

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DATE: October 16, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. Present: Mayor Dingle; Council Member Jones, Haggerty, Swenson, and Zenner. Also present: City Administrator. Pledge of allegiance said by all.

MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes of the September 18, 2023, Regular Council Meeting—waive reading of same.

Motion by Swenson, second by Haggerty to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023, regular council meeting—waive reading of same. Motion carried 5-0.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no items from the public.

NEW BUSINESS: SUPERINTENDENT JULIE NIELSEN

Julie Nielsen Superintendent of Washington County schools along with Dan Pine Executive Director of Finance presented to the council a consolidated effort by the surrounding communities for their votes to support the schools.

Bond Questions: The county talked to the various community schools asking what their priorities were. Consistently they heard affordability, so they re-prioritized their list for this year's bond referendum. The number one priority was safety & security enhancements, expansion, and renovation at the secondary schools. The second priority is addressing the elementary schools projected space at schools that exceed capacity, addition for a set of bathrooms at five elementary schools that were built in 1960. The schools have grown from 300-400 students to 500-600 students using the existing bathrooms. This item would be contingent of the on question one passing.

Capital Projects Levy: (*Technology Projects Levy*)

Ms. Neilson explained the presentation around the technology projects levy that would allow the school district to have dedicated funding to address the infrastructure and programs that connect the departments. The county looked at school districts from Rochester and Minneapolis that had huge cyber attacks on their systems. Ms. Neilson explained this is very important as they have a lot of confidential information on students and staff. Currently there are 4000 students and staff. Ms. Neilson presented the projected enrollment starting in 2024 is 18,778 ending in 2027 is 19,199, which is a five-year span which is important due to kindergarteners being born.

Bond Questions 1 & 2: Ms. Neilson explained the Bond one question is will cost \$160 million dollars and Bond question two will be a cost of \$40 million dollars. This question revolves around the current \$2.8 million dollar levy which the county is asking voters to revoke and renew it with a \$5 million levy.

She indicated if Bond one fails will be put on all additions and renovations will be put on hold. If Bond two also fails attendance boundaries would be implemented for the 2024-2024 school year. The county will also investigate grade reconfigurations.

Levy Question Three, Capital Project Levy: (*Technology Projects Levy*) Mr. Pine informed the council this is for staff and student technology and devices. By voting YES will you be voting for a tax property increase. Currently Washington County is at \$137. per student, the levy passes it will go up to approximately \$250. per student. For more information on the Washington County school questions visit sowashco.org/facility_planning.

Mayor Dingle thanked Ms. Neilson and Mr. Pine for coming in and explained what the needs are for the schools in the community. Mayor Dingle concludes the breakdown of the monthly costs are minimal. She also encouraged residents to go to the poles and VOTE on November 7.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Acknowledge receipt of Commission Minutes
 - Parks & Recreation Commission—September 14, 2023
 - Planning Commission Minutes—September 11, 2023
- B. Approve Agreement with Washington County for Election Services.
- C. Approve Pay Voucher #5 to Northwest Asphalt, Inc. for the Stevens Ridge Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

- D. Approve Pay Voucher #6 to McNamara Contracting for the Trunk Watermain Improvement Project.
- E. Adopt Ordinance No. 767, an ordinance amending the storm water utility fee in 2024.
- F. Adopt Resolution No. 1702, authorizing assessment of unpaid water and sewer bills for collection in 2024.
- G. Adopt Resolution No. 1703, approving plans and specs and ordering advertisement for bids for the Water Treatment Plant Generator.
- H. Accept Finance Director Kim Sommerland's resignation notice and authorize staff to fill the position.
- I. Remove Administrative Assistant Tara Klegin-Laska from probationary status effective November 9, 2023.
- J. Approval Game Room Licenses:
 - Park Place on Broadway
 - Willies Hidden Harbor
- K. Approve Tobacco Licenses:
 - Duffy Auto Service Inc.
- L. St. Paul Park Liquors LLC (*pending insurance*)
- M. Approve On-Sale Intoxicating Liquor Licenses:
 - Park Place on Broadway (*pending insurance*)
 - Willies Hidden Harbor
 - Broadway Bar & Grill (*pending insurance*)
- N. Approve Sunday On-Sale Liquor Licenses:
 - Park Place on Broadway (*pending insurance*)
 - Willies Hidden Harbor
 - Broadway Bar & Grill (*pending insurance*)
- O. Approve Off - Sale Liquor Licenses:
 - St. Paul Park Liquors LLC (*pending insurance*)

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

Council Member Swenson thanked Ms. Sommerland, the Finance Director, for all her hard work and dedication. He also mentioned her frugality with the budget and watching every penny as if it was her own. Council member Swenson wished her good luck with her new venture.

Mayor Dingle also thanked Ms. Sommerland for her years of service. Mayor Dingle also congratulated Tara Klegin-Laska on her removal of probation, she commented that she was a terrific fit for the city!

Mayor Dingle closed the regular Council meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

Consultant Sparks presented the Public Hearing on zoom.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Adopt Ordinance No. 768, an ordinance amending the zoning ordinance related to uses and standards in the R-2 & B-2 Districts and authorize publication by title and summary.

City Planner Nate Sparks explained to the council the changes were made to the districts for the Comprehensive Plan. These were made for the R-2 Medium Density & B-2 Highway Commercial Districts. The development standards were revised to place one and two family houses in different columns. Mr. Sparks also explained the townhouses and apartments were given minimum lot widths. Townhouses were given side yard setbacks.

Mr. Sparks also spoke on the B-2 District which used to be the B-3 District, this is the highway commercial district. He explained the district currently requires all development to be a Planned Unit Development (PUD) with a minimum development site of one acre. This has been changed to allow lot by lot development, to mimic the changes made in the Mixed-Use Districts.

There has been a minimum lot size and performance standards created. There were also additional standards in this district relating to parking, landscaping, and signs which are already covered in other sections of code. These sections are proposed for deletion, as they are similar to the other standards.

Mr. Sparks explained to the council the principal behind the changes was to simplify the two districts. Close loopholes in the R-2 Districts.

Mayor Dingle closed the Public Hearing and opened the council meeting.

Council member Jones inquired if this was a housekeeping item. Council Member Haggerty explained the planning commission had much discussion regarding the changes and they all agreed on changes.

Motion by Haggerty, second by Zenner to approve Ordinance No. 768 as stated above. Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS:

A. Council Member Swenson

- Public Works Commission
 - ⇒ October 3 last meeting
 - ⇒ Lost a member, which moved out of St. Paul Park
 - ⇒ The Commission needs one new member.
 - ⇒ There was a discussion on the Public Works Maintenance of the building.
 - ⇒ There was some discussion on Emerald ASH BORER trees that are not being cut down currently due to not being in the city right of way. The Public Works Supervisor is looking into what other cities are doing with the diseased trees, not in the right of way. He will report back at the next meeting.

B. Council Member Jones

- Public Safety Commission
 - ⇒ Next meeting December 7 @7PM
 - ⇒ Nothing new to report

C. Council Member Haggerty

- Planning Commission
 - ⇒ Next meeting November 13th @ 7PM
 - ⇒ Nothing new to report

D. Mayor Dingle

- Parks & Recreation Commission
 - ⇒ Next meeting November 9 @6PM
 - ⇒ Heritage Park Bunco Night Dates: October 11, November 10, December 15 @7PM. The money will be used for the Mural Wall at Heritage Park.
 - ⇒ Discussion on Winter Events, dates, and times watch for more information on the Parks & Rec. Facebook page.
 - ⇒ Lions Park has the new steps that have been put in by Tree Trust. There is still some concrete work to do which will be done this spring.

E. Council Member Zenner

- Heritage Days
 - ⇒ Next meeting is October 31 @ 6PM at City Hall.

F. Mayor Dingle

- Administration
 - ⇒ Mayor Dingle reminded residents to VOTE on November 7.
 - ⇒ What's on the Ballot? There are seven Council Candidates vying for two seats, also school board members and a school referendum.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL: \$ 1,554,794.35

Motion by Dingle, second by Zenner, to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,554,794.35 Motion carried 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS AND REQUESTS:

Mayor Dingle announced the 328 Grill at the American Legion will be having a Burgers for Boobs event on Wednesday, October 18. Proceeds will go toward breast cancer research. Mayor Dingle wants everyone to come and get their PINK on.

Meeting adjourned 7:02 p.m.



Julie Pelton
City Clerk

/councilminutes/year