

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
February 25, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Napier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Dave Napier  
Councilmembers Wendy Berry (arrived at 6:35 p.m.), Lisa Eng-Sarne,  
Anthony Fernandez, John Justen and Bob Pace

Absent: Councilmember Dick Vitelli (excused absence)

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
Assistant City Manager/HR Director Sherrie Le  
Police Chief Manila Shaver  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Parks & Public Works Director and City Engineer Ross Beckwith  
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
Finance Director Char Stark  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Justen to add Item 11C, Resolution Supporting Legislative Action, to New Business and adopt the agenda, as amended.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**5. OCWS Briefing**

Mayor Napier said the Council held a work session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the following:

- A. Appointment of Councilmember Eng-Sarne to the Environmental Committee, Public Safety Committee and Thompson Park Advisory Board**
- B. Update on House and Senate Bills**
- C. Debrief on February 21, 2019 Neighborhood Meeting**
- D. Strategic Plan Update and Review Agenda**
- E. Right-of-Way Obstruction Permit, No Parking Ordinance Language Addition**
- F. Sidewalk District/Funding Analysis**
- G. Discussion of Temporary Rental License for 962 Livingston Avenue**

## **6. Citizen Comments**

- Mark Rainey, Ward 2, thanked everyone who was involved in Winter Fest. However, he stated that the tent at Harmon Park ruined the ice and it was there for four days. He said straw is now frozen into the ice. Mr. Rainey said the rink and ice should be highlighted, not hidden, and that the tent should have been placed on the parking lot.
- Karen Vavreck, Ward 2, Jade Pennig, Ward 3, and Laura Zanmiller, Ward 1, provided information about the food drive to raise enough food and funds to match West St. Paul's zip code. They said Samantha Green would have been here, as well, but that she is ill. Jade Pennig read off the locations in West St. Paul that currently have food bins and said the list is continually growing. Laura Zanmiller said there is a competition between the West St. Paul and South St. Paul City Council's. Karen Vavreck said the band "Hot Brockoli" will be playing at Dunham's on March 9 and that there is also a food drive collection bin at Dunham's.
  - Mayor Napier said the challenge will be presented to Mayor Francis of South St. Paul to see which community can raise the most food and money for Neighbors, Inc. who is currently at risk of losing their funding. He said the winning City will get to brag and the losing Council will have to wear the opposing high school team's hockey jerseys at their next Council meeting. He said both the Council and Planning Commission are on board with the challenge. He also thanked Karen Vavreck, Jade Pennig, Laura Zanmiller and Samantha Green for their hard work on the food drive.
- Karen Vavreck talked about comments that were made at Winter Fest and said she is concerned that these comments may affect the food drive. She said she would like to see a public apology from this individual.
  - Mayor Napier said he received emails, calls and was confronted about this. He said he reached out to South Robert Street Business Association (SRSBA). Mayor Napier said SRSBA sent a letter to the City Council and stated that they do not support one person's comments and that it doesn't reflect their entire group. He said he had a great conversation with this individual from SRSBA who reached out to him. Mayor Napier said he appreciates SRSBA and said they have strong leaders. When we represent groups or businesses, Mayor Napier said we need to be careful with what we do and say. He said he appreciates SRSBA's swift action with their letter to the City.
- Christopher Hadden, Bidwell Street, said he supports the YMCA and their current location. He also said other cities do not have the same sense of community as West St. Paul.
- Steve Santoni, South St. Paul, talked about the need for sidewalks on Marie Avenue between Robert Street and Oakdale Avenue.

## **7. Council Comments**

Councilmember Eng-Sarne thanked everyone for their work on the food drive. She said she played hockey for North St. Paul and scored the last two goals in her last game against South St. Paul, so she does not want to wear a Packer jersey. She also said she went to the State Legislature to testify for bills with Councilmember Justen.

Councilmember Justen said that Local Government Aid (LGA) is a key aspect of Governor Walz's budget. He thanked Senator Matt Klein, Representative Rick Hansen and both their staff for the work they are doing for West St. Paul.

Councilmember Berry said she testified for the sales tax bill with City Manager Schroeder at the Capitol.

Mayor Napier complimented everyone who volunteered at Winter Fest and agreed that the tent shouldn't have been placed on the hockey rink. He said they are looking at ways to make this a bigger event and possible partnerships with Dodge Nature Center.

Mayor Napier discussed the Neighborhood Meetings scheduled for February 21 at St. Stephen's Church, February 26 at Dakota Lodge and February 27 at St. Stephen's Church. He invited everyone to come voice their ideas and concerns so we can make a difference in our community.

## **8. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions**

### **A. Presentation from Dakota County Library**

Murray Wilson gave a presentation on the services provided by Wentworth Library in West St. Paul.

Mayor Napier thanked Mr. Wilson for coming to the meeting and giving this presentation. He also thanked Wentworth Library for all they do for West St. Paul.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Justen to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, as amended:

- A. List of Claims for February 25, 2019
- B. City Licensing – Application for Outdoor Live Entertainment at The Blvd
- C. Rental Licensing
- D. Resolution No., 19-030 Approving the Rental License for 171 Thompson Avenue East as a License with Conditions
- E. Resolution No. 19-031 Approving the Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services
- F. Appointment of Councilmember Eng-Sarne to the Environmental Committee, Public Safety Committee and Thompson Park Advisory Board

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

## **10. Public Hearings**

- A. **Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Medical Clinic at 963 Robert Street – Children's Health Clinic**

Both the Applicant and representatives of Children’s Health Clinic were available to answer questions from Council. Mayor Napier thanked them for believing in West St. Paul and investing in it.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Pace to adopt Resolution No. 19-032 Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Allow an Office/ Medical Clinic in the B5 – Gateway North Mixed Use District at 963 Robert Street.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**B. Conditional Use Permit to Allow an On-Sale Liquor Establishment (Beer and Wine) at 1895 Robert Street – Zhong Qin Zheng**

The Applicant answered questions for the Council. Mayor Napier welcomed Zhong Qin Zheng to West St. Paul.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt Resolution No. 19-033 Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Allow On-Sale Liquor in a B4 District at 1895 Robert Street.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**11. New Business**

**A. Award Bid for Forcemain 1 Replacement Project 18-6**

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to award the bid for the Forcemain 1 Replacement Project 18-6 to Minger Construction for a contract amount of \$1,015,333.70.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**B. Temporary Rental License Application – 962 Livingston Avenue**

Jordan Sells, on behalf of Owner Crystal Kuehn, and TJ Trennor, emergency contact for the property manager, answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Justen said the owner and property manager both need to be brought up to speed on the requirements in West St. Paul and be sure they are fully informed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to approve the Temporary Rental License Application for 962 Livingston Avenue.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **C. Resolution Supporting Legislative Action**

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 19-029 Granting Bill Support of House Files 756, 325, 359 and 1308 and Senate Files 1161, 668, 305 and 321.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **12. New Business**

There was no New Business to discuss.

### **13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

David J. Napier  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul