

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Halverson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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

Absent: None

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 listed the following agenda changes that were discussed by Council at the Work Session prior to the regular meeting:

- Remove Item 11B, 1010 Dodd Road – Memorial Discussion
- Add Item 11C, Environmental Commission Appointments
- Move Item 9J, Reinstatement of Rental License for 1492 Charlton Street, to Old Business, Item 12A.
- Move Item 9K, Planning Commission Appointment, to Old Business, Item 12B.

Motion was made by Councilmember Iago 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) for Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Related to 1492 Charlton Street;
- 2017 Audit Report;
- 2019 Street Improvements Project 19-1;
- Consideration of Council Stipend Increase;
- First Reading of Ordinance Restricting Tobacco Sales Under 21; and
- Discussion on Appointments to Environmental Commission

## **6. Citizen Comments**

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Julie Eastman, Ward 1
- Mayor Neil Garlock, Mendota Heights
- Liz Petschel, Mendota Heights
- Karen Vavreck, Ward 2
- Andi Morris, Ward 2
- Laura Zanmiller, Ward 1
- Ken Paulman, Ward 3
- Donald Sylvester, Ward 3
- Judy Rangel, Ward 2
- Katie Dohman, Ward 3
- Wendy Berry, Ward 3
- Samantha Green, Ward 1
- Cat Thompson, Ward 3
- Lisa Stevens, Ward 2
- Julie Wedener, Ward 1
- Kevin Hendricks, Ward 3
- Skye Rainey, Ward 2
- Courtney Rainey, Ward 2
- Susan Stradman, Ward 1
- Joe LaPerry, Ward 3

Mayor Halverson proposed a joint Council meeting between the Cities of West St. Paul and Mendota Heights, along with the Patrick family, to discuss the memorial for Officer Patrick.

## **7. Council Comments**

Mayor Halverson thanked everyone for speaking at tonight's meeting. She said she is proud of the strength and engagement of our community here in West St. Paul. She said

the dynamics of this room show what the heart of West St. Paul is and said it really reflects our community.

Councilmember Napier said that we need to remember this is your city – the residents of this community. He said we have heard some positive things tonight. He also said our city is better than putting screws in tires and damaging property. Councilmember Napier said he appreciates those who have stood up in support of removing that from our city.

Councilmember Napier said Robert Street is a beautiful corridor but if that's not the image you see please call City Hall and let us know so we can work to keep it beautiful.

Councilmember Napier mentioned the Shred Event coming up on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at South St. Paul High School, located at 700 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North in South St. Paul.

Councilmember Napier mentioned the West St. Paul Bike Rodeo on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at the Wentworth Library, located at 199 Wentworth Avenue in West St. Paul. He said the Wentworth Library will also have a Fix-It Clinic following the Bike Rodeo on June 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Councilmember Fernandez said it's awful that people have to experience harassment and people coming onto their property. He said he has been working on an initiative with Staff over the past several months to deal with diversity in our community. Councilmember Fernandez said one of his goals is to start a diversity task force or committee that deals with people of color, women business owners, as well as prospering and nurturing that in our community. He said this is one of his pet projects and hopes that the Mayor and other Councilmembers will join him in this effort. He said Council also attended the Cinco de Mayo parade in St. Paul as part of this effort.

Mayor Halverson corrected Councilmember Fernandez and said that she and Councilmember Napier have already been involved in the diversity effort and attended the meeting.

Councilmember Pace thanked everyone for coming and providing comments. To combat sexism, he suggested that the Mayor lead a group, including the Council and community members, to form ideas together and work on policy to help change the environment at City Hall. Councilmember Pace apologized to Mayor Halverson if he has ever disrespected her in any way but said that he has not been made aware of it. Mayor Halverson thanked Councilmember Pace and also noted that he did reach out to her after the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and said she appreciated that.

Councilmember Iago also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and providing comments.

Councilmember Iago said that Cub Food stores will be celebrating 50 years on July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Iago suggested contacting Augustana Lutheran Church if anyone is interested in volunteering on a project for Habitat for Humanity.

Councilmember Iago said he appreciates the calls he has received from citizens asking for facts and that he is more than happy to provide this information.

Councilmember Iago said his statement referring to Mayor Halverson as a Lady was not meant in a disrespectful tone. He also stated that he was not at the Open House because he needed to be at the side of a sick child. Mayor Halverson thanked Councilmember Iago.

Councilmember Vitelli said he is embarrassed about all that is going on and the reputation that we are gaining as a Council and a City. He also apologized to Mayor Halverson if he has ever disrespected her in any way. Mayor Halverson thanked Councilmember Vitelli.

Councilmember Bellows said there was mention about the previous City Manager being asked to leave and said we are better off with our current City Manager.

Councilmember Bellows said he heard there was criticism for his absence at the Open House. He said, at that time, he had just come back from being out of the country. Councilmember Bellows said he also heard about the acts of vandalism against Mayor Halverson and others who spoke at past Council meetings and said he condemns these actions. He said he rejects that the Council is vaguely associated with these acts. Councilmember Bellows said these acts hurt the entire city and must be condemned.

Councilmember Bellows said he agrees fully with Mayor Halverson that the reason Samantha Green was not appointed to the Planning Commission is what brought us to this situation. Councilmember Bellows compared the Council's vote for Samantha Green to a vote in years past when Mayor Halverson was a Councilmember and did not confirm the Mayor's appointment to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Bellows said Mayor Halverson stated that she reached out to the Planning Commissioner who was serving and seeking reappointment to thank him for his service and his time but he said the Commissioner did not receive her email.

Councilmember Bellows said that Mayor Halverson should be commended for encouraging women to apply to Commissions and Council. He asked Mayor Halverson to call for an independent professional third party investigation if she is serious in her claims. He added that her claims have cast a shadow over West St. Paul and this Council. Councilmember Bellows said we need to know if this is a disagreement between the Council and Mayor Halverson or if there is disrespect. He said we need to remove this shadow and correct her concern.

Mayor Halverson asked Staff to retrieve the email she sent to John Ramsay prior to the publication of the April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Mayor Halverson said, when she was a Councilmember and voted against the appointment of John Ramsay to the Planning Commission, that this is when the precedent was set and is

exactly what she was referencing. She said this was when Councilmember Bellows brought up the argument that it was not up to her or anyone to question the Mayor's authority. She said this argument was championed by Councilmember Bellows. Mayor Halverson said that is what happened and what is in question here. She asked why it was okay to say it at that time when she was opposing the Mayor's prerogative to do so.

Councilmember Napier said he wants to make it very clear that City Manager Schroeder is doing a fantastic job for West St. Paul. He said that does not mean that the previous City Manager didn't do a fantastic job, as well.

Councilmember Vitelli echoed Councilmember Napier's comments regarding the City Manager. He said he cannot say enough good things about City Manager Schroeder and wants him to know he is a fantastic City Manager.

Mayor Halverson asked what the point would be to launch a third party investigation. She said the point is for her to change the culture of West St. Paul to make things better for those who come after her. She said this is not about her at all but that the whole movement, the engagement, has already been accomplished. Mayor Halverson said the point is to simply believe her when she says it happened. She added that, if we have not learned nothing this past year or two, it is that.

Randy Barron, Ward 1, addressed the Council and said she believes Mayor Halverson.

Mayor Halverson added that women do not make things up because they want attention. She said it is embarrassing.

Tom Edwards, Ward 2, addressed the Council. He said that Mayor Halverson is one of the most honorable Mayors he has ever watched sit in that chair. He also commended Councilmembers Vitelli and Napier with high honor.

Katie Dohman, Ward 3, addressed the Council. Councilmember Bellow responded with comment that he did not state the Mayor was not sexually harassed. He said he only stated she was claiming a different standard and her claims cast a shadow.

Mayor Halverson thanked all of the speakers at tonight's meeting.

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

### **A. Donations to the City**

Council thanked South Robert Street Business Association for their donation toward the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Iago to adopt Resolution No. 18-75 Accepting Donations to the City.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

## 9. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2018 – City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2018 – OCWS and City Council Meeting Minutes
- C. Acceptance of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR)
- D. April Financial Reports
- E. Financial Plan
- F. List of Claims
- G. Set Public Hearing Date – Unpaid Administrative Citations for June 25, 2018
- H. City Licensing
  - Application for On-Sale Temporary Outside Service, Tapper’s Pub, on July 11, 2018, July 28, 2018, September 18, 2018, and September 24, 2018
- I. Rental Licensing
- J. Reinstatement of Rental License for 1492 Charlton Street – **Item Moved to 12A New Business**
- K. Planning Commission Appointment – **Item Moved to 12B New Business**
- L. Resolution No. 18-77 Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing Sale and/or Disposal Thereof
- M. Authorize Safe Routes to School Application

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

## 10. Public Hearings

### A. **Resolution Establishing TIF District 1-5 and Resolution Authorizing an Interfund Loan in Connection with TIF District 1-5**

Hartshorn provided an overview for Council, along with James Lehnhoff of Ehlers & Associates.

Mayor Halverson opened the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m.

Randy Thompson, Ward 3, addressed the Council.

Mayor Halverson closed the Public Hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 18-73 Adopting a Modification to the Redevelopment Plan for the South Robert Street Redevelopment Project Area and Establishing Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-5 Therein and Adopting a Tax Increment Financing Plan Therefor.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 18-74 Authorizing an Interfund Loan for Advance of Certain Costs in Connection with Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-5.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**B. Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Section 153.436 Regarding Electronic Signs (Continuation)**

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to continue this item to the July 9, 2018 City Council meeting.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**11. New Business**

**A. Bond Sale and Resolution Accepting the Highest Bidder**

Stark introduced James Lehnhoff of Ehlers & Associates who provided an overview for Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 18-72 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of \$9,550,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2018A, Pledging Special Assessments for the Security Thereof and Levying a Tax for the Payment Thereof.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**B. 1010 Dodd Road – Memorial Discussion – Item Pulled**

**C. Environmental Commission Appointments**

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to appoint Olivia Newfield, Polly Saatzer and Tara Wright to the Environmental Commission.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**12. Old Business**

**A. Reinstatement of Rental License for 1492 Charlton Street**

Attorney Land provided an overview for Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Bellows and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 18-76 Reinstating Rental License at 1492 Charlton Street.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**B. Planning Commission Appointment**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Pace to appoint Samantha Green to the Planning Commission.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays / Councilmember Bellows abstained

**13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Napier and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



Jenny Halverson  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul