

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 26, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 1:04PM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Second by CM Bourdukofsky. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was CARRIED by a Voice Vote with 7 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Porath MOVED to approve City Council minutes for September 18 and October 30. Second by CM Mercurief. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was CARRIED by a Voice Vote with 7 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was no one to address the Council.

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor Mercurief gave an update on getting a call from Senator Sullivan congratulating the City on receiving the harbor project funding.

B. City Manager Zavadil updated council on snow crab processing, crab will be taken to Unisea in Unalaska. There is an exemption contract that needs to be reviewed, approved and signed by stakeholders. Unalaska will collect taxes for Saint Paul.

Met with Thriving Communities partners and FAA, talking about making sure equipment was maintained and possibly upgraded. Will work on identifying what needs to be upgraded. Working on getting a tailored instrument approach procedure specific to what's available at Saint Paul airport. It was done in Atka last year and the pilots appreciate it. The current one is generalized and would be worked on by a FAA certified private company. It would take some time. With a cost of about \$200,000, funding is needed to get it started. Then it would require FAA approval. St. Paul Fuels passed their fuel audit, they are closer to start fueling RAVN again.

USDA RUS loan – grantor had a technical change; the City had to resign paperwork and resend. Some materials arrived for the USDA Airport Feeder grant and the start date is a May timeframe.

Bulk fuel facility upgrade – KUNA did an independent review of the drawings. After thanksgiving bid documents should go out.

Sewer lift stations – a categorical exclusion was out for a 20-day public comment. Assuming there are no comments, construction funds will be released.

Minutes
November 26, 2024

Safer streets for all – KUNA presented last meeting. There will be a project matrix for Saint Paul. They are scheduled to arrive on the island to hold a community meeting. KUNA is working on the preliminary engineering report for upgrades to the treatment plant, valve house and should have a draft this next month.

Resilience grant – grant agreement should be in place this next month as well as the Pollution Reduction grant for the battery system for the electric utility and wind generation upgrades.

Received funding, \$16,000, for public safety radio equipment.

Attended onboarding webinar for the healthy food initiative planning grant for the green house.

Last year applied for technical assistance from EPA. Eastern Research group will be doing a preliminary engineering report on the outfall. Looking at upgrading the East Landing septic tanks and a clean-out. CM Bourdukofsky had a concern about seeing an employee alone while inside the lift station. Zavadil will talk to the employee.

State of Alaska Service Line Inventory grant – next week KUNA will be going house to house, downtown, to inventory current service lines to be entered into an online database. Will document material type with a focus on potential lead then be able to look for funding for possible upgrades.

We have unofficial notice that the City received the Port Infrastructure grant for 11 million to upgrade City South dock.

USDOT Safer street for all supplemental grant will be to perform safety audits. Will look at drainage, develop a lighting plan and look at transportation equity assessment.

Insurance – two different membership pools merged into one, the new insurance pool called the Alaska Public Risk Alliance (APRA) will take effect on July 1. It will give more bargaining power to get better rates. A crew to address the Typhoon Merbok damage will arrive next week to work on damages.

Public Safety – additional applicants getting background checks. Don't have a timeframe on when they'll be completed. Will check next week for a status. Trooper on island escorted two residents out with him when he left.

Public works – roads were graded, still waiting to hear from Tribe on material for the roads.

Motor pool – compactor is still down. Engine-two throttle pedal assemble needs to be replaced. 926 loader, a part is needed to diagnose the hydraulic issues, ordering cutting edges for the 966 loader and getting to customer workorder in between repairs.

Bulk Fuel utility – will have rates next month. The complication is we purchase fuel upfront, insurance based on a state calendar year, every year we don't sell the fuel it carries over. And maintenance and inspections run on a different schedule and correct rates needed to cover. In 2026 there are 4 tank inspections and if there are repairs needed, we would not want to raise the prices drastically to cover. We need to plan everything out to have a steady price.

Electric utility – the power outage on the 9th was due to operator error, the fuel tank was not filled. It is on a 3,000-gallon tank due to having to shut down the line between the truck rack and 10,000-gallon tank due to inspector recommendation because of unknown status of the line; a leak would be worse. The bypass system that was in place failed last year and dumped

fuel back into the 10,000-gallon tank and stirred up everything causing a power outage. Filling the tank is a priority.

Sewer utility – APDES permit, met with the director of water. The permit was extended by administrative order decades ago, waiting on that documentation. They will help with the training necessary to comply. Will be required to take samples of wastewater and submit. We don't have any level requirements. Work with APIA and ANTHC.

C. City Clerk Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions.

D. Finance Director Mandregan provided a written report and was available for questions.

E. Grants/Projects Specialist Sterbenz provided a written report.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Third Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 24-04 – An Ordinance of the City of Saint Paul Amending the CCO by Revising Title 4, Chapter 4.30 – Uniform Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax. CM Merculief MOVED to approve. Second by CM Kozloff.

This Ordinance updates the City's current Chapter 4.30 Uniform Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax to reflect the Alaska Remote Sellers Sales Tax Commission of which the City is a member.

Motion CARRIED by Roll Call Vote with 6 Ayes, and 1 No from CM Porath.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 24-14 – A Resolution of the City of Saint Paul to Provide Requested Electric Utility Data to the USDA Rural Utility Service.

CM Bourdukofsky MOVED to approve. Second by CM Kushin.

This Ordinance allows for information to be shared for the purpose of the USDA RUS loan.

Motion CARRIED by Roll Call Vote with 7 Ayes.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session held.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A budget workshop was scheduled for December 19 at 9AM with a Regular Council meeting at 1PM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

CM Melovidov MOVED to adjourn. Second by CM Merculief. There were no comments or questions. Motion was CARRIED by Voice Vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date