

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 12, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Daniel Porath, Joseph Kozloff, Raymond Melovidov, Naomi Edenshaw; Council member Jason Bourdukofsky arrived later. A quorum was established.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Seconded by CM Edenshaw. Motion to approve the agenda carried by voice vote with 5 Ayes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

CM Porath MOVED to approve March 14, 2023, minutes. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion to approve the minutes carried by voice vote with 5 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

A. None

VI. REPORTS

A. Mayor

No report

B. Grants/Project Specialist

Sterbenz due to travel to island April 24th, weather permitting. Reviewed Grants and Contracts Update PowerPoint. Awarded since last month were \$850,000 from AK Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for Bulk Fuel Facility/Dispensing Tankage Upgrade Project; verbal confirmation to provide matching funds is awarded CDBG, up to \$500,000 from AK Energy Authority for the same project; USDOT 2 years Technical Assistance, Planning, and Capacity Building.

Applications submitted include request of \$3,000,000 each to Senator office for New Harbor Office and Army Corps of Engineers General Investigation Study of the Harbor Channel; \$15,000 to AK Dept. of Health Division of Public Health for EMS and \$165,000 for EMS and \$5,000 with American Sea Foods for Food Preservation courses. CM Melovidov asked if there was a timeframe on spending the \$165,000 if we received it for EMS. There is a timeframe.

Application currently being worked on include: 5 with the Alaska Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management for the purchase of sirens, flood mitigation project, new harbor master office, building codes and standards, and Typhoon Merbok damage recovery. There is one with the US Department of Transportation for City South dock improvements and expansion, one with the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA for harbor continuity of operations plan, one with Economic Development Administration for economic diversification plan to be paused, and one with USDA Rural Utility Services for electric utility upgrade.

Mayor Mercurief asked about similar requests if we received one would we get the other. He was informed that if we received one, we would decline the other.

C. City Manager

Presenting his submitted written report, Zavadil informed Council the Chief has resigned and will be moving back to Utah, his last day is April 20th. Updates were done to the City website and Covid response page. Sterbenz updates the website and Wegeleben keeps the Facebook page up to date.

Coastal Energy Impact Program (CEIP) 1987 loan for dock work repayment status in moratorium, seeking to get the loan forgiven. Mateo when went to DC with CBSFA reps he met with some NOAA people, put together a letter to send to the Secretary of Commerce. Will follow up with the secretary and her staff as it may take a couple of months to process it through the system.

We have the grant for the small boat harbor utilities. Request for proposal for the design and engineering aspect; we received only one. EDA said we needed at least 3. If we choose to move forward with only one, we might have to cover costs. Proposal submitted good for 90 days. March 17, we reissued the proposal. If we don't get 3 we will figure out what to do. Sent it to a dozen firms in Alaska. Took out the budgeted amount for engineering portion, made clarification on project inspection. Waiting for proposals to come in.

USDA loan, financial forecast getting done. Waiting for environmental review documents that were sent to USDA. Once they comment, on to the next phase is more paperwork. Safe Streets -attended a couple webinars. DOT has us preparing our own grant agreement – Lynn is working on it.

The landfill will have to close out when the new site is opened. It can be used as a staging area. New heavy equipment that will get operated out there. New fencing, burn box. Next summer core is on board with doing the maintenance work on the harbor. Use some dredge material for the landfill. They estimate 140 thousand cubic yards of dredge material. CM Melovidov asked about unheated bays, expensive to run power. Do we need power to operate it? Zavadil said utilities were taken out of the plans due to expense. It's highly unlikely we'll be able to get money to run utilizes out there. The old design was utilized and modified. Polar updated based on the money we had available.

CBDG grant – more environmental review paperwork to complete. Sought help with Alaska municipal league. Lynn and he are working through to hopefully have paperwork finished by the end of the month. Construction on bulk utility next year construction. CM Melovidov asked about USDA loan on upgrades. 14 million seemed bigger than last time. The first resolution was 8 million updated to 14 million after getting accurate price quotes on everything. Zavadil informed him that it was the new John Deeres, fuel system upgrades, transformers etc. CM Bourdukofsky was concerned about the two new tanks. They need to be painted, by the time we get grants we may have to replace them.

Public works – Jared moved over to facilities maintenance. Power Plant Operator position announced. The powerplant operator Miron selected started on April 3. Operator power plant training. Online and going to AVTEC.

Maintenance operation – The emergency backup generator had a part replaced but still didn't work. Techs coming out to evaluate. Roof repairs at motor pool building. Looking for new material. The black tar dries and cracks. Looking at turbo polyseal until we find money to replace it. Road grading has been tough. Request sent out for scoria and D1. Out towards Southwest Nick did take a pass. Patrick with tribe responded asking what areas need additional material. If they can contribute the material, we can get it down on the roads.

Motor pool – garbage truck we went with the Honda hydraulic pump.

Bulk fuel – As of March 3, 2023, City has 34,631 gallons of gas and 201,863 gallons of diesel. June delivery working with Vitus Marine over 40,000 gallons of gas

Electric – working to get Trident connected to the grid. Have a final design. Dean working with TDX for approval on 3 different designs. Transformer – Trident has 750kda on hand. Once we have a final design, we get more information on when things can be purchased. New smart reader system. The past week the guys have gone out to change meters out. Don't have enough meters, working on how many additional are needed. In 2001 meters were purchased 120 volt, we'll look into selling them. System will help narrow down issues based on meter readings. A brief notice was put out. Some customers' meter boxes were too corroded to be worked with. Will be following up with customers on a discounted cost to replace. We do have some meter bases on hand that can be used, we'll still need to order some. We own the Ampys, they are not made anymore. City can look into selling them to a community who still uses them. Looking into a system called PayGo for customers to use for the electric. Different rules can be put into the system such as grace periods. There are all kinds of options to make the system flexible so that power doesn't go out. It can send notifications on power credits. Cost was 4500 a month, we are trying to talk them down.

Water – samples sent out for March; report provided. April 3 lead and copper samples sent out. There was an error, so another kit was sent to do samples. 5.7 million gallons of water used in March. Can look at in general what an average US household uses. CM Melovidov commented the usage was high, 144 homes using 500 gallons a day. CM Porath asked about homes with busted water pipes as with the Harbor master incident. Zavadil will get with Adrian to see if abandoned homes water turned off. asked about update on disaster declaration on the crab crash. Phil – there is no update, spend plan through final review. Haven't heard of any money being allocated for snow crab disaster. Filed for public disaster, last week of April a FEMA team will be here to do a site inspection. Fire station roof temp repair. End of the month a more permanent repair. Damage to city hall will be under insurance. Public bid process to get the repairs done. Get money recovered in labor cost, not spend our own money. Ray commented on Sierra article attacking city manager. We currently have a resolution contingent upon getting updates from tribe on sanctuary. How is the communication between tribe and city? CEDS discussion, NOAA meet regarding prime and sanctuary. Mateo and jeff attended. Conflicting statements on what is happening with PRIME. Ray has concerns about what people understand and how it affects the industry. Affect Trident willingness to invest in Saint Paul.

Public Safety – no equipment needs, 2 operational vehicles with 1 being worked on. Funding for saferoom is still in the works, unsure of a time frame. Dispatch is down 1 dispatcher. Dispatchers are working 12hr shifts. Parascovia is in training. Need to hire or promote a supervisor. Currently one sworn LEO. One CSO applicant in the later stages of application process. Officer Recco is to arrive tomorrow. Chief position opens on the 19th.

March 29 tsunami drill. School drill orderly and quick. Some challenges identified were messaging during and all clear after. One community member thought it was real and came to the city hall. Nixle and radio messaging went out with no issues. Voice messaging over the siren was hard to hear. CM Bourdukofsky asked about the officers. Advertising for an officer for months. Hiring a CSO today. Interview tomorrow with a potential officer. Agencies in the lower 48 have bumped up their pay, making the market very competitive. Looking into siren for senior center and school. Messaging depends on where you are and the wind direction. We are looking at more sirens and integrating television.

D. City Clerk

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

E. Finance Director

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

F. Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

Presenting his submitted written report, Chief informed Council there were no equipment needs. Of the three patrol vehicles, two are operational and one is being worked on. Funding for safe room is still in the works. Dispatch is down one dispatcher and doing 12- hour shifts. Parascovia Hapoff was recently hired. Another option for dispatch is still in the works. A CSO is in the hiring process. Officer Recco is scheduled to arrive April 13 and stay a month.

The tsunami drill went well. The school performed an evacuation drill to the City Hall. The sirens were sounded with a test message. The test went out over Nixle, and it was announced over the radio. Some challenges identified were during the exercise and all clear after. There was an individual who thought the drill was real and came to the City Hall. The majority of people who answered the survey after the drill were able to hear the siren but not the messaging. Work on how to expand notifications beyond Nixle and the radio and Facebook.

Advertisements for an officer have been out for months; there is an interview for the position within the week. Many agencies in the lower 48 have increased their pay for an officer, it is a very competitive market. Reviewed Public Safety stats and calls. Currently working on grants to get sirens/light to can be mounted on buildings.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 23-06 A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul to Apply for the USDHS FEMA FY23 PSGP and Provide Required Matching Funds

CM Melovidov MOVED to approve Resolution 23-06. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

Apply for funding to develop a plan on how the port would be used in the future. There is a 25% cost share, it would be all in-kind. Get a plan in place that looks at what needs there are and how to work on improvements. There are little things that need to be thought out and prepared for such as emergencies.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-06 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes.

B. Resolution 23-07 A Resolution of the Council of Saint Paul for the Appointment of a New Council Member

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-07. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

There is an open seat on the council. Resolution is to give direction to City Clerk on how council wanted to fill it. There are a couple options to fill a vacant seat, through special election or through appointment. The appointment option was identified to the council as the most feasible. With approval of the resolution, advertising for the vacant seat can be posted asking for letters of interest.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-07 carried by Roll Call vote of 5 Ayes.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session held.

X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A. May 16, 2023, at 9AM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

CM Edenshaw MOVED to Adjourn. Seconded by CM Porath. MOTION carried by voice vote with 5 Ayes.
The meeting adjourned at 10:58.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date