

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
May 26, 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 Justen and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays – Councilmember Berry's audio was inaudible. Motion carried.

5. Citizen Comments

Calls and Comments Received:

- Joan Hutter, Ward 1 said she was horrified with the recent news of George Floyd and would like to see a public proclamation that this type of incident is unacceptable. She also requested that Staff, Council and Police Department Staff continue to receive bias training.
- Julie Eastman, Ward 1 thanked Mayor Napier, Council and Staff for the proclamations on the agenda tonight. She hopes in a future OCWS Council can discuss conversion therapy and diversity bias training for leadership and staff.

6. Council Comments

Councilmember Eng-Sarne provided some reminders for everyone during the pandemic.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne said George Floyd treated everyone with respect, did not discriminate and was there for everyone. She asked that Council and everyone pause for 30 seconds and reflect in silence on how we will do better in our community and for this community that is so close to ours.

Council and Staff paused for a moment of silence.

Councilmember Berry said she is feeling a lot of emotions over the death of George Floyd. We are seeing this far too often in our country especially when black men become the victims. Public safety should be community centered and people treated with humanity, and those responsible need to be held accountable. She is using her own privileges to open conversations about ways we can address these things and make sure they don't happen in our city. It is very important that everyone in our city feels safe, despite their color, gender identity or who it is they might associate with. It's important to the community as a whole. Police Chief Sturgeon has been very open to conversations today and provided a long list of training their Officers are required to complete this year. That list includes ethics, professional conduct, implicit bias, in-person scenarios based used of force, de-escalation techniques, and more. The good thing is our Officers are aware and are in constant training, so more is better. Black lives matter and it's time that we all understand that.

Councilmember Fernandez said the City released a Predatory Offender Notice today. For more information, there is a link with more information on the City's website and on the West St. Paul Police Department Facebook page and Twitter.

Councilmember Pace said Councilmembers Berry and Eng-Sarne covered exactly what should have been covered in the senseless death of George Floyd. He is confident in our Police Department and our Police Chief.

Councilmember Vitelli said the demolition of the YMCA has begun for the Hy-Vee project. It will be a good day for West St. Paul when we get the grocery store but a sad day for those who have good memories of the YMCA. Hope that at some point in time the YMCA is able to relocate a new facility for our citizens.

Councilmember Justen thanked his fellow Councilmembers for speaking eloquently about George Floyd. In full agreement with everything that was said and echo the idea that, although we see ourselves doing a good job, we need to keep looking at bias training and various other avenues to be sure we keep moving forward and keep doing a good job.

Councilmember Justen said the Star Tribune posted a disturbing article regarding COVID-related fatalities in West St. Paul. He clarified, thanks to Schroeder's research, that those numbers were absolutely incorrect and the number is significantly lower than what was listed in not only the single location but in West St. Paul as a whole. Hoping the Star Tribune has already corrected those numbers and, if they haven't, that we communicate with them to have that done as soon as possible.

Councilmember Justen asked people in our city to be patient and kind to business owners who are going through the slow process of reopening. Remember that they are the ones that can choose the path that they find safest and most responsible and those choices really need to be respected. Specifically, if it's a business that requires wearing masks - at the end of the day they are opening for you. They have family, they have friends, they have situations, and they may have vulnerabilities or illness. Please remember that they are there to help you, serve you, and are doing what they believe is right because of the conditions that only they know. I ask you to please be patient, please be kind, these are difficult times for businesses and they need your support and your friendship.

In honor of Memorial Day, which is a time to honor those that have served in the military but lost their lives, Mayor Napier offered a moment of silence for those that have served and the many loved ones they have left behind.

Council and Staff paused for a moment of silence.

Mayor Napier offered another moment of silence for anyone in our city and in our state who has lost family members but was also not able to be there by their bedside.

Council and Staff paused for a moment of silence.

Mayor Napier said Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins will host Town Hall live this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on the impacts in our communities. Guests include the Mayors of Inver Grove Heights, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul and West St. Paul. If there is anything you would like to share on behalf of the West St. Paul City Council, please feel free to email me.

With the warm weather coming up, Mayor Napier said we do have parks and playgrounds open. Please don't call us when kids are playing, we want them to enjoy that moment. Hopefully they are respecting the ten people capacity, but we really do want them to start enjoying our parks at a modest level.

7. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

A. Proclamation Recognizing Taylor Gonzalez, Recipient of the 2020 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship

Mayor Napier presented a proclamation recognizing Taylor Gonzalez as the recipient of the 2020 Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to accept the proclamation recognizing Taylor Gonzalez.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. Proclamation Honoring June 2020 as LGBTQIA Pride Month

Mayor Napier presented a proclamation recognizing June 2020 as LGBTQIA Pride Month.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Berry to accept the proclamation recognizing June 2020 as LGBTQIA Pride Month.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

C. Acceptance of Donations

No dollar value was provided for the donations listed below, but they are greater than \$10,000 when compared to normal market value of similar products.

Mayor Napier thanked the following donors for their generous donations:

- 11 Wells Distilleries donated hand sanitizer for our First Responders.
- J Carver Distilleries donated hand sanitizer for our First Responders.
- Splash Products donated a pallet of bleach which will be used as a sanitizer and cleaning option. The City will also be reaching out to our congregate care facilities to provide them with this product as needed.
- Cub Foods Pharmacy donated 24 N95 respirator masks for use by the Police Department.
- An anonymous West St. Paul resident donated 25 gift cards worth \$5.00 each to the Police Department to be given to the homeless in our city. This person requested to remain anonymous.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt Resolution No. 20-049 Accepting Donations to the City.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

8. Consent Agenda

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

- A.** March Financial Update
- B.** List of Claims for May 26, 2020 in the Amount of \$912,540.44
- C.** Resolution No. 20-050 Accepting a Grant from the Wal-Mart Local Community Grant Fund
- D.** Police Department City Hall Change Order No. 3 for \$14,953.09
- E.** City Licensing for:
 - Jody Jackson, Simply Grounded Therapeutic Massage
33 Wentworth Avenue East
Personal Massage License
 - Farmers Registration for St. Paul Growers' Association to sell produce at Signal Hills Mall lot from May 29 to November 27, 2020
- F.** Rental Licensing in the Amount of \$95.00 for:
 - 962/964 Smith Avenue (Duplex – Rental)
 - 172 Kathleen Drive (Single Family – Rental)

- G. Resolution No. 20-051 Authorizing Execution of Cooperative Agreement with the State of Minnesota and Diversion Solutions, LLC
- H. Consultant Contract for Lift Station and Forcemain 2 Replacement, City Project 20-10
- I. Revised Consultant Contract for Marie/Oakdale Trail Project CP 18-4

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

9. Public Hearings

A. **Site Plan, Preliminary and Final Plat Review to Allow a Climate Controlled Storage Building at 1665 Oakdale Avenue – More Space, LLC**

Community Development Director Hartshorn presented and answered questions from the Council.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m.

The following people addressed the Council:

- Julie Eastman, Ward 1

Hearing from no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt:

- 1) Resolution No. 20-052 Approving a Site Plan for the Construction of a Self-Storage Facility at 1665 Oakdale Avenue – More Space, LLC; and
- 2) Resolution No. 20-054 Approving the Preliminary and Final Plat for 1665 Oakdale Avenue – More Space, LLC

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. **Final Reading of Ordinance No. 20-007, Vacation of Unbuilt Right-of-Way South of Crusader and West of Stryker**

Community Development Director Hartshorn presented and answered questions from the Council.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 7:11 p.m. Hearing from no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to approve Ordinance No. 20-007 Approving the Sale of Property Located Within the City of West St. Paul, Minnesota, to Net Ministries, Inc.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

10. New Business

A. Temporary Outdoor Service Area

City Manager Schroeder presented and answered questions from the Council.

The following establishments submitted a request for an expansion of their licensed premises:

- 5-8 Club, 1741 South Robert Street
- Beirut Restaurant, 1385 Robert Street South
- The BLVD Bar & Grille, 433 East Mendota Road
- Carbone's Restaurant, 55 Wentworth Avenue
- Cherokee Tavern, 886 Smith Avenue South
- El Nuevo Morelos, 360 Bernard Street West
- Fireside Lounge, 1288 South Robert Street
- Gallagher's, 888 Ohio Street
- Marty's Bar, 189 West Winona Street
- Southview Country Club, 239 Mendota Road East
- Tappers Pub, 879 Stryker Avenue

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Justen to grant expansion for 11 establishments including 5-8 Club; Beirut Restaurant; The BLVD Bar & Grille; Carbone's Restaurant; Cherokee Tavern; El Nuevo Morelos; Fireside Lounge; Gallagher's; Marty's Bar; Southview Country Club; and Tappers Pub.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

12. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul