

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2020**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Napier called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Dave Napier  
Councilmembers Wendy Berry, Lisa Eng-Sarne,  
Anthony Fernandez, John Justen, Bob Pace and Dick Vitelli

Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Lt. Matt Swenke  
Human Resources Director Debra Gieseke  
Finance Director Char Stark  
Parks & Public Works Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**5. OCWS Briefing**

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

A. Public Safety Committee Recommendations

**6. Citizen Comments**

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Kevin Hendricks, Ward 3, shared that the Dakota County Library has many programs scheduled for Black History Month, including a presentation at the Wentworth Library on February 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- Connye LaCombe, Ward 3, said she was disappointed by the last Council meeting by the way it was run, as well as the number of people attending and the actions by those regarding the Wakota Life item that was discussed.

- Ken Paulman, Ward 3, said he was disturbed by the last Council meeting and stated that people were intimidated and physically prevented from entering the Council Chambers to speak.
- Mary McCauley, Ward 3, spoke about the indigenous people and also the use of pronouns as self-identifiers.
- Sandra Michael, Ward 3, said she has been out of her home at Charlton Place since July 4, 2019 due to flooding at that time.

## **7. Council Comments**

Councilmember Eng-Sarne said that the Council, as a body, would like to acknowledge and recognize all of the words spoken at the January 27, 2020 City Council meeting. Council has been discussing how we can do better and acknowledge that we needed more public safety at the last meeting. We will continue working with Staff to do better but noted that most meetings won't be as big, emotional or controversial as the last one. Please continue to provide your feedback.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne mentioned that Burger Time had a fire recently and are reopening on Friday. As a community, she suggested that we go out and support them in the next two weeks to keep a local business local.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne said that Sola Salons has brought 40 entrepreneurs into West St. Paul, with a lot of them now working closer to home and closer to many of their clients, as well. Sola Salons is a positive addition to West St. Paul.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne thanked Councilmember Berry for bringing forward the proclamation for Black History Month.

Councilmember Justen said he received many comments regarding the last Council meeting when he and other Councilmembers recused themselves. People at the meeting felt their comments and information were not heard by the recused Councilmembers but he wants them to know that Councilmembers Berry, Eng-Sarne and himself immediately streamed the entire meeting and heard everything that was said and wants everyone to understand that and make that clear.

Councilmember Vitelli said Mayor Napier did a fantastic job controlling the crowd at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, listening to everyone who wanted to speak and showed extreme patience running the meeting. Regarding the individual who followed people to their cars, Lt. Swenke looked into it and had a conversation with this person.

Councilmember Vitelli said the building at Wakota fell between the guidelines and those who voted for it didn't want a lawsuit, so we approved it. They have been here 37 years and this is the first time he has heard any issue with them. He had no idea the crowd would be that large at the meeting.

Councilmember Berry expressed her apologies to anyone who didn't feel safe at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is your City Hall and to have hundreds of people here and bringing threats, harassment and firearms is unacceptable. She feels confident that Staff has looking deeply into

the meeting's events and have developed plans to ensure it doesn't happen again. I hope our residents know that we have their best interests at heart and that things which took place at our last meeting won't discourage anyone from speaking here again. I'm glad that those of you who were at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, and are here tonight, came up to speak again.

Councilmember Berry said she is happy that we are recognizing Black History Month and taking the time to remind everyone how important black people have been and continue to be so instrumental in making our country what it is today. Celebrating Black History Month shall allow us to pause and remember the stories of the sacrifices and suffering black people continue to endure for the sake of our racial equality. It is also important to understand that black oppression still exists today, and Celebrating Black History Month shall continue to remind us that black lives matter.

Councilmember Vitelli added that if anyone has a problem with our Police Department, please bring it to the City Council's attention. He personally has never heard of anyone having a problem with our Police Department and would like to hear about it.

Mayor Napier said Sola Salon is a great addition to our community. We toured the facility and it was nothing but top class. It's attracting people to our community to visit the stylists who have set up shop there. Entrepreneurs can have their own style shop without all the overhead. It's a really nice model and, if you haven't seen it, stop in and help those stylists be successful.

