

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021**

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, Julie Eastman, Lisa Eng-Sarne,
Robyn Gulley, John Justen, and Dick Vitelli

Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder
City Attorney Kori Land
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
Finance Director Char Start
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 Berry and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. OCWS Briefing:

An Open Council Work Session was held prior to the City Council Meeting to discuss:

- A. Presentation from St. Paul Regional Water (SPRWS)
- B. Discussion on Committee Appointment Process
- C. Non-Commercial Sign Ordinance Discussion
- D. Renaissance Plan Discussion

The Open Council was recessed at 6:30 p.m. and will resume following the Regular City Council meeting.

6. Citizen Comments – In Person

Citizens who addressed the Council in person included:

- KaeJae Johnson of ROCC (Residents of Color Collective)

- In response to Ms. Johnson’s comment about “See Something Say Something,” Police Chief Sturgeon said they take everything into consideration in response to calls of a suspicious person.
- Chief Sturgeon also discussed hiring of women and BIPOC individuals and the process of recruitment and hiring. This is a national, state and local issue. Our community outreach efforts are not just to build trust but to get people to know us and become interested in law enforcement. Chief Sturgeon is part of the mentoring program at Henry Sibley High School but most students are interested in manufacturing or the health care field. We want students to get to know us as people and earn their trust. How do we support people of color in the West St. Paul Police Department? We provide the ability for them to become part of associations and provide for those memberships and conferences. We are trying to do things within the Department for career development, as well as other needs, to keep individuals motivated and happy in their career. We try to have the right people on board to carry the workload and be able to make a commitment to the community. But we cannot function alone. We will be working with other entities, such as ROCC, to enhance our recruitment and retention of those type of Officers. It is tough, not only for us, but across the country. We need to work on it at the national level, in our government, in our national associations, state legislature and associations, and individuals within our community. They need to get to know us and promote our Department and recommend that people go to college to become a Police Officer and join our Department. It is not only our problem, but a societal problem, as well.
- Mayor Napier thanked Ms. Johnson for coming, for connecting with the Chief, and for sharing insights to help us recruit. Thank you for what you’re doing.

7. Citizen Comments – Phone Line

Citizens who addressed the Council via phone included:

- Connye LaCombe, Ward 3
 - Chief Sturgeon said the Explorer program is what Ms. LaCombe was talking about and is part of the Boy Scouts of America. They have exploring opportunities in many areas. In 1984, the West St. Paul Police Department did support an Explorer program and that went well into about 2000. Our Department had one of the best Explorer programs and many other Departments saw that and started their own Explorer programs. Eventually, West St. Paul had to end their program because we didn’t have enough interest. It was a great product for the City of West St. Paul at the time and said he is a product of it, as well as the Anoka County Sheriff and the Captain of the Minnetonka Police Department. It provided the opportunity to join and advance in law enforcement. We are working with other Departments to see what we can do to create some partnerships in that realm.

8. Council Comments

Councilmember Eastman

- Requested that Police Chief Sturgeon repeat the information he provided at the upcoming Town Hall events.
 - Chief Sturgeon said he will also be holding a future Chief Facebook Live event to discuss this topic.
- Hope you're all celebrating Black History Month. Thank you to KaeJae Johnson and ROCC for the events you have hosted. The food giveaway hosted by ROCC was a collaboration with the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation and Teamsters Local 120.

Councilmember Justen

- Requested that future proclamations be on the final agenda of the previous month so that the entire month can be proclaimed.

Councilmember Berry

- Virtual Town Halls will be held on February 11, 24 and 27, 2021.
- The deadline for business grants is this Friday.
- Acknowledged Black History Month, which is also called African American History Month.

Councilmember Gulley

- Gave a shout-out to ROCC for their work on food distribution and building relationships with residents in apartments.
- St. Paul Regional Labor Association and Teamsters 120 collaborated with ROCC. The Teamsters have been on strike in the last few weeks over worker safety.
- Black History Month and we all have to stand together every today. Committed to work as a City and be proactive to address inequality and inequities in our city.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne

- Thanks to ROCC for the two events they held. Appreciate that Saturday's event was a positive, collaborative and community effort.
- We are honoring Black History Month by continuing to have challenging discussions.

Councilmember Vitelli

- Former West St. Paul City Engineer Phillip "Skip" Stefaniak, Jr. passed away this week at 76 years old. He worked for the City of West St. Paul for many years.

Mayor Napier

- I knew Skip Stefaniak very well, and he will be missed. Our hearts go out to his family.
- West St. Paul resident Arlene Patton passed away. She was on the Planning Commission for several years and paved the way for women in these seats. She was a longtime resident and gave a lot of her time to helping our City. Our heartfelt condolences to her family, as well.
- Town Halls will be virtual, so please be patient with us as we work through this new process. It should be user friendly but will be different. We want to be sure you participate. We will only be as good as the input we receive from our residents.

9. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

Prior to tonight's meeting, Councilmember Berry requested that the proclamation be changed from African American History Month to Black History Month to be more inclusive of our black residents who do not have an African American lineage.

Mayor Napier presented the proclamation recognizing February 2021 as Black History Month.

10. Consent Agenda

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

A. Minutes of January 25, 2021

- Open Council Work Session Minutes
- Regular City Council Minutes

B. List of Claims for February 8, 2021 in the Amount of \$2,165,557.24

C. 2020 Budget Rollover

D. City Licensing, Including

- Eldon Farb, Elysian Therapy & Maintenance, Inc.
1135 Stryker Avenue
Application for Business and Personal Massage License

E. Rental Licensing, Including

- 999 Smith Avenue South, Triplex – Renewal
- 795/803 Dodd Road, Triplex – Renewal
- 172/174 Annapolis Street West, Duplex – Renewal
- 1008 Cherokee Avenue, Duplex – Renewal
- 110 Bernard Street West, Duplex – Renewal
- 235 Dakota Street, Duplex – Renewal
- 908 Gorman Avenue, Duplex – Renewal
- 1060 Ottawa Avenue, Duplex – Renewal
- 1051 Ottawa Avenue, Single Family – Renewal
- 909 Gorman Avenue, Single Family – Renewal
- 1028 Seminole Avenue, Single Family – Renewal
- 1089 Humboldt Avenue, Single Family – Renewal
- 1131 Smith Avenue South, Single Family – Renewal
- 1168 Ohio Street, Single Family – Renewal
- 959 Dodd Road, Single Family – Renewal
- 946 Livingston Avenue, Single Family – Renewal
- 941 Dodd Road, Single Family – Renewal

F. Joint Powers Agreement for Preliminary Engineering Between the County of Dakota, the City of South St. Paul and the City of West St. Paul, Dakota County Project No. 04-17, City of South St. Paul Project No. 2021-011, City of West St. Paul Project No. 21-5

G. Joint Powers Agreement for Trail and Sidewalk Including Engineering, Right-of-Way, Construction and Cost Participation Between the County of Dakota and the City of West St. Paul for County Project No. 06-012, City of West St. Paul Project No. 21-6

H. Dakota County Community Development Agency Redevelopment Incentive Grant Program Grant Agreement

I. Report from the Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 3, 2021

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

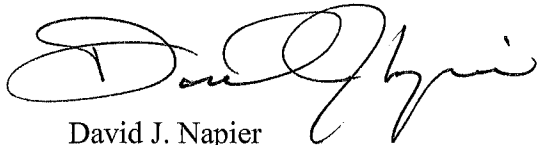
12. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

13. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Gulley and seconded by Councilmember Eastman to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.



David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul