

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2021**

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, 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
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn
Finance Director Char Stark
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

Nate Burkett

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

Motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the agenda, as presented.

5. OCWS Briefing

Council discussed the following items during the Open Council Work Session:

- A. Update on Ice Arena Expansion
- B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Park CIP Recommendations
- C. Discussion of Allowing Off-Sale Liquor Stores in the B2 – Neighborhood Business District
- D. Discussion on Reduction of Restrictions for Body Art Establishments
- E. Affirm Approach Regarding American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

6. Citizen Comments – In Person

Citizens who addressed the City Council in person:

- Daryl Morrison
- KaeJae Johnson
- Cecil Austin

7. Citizen Comments – Phone Line

No one called in to address the City Council.

8. Council Comments

Council thanked City Manager Ryan Schroeder for his time with the City of West St. Paul and wished him well in his retirement.

Council gave their best wishes to City Clerk Shirley Buecksler as she moves on to a new job with the City of Mantorville.

Councilmember Gulley

- *This past week and the past couple of weeks, a lot of us have been pretty absorbed in some of the big discussions here in West St. Paul. I'm really excited to have the opportunity to address some of the things that have been big concerns for folks in our community, which we will do later in the Council meeting. I have had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of community members on our fence and sign ordinance and other concerns in the city. I have been really grateful for all the participation that folks have brought. We have such an engaged community, and I am so appreciative of everyone who takes the time to express how they feel about these important issues and helps us to work through things in the best way possible.*
- *In the Open Council Work Session, we talked about 'No Mow May.' I'm excited about the possibility of us moving towards being a more pollinator friendly city.*
- *If you haven't had the chance to get your COVID vaccine, you can now go to the State Fairgrounds for it. I hope everyone will get the vaccine so we can all start to get back together again.*
- *We also have summer parks programming open now.*

Councilmember Eng-Sarne

- *On Friday, I was able to attend the Minnesota Women in City Government meeting. It was really good to hear what other Cities have been doing and adapting during the pandemic, but also just over these heavy, heavy issues, we've all been rightfully spending a lot of time these past months. It was good to have that therapy and that group and will share the link for the rest of the women in the group, as well.*

Councilmember Vitelli

- *I received a lot of hate mail in the past two weeks, and I would like to state for the record what my duties are as an elected official for the City of West St. Paul. I believe my job here is to represent the people, all the people; to help foster an environment where people can co-exist with their neighbors in some semblance of harmony and*

peace; and to maintain public services that are necessary to run a city – things like streets to drive on, water to flow from the tap when open it, a sewer system to take our waste away, removal of snow when necessary, public parks where we can gather and participate and recreational activities with our friends and neighbors, maintain a Police Department to protect and to serve us, a Fire Department, and First Responders to help us when we're in emergencies. I do not consider my job here as a citizen representative for the people of West St. Paul to be a union organizer, to be an activist for Black Lives Matter, or to be an activist for the gay community. I'm trying to represent everybody that lives in this city and trying to do it with the best of my ability and not be a partisan.

Councilmember Eastman

- *I also want to thank everybody who has emailed and those who have spoken tonight. I actually heard from a lot of residents on matters other than the fence and I appreciate your insight and feedback on that.*
- *Highway 52 is under construction right now. If you want to find out more, you can search MnDOT and sign up for email updates. They will send you updates every weekend or whenever they have activity going on with the project. For the next two weekends, starting 9pm Friday through 5am Monday, northbound 52 will be closed from I-494 north to I-94. There is also some ramp work going on at Wentworth and Thompson. Work plans to go on through the fall.*

Councilmember Berry

- *We had our South Metro Fire Board meeting last week and it was the one year anniversary of implementing the PAR 360 program, which is the mental health services for our Firefighters. Chief Juelfs let us know that, because this program has been so successful, the doctor that runs this is adding four or five more Fire Departments to that program, which is amazing because mental health in a male dominated macho field like firefighting is tough to talk about. Chief Juelfs has really gone above and beyond what we thought he would do in this. It's really trailblazing something I hope he's proud of, because we're proud of him on the Board.*

Mayor Napier

- *The Wyland Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation is the month of April. We are soon approaching the end of that, but it's not too late. Please go and pledge for your whole family and spread it to other people, as well. We want to finish higher than 20th, where we are right now. Last year, we finished third, so we can do it.*
- *Pfizer vaccinations are taking place at the State Fairgrounds. More information will be on the City's website. It's now through June 9th, so take advantage of this opportunity in our area.*
- *Welcome to Nate Burkett, new City Manager – thank you for joining the City of West St. Paul. We look forward to working with you in the future.*

9. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

A. Proclamation Honoring Nancy Raddatz

Council read a proclamation in honor of Nancy Raddatz. Mayor Napier presented the signed proclamation to her daughter, Darcy.

B. Donation to the City

Mayor Napier and the City Council publicly thanked Sibley Hockey Booster Club, Inc. for their generous donation of up to \$200,000 towards the construction of future locker rooms at the West St. Paul Ice Arena.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adopt Resolution No. 21-034 Donation from Sibley Hockey Booster Club, Inc.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

10. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Minutes of April 12, 2021 OCWS and Regular Council**
- B. Claims in the Amount of \$906,856.16**
- C. Financial Update for February 2021**
- D. Transfer Funds and Close Debt Service Funds**
- E. Excess Fund Balance Transfer**
- F. Resolution No. 21-032 Affirming Allocation Policy for American Rescue Plan Revenues**
- G. City Licensing in the Amount of \$100.00 for:**
 - Fireworks Sales – Lowe’s Home Centers, LLC
- H. Rental Licensing in the Amount of \$257.50 for:**
 - 75/77 Logan Avenue West; Duplex – Renewal
 - 962/964 Smith Avenue South; Duplex – Renewal
 - 255 Westview Drive #205; Condo – Renewal
 - 1808 Humboldt Avenue; Townhome – Renewal
 - 298 Hurley Street East; Single Family – Renewal
 - 1471 Oakdale Avenue; Single Family – Renewal
- I. Contract with Kimley-Horn in the Amount of \$163,745.00 for Final Design and Construction Administration of the Bidwell Avenue Safe Routes to School Project, City Project 21-8.**
- J. Resolution No. 21-035 Approving a Maintenance Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and South St. Paul, MnDOT Contract No. 1045367**

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. Public Hearing

A. Final Reading of Ordinance No. 21-006 Amending Section 153.004 and Section 153.171 of the West St. Paul City Code Regarding Cosmetic Tattooing, City of West St. Paul

Community Development Director presented the ordinance for its final reading.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m. Hearing from no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to pass Ordinance No. 21-006 Amending Section 153.004 and Section 153.171 of the West St. Paul City Code Regarding Cosmetic Tattooing.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

12. New Business

A. Review of Sign and Fence Ordinances

Mayor Napier opened the discussion for public comment. No one came up to speak.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gulley and seconded by Councilmember Berry to implement the fine seven (7) days from tomorrow if the fence at Butler and Smith is not in compliance.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Councilmember Vitelli excused himself from the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Reappointments

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to reappoint David Lynch and Robert Gausman to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee effective today for a two year term ending March 1, 2023.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

C. AT&T Resolution

Motion was made by Councilmember Gulley and seconded by Councilmember Berry to amend the proposed resolution and adopt it as Resolution No. 21-036 On Dispute Between AT&T and Its Workers Represented by the Communications Workers of America Local 7250.

Vote: 4 ayes / 1 nay – Councilmember Eng-Sarne voted nay. Motion carried.

13. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

14. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Gulley and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul