

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Halverson  
Councilmembers John Bellows, Ed Iago, Dave Napier, Bob Pace  
and Dick Vitelli

Absent: Councilmember Anthony Fernandez (excused absence)

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
Police Chief Manila Shaver  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Parks & Public Works Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith  
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
Finance Director Char Stark  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

Mayor Halverson stated that the following agenda changes were discussed by the City Council at the Open Council Work Session prior to the City Council meeting:

- Removed Item 9A, OCWS and Regular Council Minutes of April 23, 2018, for further review;
- Removed Item 9E, Donations to the City; to be properly recognized at the May 29, 2018 City Council meeting; and
- Moved Item 11B, Eminent Domain Resolution for Auto Zone, to the Consent Agenda as Item 9L.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Napier to adopt the agenda, as amended.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**5. OCWS Briefing**

Mayor Halverson said the Council held a Work Session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the following:

- Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(c) Regarding Acquisition or Sale of Property Related to Thompson Oaks
- Review of Draft Comprehensive Plan

## **6. Citizen Comments**

Mayor Halverson provided a statement prior to the introduction of Citizen Comments.

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Kali Freeman, Ward 2
- Dawn Butler, Mendota Heights
- Katie Dohman, Ward 3
- Chris Gevara, Ward 3
- Samantha Green, Ward 1
- Wendy Berry, Ward 3
- Andrea Friesen, Ward 3
- Malaia Johnson, Ward 3
- Abigail Hendricks, Ward 3
- Laura Zanmiller, Ward 1
- Karen Vavreck, Ward 2
- Jade Pennig, Ward 3
- Kelly Billig, Ward 2
- Judy Rangel, Ward 2
- Julie Goldstein, St. Paul
- Dan Donday, 1304 Stryker Avenue
- Megan McGuire, Ward 2
- Deb Swensen, Ward 3
- Chris Halverson, Ward 2
- Darlene Lewis, Ward 3
- Susan Pavlak, Ward 2
- Sky Rainey, Ward 2
- Lisa Eng-Sarne, Ward 3

## **7. Council Comments**

Councilmember Pace reminded everyone about the West St. Paul Open House event coming up on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., followed by West St. Paul Days celebrations and activities throughout the weekend. Councilmember Pace said the parade will be on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 p.m.

Councilmember Napier thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and encouraged them to attend every City Council meeting. He also thanked all of the volunteers for their service within the community.

Councilmember Napier stated that, when serving as Councilmember, his motions or support thereof are based on respect for the process.

Councilmember Napier said it was inspiring to learn about the Fire Department's activities during the recent annual joint meeting between South Metro Fire Department, the City of South St. Paul and the City of West St. Paul. He added that it is amazing what South Metro Fire does for our community. He said this should never be overlooked.

Councilmember Napier said the Kiwanis breakfast will be on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to attend and said that all monies raised will go towards scholarships for students from Sibley High School and South St. Paul High School.

Councilmember Iago thanked everyone for coming tonight. He said it is refreshing to have this many people come to the meeting and step up to the podium. Councilmember Iago spoke regarding one citizen's comment about feeling that a person's vote cannot be criticized with respect to zoning, ordinance or other. Councilmember Iago said this disturbed him more than anything else and said he's sorry that she feels that way. He added that this is a perception that needs to be changed today.

Councilmember Iago read a quote that he said came from the last presidential race: *"In politics, be it federal, state, local or county, there are no governing bodies that will always agree with everything placed before them. Disagreements with your colleagues are acceptable, as, normally, both sides have all the facts. It is after the facts are known that personalities and opinions distort the process and the results. Disagreeing with constituents is much easier, because both parties rarely have all the facts and, if you leave out the personalities and the opinions and deal only with the facts and an open mind, the majority of times, the people and the elected official may come to a respectable agreement or even a more respectable disagreement."* Councilmember Iago said there is a moral to the quote which is, if you're in politics and making decisions, try to deal only with the facts and learn to live with the personalities and their opinions.

Councilmember Vitelli thanked everyone for their kind words. He said that his father always told him and his siblings to "be a leader." Councilmember Vitelli said he has worked with five different leaders but that he couldn't be more proud under the leadership of Mayor Halverson.

Councilmember Bellows thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight. He said he admits he was inappropriate at a previous meeting and apologized to Mr. De La Rosby. Councilmember Bellows said he condemns the acts of inappropriate items left at Mayor Halverson and Ms. Green's homes.

