6 Ayes.

IV. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report.

B. Fisheries

The Spend Plan for the 21/22 and 22/23 seasons was finalized and filed by the state on January 11th. It will go to NMFS and the Office of Management and Budget for review, it can take several months. In the plan, Saint Paul, after a lot of work, got a 5% community allocation in addition to a 1% allocation specific to Saint Paul that will be split among the City, Tribe and TDX. On January 5th the state of Alaska submitted a request for disaster determination for the 23/24 snow crab fishery season, it included the City's request. There is no news yet from the Secretary of Commerce on that determination. The North Pacific Council will begin review of the crab rationalization program. It's been almost 20 years since the program was put into place. Questions arising about whether the program needs to be amended to provide for greater flexibility year to year. At the upcoming June meeting, the NPC will review a discussion paper compiled by the City that includes a lot of information about the community and its participation in the fishery and mechanisms that protects the community such as regionalization rights of first refusal. If there are efforts to change the community protection requirements there will be information to substantiate and defend them. It is possible that after the discussion paper is presented new actions may come out of it. Nothing is certain. One is making regionalization more flexible, and the other is binding arbitration. Litigation surrounding Amendment 123, Saint Paul worked on to get through the council, it is being challenged in court by Amendment 80, ground fish trawlers. The Halibut Defense Alliance was formed by a number of halibut dependent interests. On February 21st its motion to intervene on the side of NMFS (defendant) has been accepted by the district court in Anchorage. The Halibut Defense Alliance will be able to support NMFS and the Department of Justice as they defend the case with a greater expertise of the fishery. The next step is for the Department of Justice and NMFS to produce an administrative record and file a response to Amendment 80's complaint and give their version of why Amendment 123 does not violate the law as claimed by Amendment 80.

C. City Manager

Zavadil provided a written report. CM Melovidov asked how long the EAS contract is for. It is for 2 years. Meetings February 28th with RAVN and EAS.

D. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report.

E. Finance Director

Mandregan provided a written report.

F. Project/Grants Specialist

Sterbenz provided a written report.

G. Public Safety

1. Emergency Medical Services

Nason provided a written report.

2. Village Public Safety Officer

Davis provided a written report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. 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 Kozloff MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Mercurief.

Second reading and public hearing. Any changes to the sales tax ordinance needs three readings but it does not need to go to the public. This lifts the exemption of sales tax of vessels 42 feet and under. CM Bourdukofsky stated that he felt input was needed from the local fishermen.

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.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 24-06 – Affirming Council Review of City Personnel Policy 04.02-Holidays and Directing City Administration to Implement the Policy

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

A small way to benefit the employee's moral. It's not a big impact on the budget, recommended to add President's day and Berry Holiday.

Motion to approve was carried by Roll Call vote of 6 Ayes with a No vote from CM Bourdukofsky.

B. Resolution 24-07 - To Apply for the USDOT’s FY24 RAISE Grant program for the City South North Docks and Piers, Harbormaster Office, and Harbor Road Planning Project

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky.

Replaces Resolution 24-04 for the same grant. Resolution 24-07 includes the harbor master office which was not included in Resolution 24-04 for planning. Part of the planning process includes having public meetings so there will be discussions on the road and possible alternative designs. Going to construction, at least 95% of the design needs to be done and this will help with that process. Looking forward to conversations on alternatives, looking at the area, it makes sense to have more space when there are cruise ships coming in and the community activity that goes on down at the small boat harbor.

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. March 27, 2024, at 9:00 am
- B. April 30, 2024, at 9:00 am

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CM Porath MOVED to adjourn. Seconded by CM Melovidov. Motion was carried by Voice vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date