

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026**

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 (Mayor Pro Tem for Open Council Work Session), Lisa Eng-Sarne, Doug Fromm, Robyn Gulley, John Justen and Junior Councilmember Elise Moga

Absent: Councilmembers Pat Armon

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

City Manager advised Item 12D. added, motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to adopt the agenda, as presented and amended.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. OCWS Briefing

Open Council Work Session held February 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM:

1. Welcome and Note Attendance
2. Agenda Items
 - A. Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions
 - B. Parking Over 48 Hours - Ordinance Discussion
 - C. Snow Emergency - Ordinance Discussion
 - D. Agenda Amendment – Rent Support Grants Round 2 – Discussion
 - E. Strategic Plan Update
3. Regular Meeting Consent Agenda Review
4. Adjourn

6. Community Comments – In Person

- Lindsay Edwards – concern for children on promotional materials for West St. Paul, requesting City add a photography and media opt-out section when registering Spring (this does already exist per staff)

7. Community Comments – Phone Line

- No one called in to address the council.

8. Council Comments

Mayor and Councilmembers addressed the public on various topics.

9. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

A. Proclamation Honoring Women's History Month

10. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026
- B. City Business Licensing
- C. City Rental Licensing
- D. List of Claims for February 23, 2026
- E. Donations to the City
- F. Award Bid for the Emerson Avenue Improvement and Mina Alley Reconstruction Projects 26-1 and 26-2

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. Public Hearings

A. First Reading and Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amendment to City Code Section 72.02 Regarding Parking Over 48 Hours

Public Works Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith presented the first reading. Staff asks that the council hold a public hearing and approve the first reading of an ordinance amending section 72.02 of the West St. Paul City Zoning Code.

Mayor Napier opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

No one came forward to address the council.

Mayor Napier closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending the zoning code as presented.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. First Reading and Public Hearing - An Ordinance Amendment to City Code Section 74 Regarding Snow Emergencies

Public Works Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith presented the first reading. Staff asks that the council hold a public hearing and approve the first reading of an ordinance amending section 74 of the West St. Paul City Code.

Councilmember Justen suggests an amendment to section (e) regarding the language. Staff will address and amend prior to final reading.

Mayor Napier opened the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

No one came forward to address the council.

Mayor Napier closed the public hearing at 6:50 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fromm and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending the city code as presented.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

12. General Business

A. Appoint Members to Environmental Committee

Staff asks that council extend the term expiration date of Stephanie Moline, who was appointed last year to fill a vacancy to 3/1/2027 to balance dates and appoint members as outlined herein.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to reappoint Joshua Przybylski and appoint Jordan Langner and Jiman Lee to the Environmental Committee for full terms beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending on 3/1/2029; appoint Elizabeth Lehman to partial term to fill a vacant seat on the Environmental Committee for a term beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending on 3/1/2028; and extend the term expiration date of Stephanie Moline to 3/1/2027.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. Appoint Members to Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to reappoint Nolan Cornell, Leah Foxhill, and Angela Rizo Rosales and

appoint Beth Loechler to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for full terms beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending 3/1/2028 and appoint Suzanne De Young to partial term to fill a vacant seat on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending 3/1/2027.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

C. Appoint Members to Planning Commission

Mayor Napier nominates the following applicants for appointment to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment.

Appoint Tim Grimes to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment for a term beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending 3/1/2029.

Reappoint Mikhael Garland and Kyle Hoff to the Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment for a term beginning on 3/1/2026 and ending 3/1/2029.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to move appointments as nominated and presented.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

D. Rent Support Grants

City Manager Nate Burkett presented. To date, the City has passed a policy resolution, sent a letter sent to Governor Walz and distributed \$10,000 in food assistance grant funds to Heritage PTA, Garlough PTA, Moreland PTA and 360 Communities. Food assistance will be formalized by resolution. Council can consider LAHA-funded rent/mortgage support grants for today. The estimated need is over 100 households. Staff recommends donating up to \$10,000 to each of the PTAs and the non-profit we provided food aid to, as well as considering donating up to another \$10,000 to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon to help those not connected to a school.

Mayor and Council are grateful to staff for their efforts and support this funding source.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to approve Resolution No. 26-023 Authorizing a Grant of Local Affordable Housing Aid Funds to a Nonprofit Organization to Provide Rent and/or Mortgage Support to Income-Eligible West St. Paul Resident Households to Prevent Eviction and Housing Instability as presented.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

13. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Gulley and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Nowicki
Assistant City Manager
City of West St. Paul