Councilmember Bellows said he disagrees with any citizen comments that said he voted against gender, in regards to appointments for the Planning Commission. He said he felt another candidate for the Commission was more qualified and agrees that the Council should confirm the Mayor's nominees, so long as they are qualified.

Councilmember Bellows said he would like to suggest that disagreement is not dismissiveness and disagreement is not disrespect. He added that there is room in this City, in this country, and at this table for disagreement based on reasonable facts. Councilmember Bellows said, just because some may not agree, it does not mean they are disrespecting anyone else or acting in a sexist fashion.

Councilmember Bellows said there was a lot of guilt by association at tonight's meeting but that there was no basis of fact. He said he values the importance of women actively participating in our committees and commissions and encourages anyone to apply and run for public office. He said women have been successful in our Commissions and Council. Councilmember Bellows said he encourages everyone to get involved and to attend Commission and Council meetings to prepare and participate in this process.

Mayor Halverson said she welcomes disagreement and enjoys a good debate. She said they are healthy for our communities and it has been proven here tonight. Mayor Halverson said this was not about the harassment that followed the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She said this is about what has been occurring prior to and since April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She added that it is about a lot more than that.

Mayor Halverson said she is proud to say that, after six years, West St. Paul has Staff working on an initiative to bring in more diversity in our workforce here at City Hall. She thanked everyone for their comments and said we are listening to them. Mayor Halverson said we encourage people who want to join but that this is the problem. She said the business of keeping people in place on committees and on commissions is the crux of the problem. She added that the way to change that is to rebuke the practices that keep the current power dominance in play, but this was not about a reappointment.

Mayor Halverson said she is very proud of this community and thanked everyone for being engaged and for standing up and shouting. She said we need this and need to hear from residents. She asked that they continue doing it and to stay in contact.

Mayor Halverson said it is just remarkable to see this community turn something so negative into something so positive. Mayor Halverson thanked everyone.

## **8. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions**

Robin Ross and Sandi Powers of Relay for Life provided a presentation for the Council. Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to Midnight at Fleming Field Airport, 1725 Henry Avenue, in South St. Paul. There will be a silent auction, theme laps, team fundraising, kids activities, food, prizes and more. Ms. Ross and Ms. Powers said that 75 percent of resources go towards research, road to recovery, and to support survivors. They said a \$10.00 donation buys a luminary that symbolizes the light of hope and lights the path until Midnight.

Mayor Halverson thanked Ms. Ross and Ms. Powers for their presentation and for coming to the meeting tonight.

## 9. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes:
  - Open Council Work Session Minutes of April 23, 2018 – **Item Pulled for Review**
  - City Council Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2018 – **Item Pulled for Review**
- B. List of Claims, in the Amount of \$1,482,024.90
- C. Licensing:
  - Farmers Registration for St. Paul Growers' Association to sell produce at Signal Hills Mall lot from June 15 to October 26, 2018
  - Edward Jones (Solicitor-Spencer Schmitter), Solicitor License valid through December 31, 2018
- D. Rental Licensing
- E. Donations to the City – **Item Pulled**
- F. Resolution No. 18-62 Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale and/or Disposal Thereof
- G. Resolution No. 18-63 Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale and/or Disposal Thereof
- H. Resolution No. 18-64 Providing for the Sale of \$9,550,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2018A
- I. Resolution No. 18-65 Approving the Joint Powers Agreement Between the County of Dakota, the City of West St. Paul, and the Dakota County Drug Task Force for Pharmaceutical Drug Disposal Program
- J. Resolution No. 18-66 Ordering Preparation of Feasibility Study for the 2019 Street Improvement Project 19-1
- K. Resolution No. 18-67 Authorizing Offers to be Made for the Marie & Oakdale Trail Project 18-4
- L. Resolution No. 18-68 Approving the Use of Eminent Domain to Acquire Private Property as Required for River to River Greenway

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

## 10. Public Hearings

There were no Public Hearings.

**11. New Business**

**A. Foot Golf Proposal for Thompson Oaks**

Schroeder provided an overview of the proposal received from SFDMGT.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Napier to approve the proposal from SFDMGT for a foot golf course on the Thompson Oaks property.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

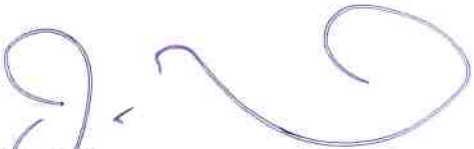
**12. Old Business**

There was no Old Business to discuss.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



Jenny Halverson  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul