

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Dave Napier
Councilmembers Pat Armon, Wendy Berry, Julie Eastman, Lisa Eng-Sarne and John Justen
Councilmember Robyn Gulley, virtual

Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Nate Burkett
City Attorney Kori Land
Assistant City Manager Dan Nowicki
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
Community Development Director Ben Boike
Finance Director Char Stark
Public Works Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith
City Clerk Nicole Tillander

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

With Item D given further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Eastman and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Vote: Eastman – aye
Justen – aye
Armon – aye
Berry – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

5. OCWS Briefing

Council discussed the following items during the Open Council Work Session of January 23rd:

- A. Net Ministries Discussion
- B. Committee and Commission Reappointments and Vacancies

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Justen to reappoint committee and commission members as presented and declare vacancies. Reappointments effective March 1, 2023. Planning Commission to reappoint Dan McPhillips and declare two vacancies; Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to reappoint Sara Blair, Dave Lynch, Bonnie Bellows and Kelly Hagler and declare two vacancies; Environmental Committee to reappoint Laura Zanmiller, Liz Pearson and Josh Przybylski and declare one vacancy.

Vote: Berry – aye
Justen – aye
Armon – aye
Eastman – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

6. Community Comments – In Person

- James Johnson Jr (JJ), Ward 2 – renter advocacy, affordability concerns, tenet organizations, involvement with City Council with hopes to create a renter’s advisory council, committee or commission

7. Community Comments – Phone Line

- Mike Misukanis, Ward 2 – mail delivery concerns
- Connye LaCombe, Ward 3 – sidewalk shoveling, walking on Charlton concerns

8. Council Comments

Mayor and Councilmembers addressed the public on various topics.

9. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

A. Proclamation Honoring Black History Month – February 2023

Motion was made by Councilmember Armon and seconded by Councilmember Eastman to adopt the proclamation.

Vote: Armon – aye
Eastman – aye
Berry – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
Justen – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda

With Item D given further discussion, motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Justen to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, as presented:

- A. 2023 Legislative Policy Positions
- B. Approve January 9, 2023 Special Council Organizational Meeting Minutes and Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022 and January 9, 2023
- C. City Business Licensing
- D. City Rental Licensing
 - 1275 Kruse St (Apartment – Renewal)
 - 1080 Delaware Ave (Apartment – Renewal)
 - 364 Marie Ave E (Apartment – Renewal)
 - Total Amount – \$3,438.00
- E. List of Claims for January 23, 2023
- F. Transfer and Close Funds
- G. Approve Plans and Specifications and Order Ad for Bid for the Annapolis Street Reconstruction Project 23-1
- H. Establishing Parking Restrictions on Moreland Avenue West at Moreland Elementary School

Vote: Eng-Sarne – aye
Justen – aye
Armon – aye
Berry – aye
Eastman – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

11. Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing on Abatement for Bonds – HyVee Property

Finance Director Char Stark and Ehlers Representative Keith Dahl presented; staff recommends a public hearing be held and resolution approved as presented. The purpose of this item is to determine amount and terms of the abatement, select properties and review the statement of public purpose.

Public hearing was opened at 6:53 p.m. No one came forward or called in to address the council. Public hearing was closed by Mayor Napier at 6:54 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to approve Resolution 23-010 Approving Property Tax Abatements (2023A GO Bonds) as presented.

Vote: Justen – aye
Berry – aye

Armon – aye
Eastman – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

12. New Business

A. City Attorney Contract

City Manager Nate Burkett presented. In late 2022, an RFP was issued and interviews were conducted to hire a new law firm to serve as City Attorney. Staff recommends approving a legal services agreement contract with Kennedy and Graven and appointing Pam Whitmore as City Attorney for the City of West St. Paul effective January 24, 2023 and authorizing the Mayor and City Manager to sign. Staff also recommends approving a memorandum of agreement with Levander, Gillen and Miller which sets forth conditions of transition out of the role of City Attorney.

City Attorney Land addressed the council. Kori has been with the city since 1996 and has helped the council and staff through many opportunities and obstacles. She stressed her belief in being a part of the West St. Paul community and working for the betterment of that community. She is grateful for her relationships and accomplishments over the years.

Thank you for your long standing service to the city, Levander, Gillen & Miller, and Attorney Land.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eastman and seconded by Councilmember Justen to approve the city attorney contract and memorandum of agreement as presented.

Vote: Eastman – aye
Justen – aye
Armon – aye
Berry – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

13. Old Business

14. Adjourn

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

Vote: Eng-Sarne – aye

Berry – aye
Armon – aye
Eastman – aye
Gulley – aye
Justen – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.



David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul