

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DATE: April 1, 2024

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

The pledge of allegiance was said by all.

MINUTES:

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

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

MASONIC LODGE #118:

Steven the secretary for the Masonic Lodge #118. He introduced several masons from the lodge, including Mayor Franke, as well as some masons from other lodges in the area. He noted that Lodge #118 was chartered in 1876 and moved to St. Paul Park in 1914. They are residents of this and surrounding communities and are committed to making this a better and safer place for everyone. With this commitment in mind, they have donated 4 fire suppression units to the St. Paul Park Police Department, and 2 units to the St. Paul Park Fire Department. Their goal was to also equip Newport, the Washington County Sheriff's squads assigned to Newport, the assigned squads to Grey Cloud Island and Denmark Township, and the assigned squads which service the lower St. Croix Valley area. He explained that these units were small, compact, state-of-the-art devices that could suppress a fire in a contained area in less than one minute, which would help save structures and lives. The Masons of Minnesota have donated 196 of these units throughout the state. Due to the generosity of the Grand Lodge and Minnesota Masonic charities, they can raise \$300 and purchase a unit that usually costs \$1,000.

Police Chief Danberg reported that the day after the Washington County Sheriff's Office received one of these devices, it was used at a fire in St. Paul Park. The St. Paul Park Fire Department was then able to rescue two dogs that were in the home. With these 4 devices, the St. Paul Park Police Department will be able to put one in each of their primary squad cars. Fire Chief Kramer expressed his thanks to the Masonic Lodge for the fire suppression units. He added that they are another great tool to have should they ever be needed.

It was noted that the units have a 15-year shelf-life and are good down to -50 degrees.

Mayor Franke thanked the Masonic Lodge for their generous donation to help save lives in the community.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no items from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Acknowledge receipt of Commission Minutes
 - Public Safety Commission–September 14, 2023
- B. Approve auto lease agreement with the City of Newport

- C. Approve Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Cottage Grove for certain road improvements
- D. Approve payment of bills for the period February 22 through April 2, 2024
- E. Approve temporary liquor license for St. Paul Park/Newport Lions Club for August 16-18, 2024
- F. Approve Pay Final Pay Voucher No. 6 to Northwest Asphalt, Inc. for the Steven's Ridge Pavement Rehabilitation Project

Motion by Swenson, second by Zenner to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Approve waiver of the Heritage Park Building rental fee for the St. Paul Park Athletic Association on May 5, 2024

The St. Paul Park Athletic Association will be holding their Family Fun Event on May 5 and would like to have the rental fee for the Heritage Park Building waived. It was noted that this event does not fall within the parameters of allowing nonprofits to use the building free of charge during the week. The rental fee policy does not allow for the use of the building free of charge on the weekends unless approved by the City Council.

Motion by Swenson, second by Zenner to approve the waiver of the Heritage Park Building rental fee for the St. Paul Park Athletic Association on May 5, 2024. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS:

- A. Council Member Swenson

- Public Works Commission
 - ⇒ There was a new applicant for the commission, but they will still have one opening.
 - ⇒ The commission approved a resolution to look further into the street projects from the three zones and perform feasibility analysis on them.

- B. Council Member Zenner

- Public Safety Commission
 - ⇒ They reviewed 2023 stats for police and fire reports and the reports for the first quarter of 2024.
 - ⇒ They watched a video of the fire where the suppression unit was used.
 - ⇒ There are two openings on the commission, and the next meeting will be held in June.

- C. Council Member Conrad

- Planning Commission
 - ⇒ There was no meeting in March, so nothing to report.

- D. Council Member Whitbred-Hemmingson

- Parks & Recreation Commission
 - ⇒ The next meeting is on April 11 at City Hall.
 - ⇒ The next Bunco event will be held April 12 at Heritage Park. Everyone is welcome. It is \$10 to play. Check the Park and Rec Facebook page for more details.
 - ⇒ On May 11, the Garden Event will take place. There will be inflatables, games, and prizes. Hot dogs and popcorn will be available from the Masons, and donations will be accepted for the Masons. Details are on the Park and Rec Facebook page.
 - ⇒ There are still openings on the commission.

E. Council Member Conrad

- Heritage Days
 - ⇒ Heritage Days will be held August 16-18. Most of the events will be held at Heritage Park on Friday and Saturday. They are working out the details for the Tractor Pull on Broadway on Sunday as usual. Wrestling at the Legion location is yet to be determined.
 - ⇒ Meetings are held 2nd and 4th Mondays in the Heritage Park Building. Everyone is invited to attend.

F. Mayor Franke

- Administration
 - ⇒ Testified at the Capitol in support of a bill to get money for Lions Levee Park.
 - ⇒ Attended the Chamber Breakfast with City Administrator Walsh.
 - ⇒ Spoke at the State of the Cities at the Chamber.
 - ⇒ Attended the Grey Cloud Island board meeting. He is working to rebuild the lines of communication with their board so they can better work through common issues with the upcoming construction down in Grey Cloud.
 - ⇒ Wednesday, April 3, there will be the 3rd Street Reconstruction Open House at City Hall, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 - ⇒ Food Scraps Pick Up Program is starting up in St. Paul Park.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:

Council Member Conrad reported that he had submitted the Special Event Permit Applications for Heritage Day and the Car Show. He asked if those would go through the City Council. City Administrator Walsh explained that the city clerk reviews the application and then sends it to the department heads for their review and comments. After those are received, the application is moved on to the council. The application for the Car Show can be on the agenda for April 15 as that starts on May 1. Council Member Conrad noted that if there are any questions, staff could call him to get clarification.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.