

**City of West St. Paul  
Open Council Work Session Minutes  
April 26, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Napier called the meeting to order at 5:00 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

Also Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon  
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
City Planner Melissa Sonnek  
Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Dave Schletty  
Finance Director Char Stark  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

Nate Burkett

**3. Review and Approve the OCWS Agenda**

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

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**4. Review the Regular Meeting Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Berry to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

## **5. Agenda Item(s)**

### **A. Update on Ice Arena Expansion**

Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Schletty introduced Jason Booth, former Sibley Hockey Booster Club President, and Casey Weimer, President of the South Area Youth Hockey Association (SAYHA).

Mr. Booth presented information for Council on the ice arena expansion and said SAYHA is committed to continuous improvement of opportunities for area youth to participate in successful hockey programming.

City Manager Schroeder said the previous Council discussed this expansion about a year or so ago, but then COVID slowed it down. The lease was drafted at that time for this model.

Council thanked Mr. Booth and Mr. Weimer for the update and information.

### **B. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Park CIP Recommendations**

Over the past 18 months, Schletty said the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) has been working on an inventory of each City park. Using the 2000 Parks Master Plan as a guide, members talked through needed improvements and added amenities for each park. If approved by Council, Staff will use the recommendations to help guide future park planning and CIP budgeting.

With Marthaler Park master plan a priority, Schletty said park dedication fees would be used to do those plan improvements. We are able to use that money now, which will free up money for future improvements.

Councilmembers Justen and Gulley suggested that some funding go to Kennedy Park, as well. Councilmember Gulley asked that Park & Rec connect with the community before making park plans. Schletty said this is our full intention later in the summer.

Schroeder added that it is very doable and not a wish list. About \$3 million of work will happen in the next 10 years, with about \$1.3 million dedicated to Marthaler Park.

### **C. Discussion of Allowing Off-Sale Liquor Stores in the B2 – Neighborhood Business District**

Community Development Director Hartshorn said City Code currently allows Off-Sale Liquor establishments to be located in the B3 and B4 through a Conditional Use Permit. Allowing Off-Sale Liquor stores in the B2 district would require a zoning code amendment.

Councilmember Justen asked if we have other B2 districts. Hartshorn said we don't have many.

Councilmember Eastman asked if we have a limit on Off-Sale Liquor stores. Hartshorn said it is currently set at six, by ordinance.

Staff will bring this back to Council at a future meeting.

#### **D. Discussion on Reduction of Restrictions for Body Art Establishments**

City Planner Sonnek said Council requested additional discussion after the recent City Code change to remove microblading from the definition of body art establishments; specifically, to consider reducing the current zoning limitations for body art establishments.

Councilmember Vitelli said he has no desire to change it.

Councilmember Justen said one place it could be important is at Sola Salons. If limited to 200 feet from another establishment, would the building be allowed to have more than one? Sonnek said 800 feet to the nearest establishment would limit it to one in that building.

Councilmember Gulley asked if Sonnek has a recommendation if we reduce it to 500 feet? Sonnek said I think 200 feet limitation leaves 20% of the city open. 200 feet is pretty restrictive.

Councilmember Justen questioned the Smith Avenue area in regards to 200 feet. Sonnek received an inquiry for a body piercing business to relocate to the Doddway Center.

Councilmember Eastman said the major contributor is 200 feet from residential and that this seems like the logical next step.

Councilmember Gulley asked if we can open it up to the business district but limit the number of businesses? Or change Code to hold them to high safety standards? Are there ways to address concerns regarding these establishments? Hartshorn said the Minnesota Department of Health has these establishments highly regulated.

Sonnek said the information tonight is a guide and Staff is seeking direction from Council on how to proceed.

Councilmember Eastman said Dakota County may have something relative to tattoo parlors.

Councilmember Gulley agreed that looking to Dakota County is a good idea. She stated that some perceptions of tattoo/piercing shops are not actually concerns anymore. She supports getting the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Councilmember Eng-Sarne supports sending this to the Planning Commission to establish a limit of 200 to 300 feet or similar.

Councilmember Berry said she would love to see the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Council agreed.

**E. Affirm Approach Regarding American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

Schroeder said we didn't have enough time at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss this item.

Mayor Napier said the American Rescue Plan Act will have a positive impact on our whole community. He told Schroeder that he has had an impact on the City, financially, in a good way and it is important that we stay on track with the direction you've set us on.

Councilmember Justen said we are in a unique position where we can take advantage of this.

Councilmember Gulley spoke with Representative Hansen who thought this was a good idea. She supports it.

Councilmembers Vitelli and Eng-Sarne also support it.

**6. Adjourn**

Council discussed "No Mow May" to help protect pollinators, including signage and links on the City's website for residents to get more information about it.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

David J. Napier  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul