

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 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 Pat Armon, Wendy Berry, Lisa Eng-Sarne, Doug Fromm, Robyn Gulley, John Justen and Junior Councilmember Elise Moga

Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Nate Burkett
City Attorney Jana O'Leary Sullivan
Assistant City Manager Dan Nowicki
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
Public Works Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith
City Planner Melissa Houtsma
Finance Director Susan Earle
City Clerk Nicole Tillander

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

With an amendment to add Item 11C. Bond Sale, motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adopt the agenda, as presented and amended.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. Organizational Business

A. Appoint Mayor Pro Tem for 2026

Motion was made by Councilmember Fromm and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to approve the nomination and designation of Councilmember Berry as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2026.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

B. Appointments of Mayor and Councilmembers to Boards and Commissions

City Manager Burkett advised of one change, Councilmembers Eng-Sarne and Gulley switching positions on the Environmental Committee.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt Resolution No. 26-001 Approving Appointments to Public Agencies, as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

C. Rules of Council and Code of Ethics

City Manager Burkett advised changes were made to remote participation use and frequency, no other changes were presented.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to approve Permanent Rules of the City Council and Code of Ethics as amended.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

6. OCWS Briefing

Open Council Work Session held January 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM:

1. Welcome and Note Attendance
2. Agenda Items
 - A. Trailer and Boat Parking Restrictions Discussion
 - B. Administrative Code
 - C. Boards and Commissions Policy
 - D. Rules of Council and Code of Ethics
 - E. Personnel Policy Update
3. Regular Meeting Consent Agenda Review
4. Adjourn

7. Community Comments – In Person

- KaeJae Johnson – update on ROCC, new space at 33 Wentworth Ave E, Ste 390, certified family resource center and community food pantry, pick up hours are Mon, Wed, Friday from 9am – 2pm, happy to serve the community, walk-ins welcome
- Tom Edwards, Charlton St – fears of police department, serious problem in our state, would like a resolution passed that the WSP police department does not act in collaboration with ICE or give the appearance of supporting ICE
- Alex Escoto, father is owner of El Taquito – mother was approached by ICE, they are violating civil rights of WSP residents, would like something more to be done by WSP, police department stated they were unable to do anything, council and PD are complicit, police should be protecting residents and should be ashamed
- Name not given – stories of ICE agents, their presence threatens safety, commerce, community and innocent people based on the color of their skin, we need to push for them to leave and make sure neighbors are informed of their legal rights

- Zach Larmore, Haskell St – comparison to Nazi Germany, it is a civil misdemeanor to be undocumented in the U.S., this is an inappropriate response to a civil misdemeanor, asking local law enforcement officials to enforce the law or use PTO
- Name not given – would like increased enforcement on ICE agents if they are breaking the law, would like police incentivized to issue citations, ICE is being given immunity from the law at the federal level, take local action now to prevent a lack of transparency later
- Name not given – Eco Chico owner, would like license fees waived for secondhand stores, planning to open another shop in West St. Paul, the presence of ICE is affecting local businesses, police force should be circulating, checking on businesses, if paying these fees, should get protection from police
- Evan Escoto – stories of ICE agents, young people are nervous and scared, feeling of helplessness, afraid for the future
- Emily Yederlinic, Ohio St – people are afraid to leave their homes, in the past year, has seen two women murdered by men in masks with guns, please protect this community
- Rachel Gleeson, Livingston Ave – what can we depend on the WSP PD for? Can we call 911? Mayor Napier advised, if you feel unsafe, yes, call 911.
- Marvin Youness, Charlton St, long-term resident – agrees with Governor Walz, observe, record, be brave, but don't take the bait
- Edgar Herrera, Ward 1 – stories of ICE in the community, carries papers with him at all times, asks that PD keep the kids safe, patrol schools, etc
- Brooklyn, Stryker Ave – how will history remember you? Have you done all that you can?

8. Community Comments – Phone Line

- No one called in to address the council.

9. Council Comments

Mayor and Councilmembers thanked the audience members for attending and voicing their concerns. All councilmembers are in agreement with the points made by community members and are doing all they can to address the concerns of the community.

10. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2025
- B. City Business Licensing – future discussion on Foodsmith liquor license, licensee not in attendance, voted on as presented
- C. City Rental Licensing
- D. List of Claims for January 12, 2026
- E. Designation of City Official Depositories
- F. Non-Waiver of Statutory Tort Liability Limits
- G. Amend and Clarify the 2026 Fee Schedule for the Dome and Ice Arena Rental Fees
- H. Dakota County Domestic Preparedness Committee JPA Renewal
- I. Final Payment for the Forcemain 4 and Lift Station 4 Projects CP 19-4 and 20-7

J. Personnel Policy Update

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made at 7:32 p.m. by Councilmember Eng-Sarne and seconded by Councilmember Berry to recess the council meeting for ten minutes.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. General Business

A. Adopt 2025 Parks System Plan

Eric Weiss presented the background, vision and development plan. Current plan is from 2000. Engagement has included surveys, workshops, open houses and community events. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Environmental Committee have reviewed and guided the process. Kennedy Park and Albert Park are examples of development plans. Staff asks that the council adopt the 2025 parks systems plan as presented.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Justen adopt the 2025 Parks System Plan as presented.

B. Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Medical Office at 33 Wentworth Avenue East (Nova Recovery Center)

City Planner Melissa Houtsma presented. Planning Commission reviewed and held a public hearing on December 16, 2025. No one from the public came forward to speak. The Commission voted 8-0 to recommend approval of the conditional use permit. Staff recommends approval of the conditional use permit subject to conditions.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to approve Resolution No. 26-004 Approving a Conditional Use Permit to Allow a Medical Office in a B-3, General Business Zoning District at 33 Wentworth Avenue East.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

C. Bond Sale

Finance Director Susan Earle presented. Staff recommends approval of the resolution, which outlines the bond sale.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fromm and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to approve the bond sale as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

12. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Tillander
City Clerk
City of West St. Paul