Mayor Napier said the January 27<sup>th</sup> Council meeting caught him off guard but that he stayed true to our process. Leading by the heart, I always been fair and kind, representing 20,000 people in our community the best I can. The type of environment we had on January 27<sup>th</sup> is a tough situation to handle. I have seen probably 80-100 Conditional Use Permits and plat reviews since I've been on Council, since 2012. I have followed the process on every one: open the public hearing, listen to the testimony, bring back to Council for discussion, and see if there is a move for action. I have received emails and have offered to have a discussion with anyone who wants to talk about it. I talked with one person about how I ran the meeting. Other than that, I haven't heard from anyone else, but I am always willing to take your call at any time.

To the Women of West St. Paul, I have had nothing but respect for what you do for our community. I have supported you and I believe in you. I believe that anyone who wants to be involved to better our community should be accepted. I have always done that with respect. I appreciate and thank you for what you have done for the city of West St. Paul.

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

Mayor Napier presented a proclamation recognizing February 2020 as Black History Month and thanked Councilmember Berry for bringing it forward.

## 9. Consent Agenda

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

**A. Minutes of January 13, 2020**

- OCWS Minutes
- Regular Council Minutes

**B. Minutes of January 27, 2020**

- OCWS Minutes
- Regular Council Minutes

**C. List of Claims for February 10, 2020 in the Amount of \$618,023.92**

**D. Budget Adjustment for the IT Server Project from the Vehicle and Equipment Capital Fund to the IT Technology Capital Fund for \$135,000**

**E. City Licensing for:**

- Resolution No. 20-017 Concurring with the Issuance of an Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling – South Robert Street Business Association, February 22, 2020 at Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center, 365 Marie Avenue West, West St. Paul

**F. Rental Licensing in the Amount of \$5,333.50 for:**

- 226 Annapolis Street West (Apartment – Renewal)
- 234 Annapolis Street West (Apartment – Renewal)
- 330 Annapolis Street West (Apartment – Renewal)
- 800 Dodd Road (Apartment – Renewal)
- 126 Logan Avenue East (Apartment – Renewal)
- 108, 110, 114 Bernard Street East (Apartment – Renewal)
- 1266 Gorman Avenue (Apartment – Renewal)
- 218 Annapolis Street West (Apartment – Renewal)
- 884 Bidwell Street (Apartment – Renewal)
- 183 Annapolis Street West (Apartment – Renewal)
- 834 Allen Avenue (Apartment – Renewal)
- 966 Smith Avenue (Apartment – Renewal)
- 1425 Bidwell Street (Apartment – Renewal)
- 1435 Bidwell Street (Apartment – Renewal)
- 1445 Bidwell Street (Apartment – Renewal)
- 795/803 Dodd Road (Triplex – Renewal)
- 908 Gorman Avenue (Duplex – Renewal)
- 124 Bernard Street West (Duplex – Renewal)
- 922/924 Smith Avenue (Duplex – Renewal)
- 1008 Cherokee Avenue (Duplex – Renewal)
- 976 Dodd Road (Duplex – Renewal)
- 917 Bellows Street (Duplex – Renewal)
- 203 Annapolis Street West (Duplex – Renewal)
- 1312 MacArthur Avenue (Single Family – New)
- 1140 Charlton Street (Single Family – Renewal)

- 1031 Robert Street (Single Family – Renewal)
- 1924 Bidwell Street (Single Family – Renewal)
- 1962 Stryker Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
- 1990 Stryker Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
- 76 Crusader Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)

**G.** Insurance Agent of Record - Contract with Maguire Agency from January 1, 2020 through January 1, 2023

**H.** Receipt of Year End Council Initiatives Status

**I.** Parking Restrictions on Kathleen Drive

- Resolution No. 20-018 Establishing Parking Restrictions on Kathleen Drive from Westview Drive to Marie Avenue

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

## **10. Public Hearings**

There were no Public Hearings.

## **11. New Business**

### **A. Appointments to the Planning Commission**

Mayor Napier brought forward his recommendations to the Planning Commission as:

Morgan Kavanaugh  
Dan McPhillips

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to affirm Mayor Napier’s recommendation to reappoint Morgan Kavanaugh and Dan McPhillips to the Planning Commission.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **B. First Reading of an Ordinance Approving the Sale of Thompson Oaks Golf Course to the Economic Development Authority for Redevelopment Purposes**

City Attorney Land introduced the following proposed ordinance for its first reading:

*“An Ordinance Approving the Sale of Property Located Within the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, to the West St. Paul Economic Development Authority”*

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to approve the first reading and call for a second reading of the ordinance to be held at a Public Hearing at the City Council meeting on February 24, 2020.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**12. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

David J. Napier  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul