

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
September 3, 2024

*Workshop meetings are informal discussion style meetings that are open to the public. No official city business is conducted; therefore, official minutes are not kept. The summary below is provided for informational purposes only. It has been generated from notes and **is not** a comprehensive report of workshop discussions and events.*

Workshop called to order at 5:47 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Mayor Franke, Council Members Conrad, Swenson, Whitbred-Hemmingson, Zenner (via Zoom).

Also present: City Administrator Walsh, Finance Director Santana-Marty, and City Clerk Truhlar.

SUBJECT(s): 2025 Preliminary Budget

SUMMARY:

Finance Director Santana-Marty explained that she had presented the City Council with three different budget options. The first option was what was presented at the budget workshop in August. The second option removed the additional police officer and the electronic sign. Option three removed the additional police officer and the electronic sign, and reduced costs more by looking at other options for purchasing equipment.

It was noted that in 2025 there will be a decrease of \$240,000 in intergovernmental revenue as discussed at the last meeting. In option 1 that loss is made up for with taxes, and with options 2 and 3 that loss is made up for with cuts to other parts of the budget.

The electronic sign would be a one-time cost and could help to increase communication with residents. The council suggested that some of the cost for the sign could come from the city's fund balance instead of being a line-item in the budget.

There was discussion regarding whether a new squad car was needed and operational vs. capital budgets. The department is currently at 9 officers, and the council asked if there was justification for another officer. The council asked for data regarding the police fleet (age, model, miles, etc.).

The consensus was to go with budget option 2 and get the electronic sign using the fund balance. The council will approve the preliminary budget at the next regular city council meeting on September 16, 2024.

Workshop adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Truhlar, City Clerk