

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020**

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, Lisa Eng-Sarne,
Anthony Fernandez, John Justen, Bob Pace and Dick Vitelli

Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder
City Attorney Kori Land
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
Finance Director Char Stark
Parks & Public Works Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn
Human Resources Director Debra Gieseke
Marketing & Communications Manager Dan Nowicki
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

Mayor Napier stated that tonight's meeting will be conducted virtually and described the process for citizens to view the meeting and call in with questions and comments.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Berry to move Consent Agenda Item 9J, Art Park Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant, to Old Business Item 12A and adopt the agenda, as amended.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. OCWS Briefing

An Open Council Work Session was not held.

6. Citizen Comments

Mayor Napier opened the access line (651-259-2674) for citizens to call in with comments, questions and concerns, which was tested prior to the start of the meeting.

Calls and Comments Received:

- Connye LaCombe, Ward 3, questioned the progress on an ordinance to ban gay conversion therapy.
- Julie Eastman, Ward 1, called to test the call-in line.
- Karen Vavreck, Ward 2, asked how long parks will be closed, if upgrades and replacements will be done during closure, and if the City will pay Staff to monitor crowds in parks.

7. Council Comments

Councilmember Vitelli discussed a social media post on the West St. Paul Neighbor's Facebook page regarding an interaction with a West St. Paul Police Officer. After investigation by Chief Sturgeon, it was determined that there was improper language used at the beginning of the encounter as the Officer was attempting to get the driver of the vehicle to stop; however, the encounter was not with one of our Officers but an Officer from one of our assisting Departments.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne said last week was Public Service Recognition Week for recognizing public employees who support us at the federal, state, county and local level. Friday was also City Clerk's Day.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne asked that anyone who is experiencing quarantine fatigue, please keep doing what you are supposed to do.

Councilmember Berry wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day, and also a blessed and peaceful Ramadan.

Councilmember Pace said he hopes everyone is well under the circumstances. He thanked Staff for putting these meetings together and is looking forward to when they can be held in the Council Chambers again. Thank you, also, to Staff cleaning Robert Street, with plans to replant the flowers.

Councilmember Justen reminded everyone that businesses are now able to provide curbside pickup, so please support your local businesses.

Mayor Napier said the State of the City Address will be coming up soon. Thanks to Staff for working on that.

Mayor Napier said that parks are opening and it is great to see the community out walking. People are respecting social distancing and taking advantage of the trails through our parks. We are looking to the 18th as a target date to open but are looking for guidance from the State, when the Stay at Home may be lifted.

Mayor Napier wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. It is a great day to celebrate.

Mayor Napier had a phone conversation with the Governor's Office. He was able to get a system in place where he can reach someone there quicker. He spoke with them regarding our

senior living buildings. He did some check-ins with these facilities and they are all doing amazingly well. Mayor Napier has talked with every director in every facility and commends them for doing a great job caring for their people. Southview Acres has 60 residents testing positive for COVID. They are trying to get testing done but they are really short staffed. Southview Acres is currently hiring for nurses and housekeeping staff.

Mayor Napier said our representatives are working hard at the Capitol to get us help for our lift stations, and we are in the bill.

Schroeder said we are in the Senate side. Representative Hansen sent a mark-up today on the House side. Both bills have been introduced and referred but we are a long way from approval. Session ends in seven days. Schroeder added that we were in the House bill last year but there wasn't a Senate companion, so this is certainly a good step forward.

Mayor Napier asked Schroeder to let Council know how they can help him push a little harder and get the message out.

8. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

There were no proclamations, presentations or recognitions.

9. Consent Agenda

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

A. Minutes of April 27, 2020 for:

- Regular City Council Meeting

B. List of Claims in the Amount of \$955,080.49

C. Rental Licensing in the Amount of \$4,280.00 for:

- 1635 Marthaler Lane (Apartment – New)
- 1266/1268 Winslow Avenue (Duplex – Renewal)
- 76/78 Logan Avenue West (Duplex – Renewal)
- 966 Robert Street South (Condominium – Renewal) - Units #101 - #308
- 976 Robert Street South (Condominium – Renewal) - Units #102 - #308
- 298 Hurley Street East (Single Family – New)
- 435 Bernard Street East (Single Family – New)
- 1370 Charlton Street (Single Family – Renewal)
- 935 Oakdale Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
- 275 Bernard Street East (Single Family – Renewal)
- 1471 Oakdale Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
- 173 Kathleen Drive (Single Family – Renewal)

D. Stipulated Settlement with Auto Zone, 1520 Robert Street

E. Development Agreement with KTJ 339, LLC

F. Contract Extension with Rainbow Tree Care for Emerald Ash Borer Treatments

G. Materials Testing Contract for Dome Exit Stairs Project 20-5

H. Agreement with the Dakota Broadband Board

I. Lease Agreement with New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

J. ~~Art Park Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant~~ – **Moved to Item 12A**

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

10. Public Hearings

There were no Public Hearings.

11. New Business

A. First Reading – Vacation of Unbuilt Right-of-Way South of Crusader and West of Stryker

Hartshorn 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 Net Ministries, Inc.”

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez 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 May 26, 2020.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. First Reading of Amendment to the Food Truck Ordinance

Hartshorn introduced the following proposed ordinance for its first reading:

“An Ordinance Repealing Section 111.01(B) Regarding Food Vending of the City Code of the City of West St. Paul and Enacting Section 111.01(B) Regarding Mobile Food Units”

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to continue this item to the next OCWS for discussion.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

12. Old Business

A. Art Park Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Berry to accept the Art Park Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

13. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul