

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
DATE: June 17, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present: Mayor Franke, Council Members Conrad, Swenson, Whitbred-Hemmingson and Zenner. Also present: City Administrator Walsh.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2024, Regular Council Meeting—waive reading of same.

**Motion by Swenson, second by Whitbred-Hemmingson to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024, regular council meeting—waive reading of same. Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2024, Council Workshop Summary—waive reading of the same.

**Motion by Swenson, second by Zenner to approve the summary of the April 15, 2024, council workshop—waive reading of same. Motion carried 5-0.**

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Michael Mulroney, 6191 Crackleberry Trail, Woodbury, representing Jay Moser, 701 Broadway, owner of Duffy's, who was out of town on business. Mulroney stated that there were some traffic concerns with the roadways and how to get fuel trucks or vehicles with trailers safely in and out of their parking lot. He asked if they could meet with the council at a future workshop to discuss different ideas to bring to Washington County.

Mayor Franke asked Mulroney to email City Administrator Walsh with the information so they could talk to people at Washington County that would need to be involved.

PRESENTATION– SWCTC

Ann Schweisguth, interim executive director, and Lonnie Garland, assistant interim executive director, noted that they have a Joint Powers Agreement between the cities of St. Paul Park, Woodbury, Cottage Grove, Newport, and Grey Cloud Island. Patrick Downs is the city's representative on the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission (SWCTC). After 40 years, they will be rebranding with a new logo, which will launch in 2025.

Due to cord-cutting and broadband competition, franchise and PEG fees have been decreasing over the last several years. They have been working on diversifying their funding sources, and they have renewed their franchise agreement with Comcast. They recently received approval for a low-power FM radio station. They have three years to get the radio station running, so they are currently in the planning stages and more information will be available in the future.

AUDIT PRESENTATION– SMITH SCHAFER

The auditors from Smith Schafer reported that the city had a very clean audit, and there were no concerns. He presented the summary of the financial statements. Property taxes represented the city's largest revenue category in 2023, and public safety items were the city's largest expenditure category in 2023.

The firm gave an unmodified opinion, the highest that is given, and there were no exceptions to legal compliance noted. The only risk noted was that duties are not fully segregated, but that is very common in smaller cities. He also noted that Financial Director Santana-Marty was very responsive to them when they were going through the financial documents.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Acknowledge receipt of Commission Minutes
  - Parks & Recreation Commission–May 9, 2024
- B. Approve contract with the Youth Service Bureau and amend budget as necessary
- C. Appoint Jeff Haggerty to the Planning Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2024
- D. Appoint Brandon Lara to the Public Works Commission with a term to expire December 31, 2027
- E. EDA Recommendation
  - Adopt Resolution No. 1716, a resolution regarding the St. Paul Park EDA enabling resolution (no changes)
- F. Approve payment of bills for the period May 22 through June 18, 2024
- G. Approve Special Event Permit for Broadway Bar & Grill, Higher Ground Wrestling June 29, 2024
- H. Approve Special Event Permit for American Legion, band and wrestling events August 16-18, 2024
- I. Approve Special Event Permit for Heritage Days, August 16-18, 2024
- J. Approve purchasing replacement SCBA's for the Fire Department using one-time public safety aid in the amount of \$240,988 and amend the budget as necessary

**Motion by Swenson, second by Whitbred-Hemmingson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

REPORTS:

- A. Council Member Swenson
  - Public Works Commission
    - ⇒ The next meeting is June 18 at 5 pm at City Hall
- B. Council Member Zenner
  - Public Safety Commission
    - ⇒ The next meeting is June 20 at 7 pm at City Hall
- C. Council Member Conrad
  - Planning Commission
    - ⇒ The next meeting is scheduled for July 8

D. Council Member Whitbred-Hemmingson

- Parks & Recreation Commission
  - ⇒ The next meeting is scheduled for July 11
  - ⇒ Additional members are still needed
  - ⇒ They are looking at dates for Movies In The Park

E. Council Member Conrad

- Heritage Days Committee
  - ⇒ They are still taking applications for food trucks, the craft fair, and the expo
  - ⇒ The next meeting is scheduled for June 24 at Heritage Building at 5:30 pm

F. Mayor Franke

- Administration
  - ⇒ City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:

Council Member Whitbred-Hemmingson noted that there has been some vandalism at the city's parks. She asked people to report it if they see anything.

Meeting adjourned 7:14 p.m.

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Amy Truhlar  
City Clerk

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