

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
July 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 Nate Burkett  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon  
City Planner Melissa Sonnek  
Public Works & Parks Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith  
Finance Director Char Stark  
Marketing & Communications Manager / Interim City Clerk Dan  
Nowicki  
City Clerk Nicole Tillander

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

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

**5. OCWS Briefing**

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

- A. Closed Session Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(b) for Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding the MDHR Litigation
- B. South Metro Fire Department - EMS Levy Increase for 2022 Budget
- C. Review of Recommendations for Renaissance Plan Ordinance Amendments

**6. Citizen Comments – In Person**

Citizens who addressed the City Council in person:

- Ron Josephs
- John Bellows
- Kevin Hendricks

**7. Citizen Comments – Phone Line**

No one called in to address the City Council.

**8. Council Comments**

**9. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions**

A. Donation to the City

South Robert Street Business Association is donating \$10,000 to the Summer Fun Fest on August 14, to be held in conjunction with Dodge Nature Center.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adopt Resolution No. 21-055 Donation to the City from South Robert Street Business Association.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**10. Consent Agenda**

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

- A. List of Claims for July 26, 2021
- B. Financial Update for May 2021
- C. Rental Licensing

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**11. Public Hearing**

A. **Final Assessment Hearing for 2020-2021 Robert Street Sidewalk Snow Removal**

Public Works & Parks Director / City Engineer Ross Beckwith presented final assessment role and recommended opening public hearing and adopting final roll.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m. Hearing from no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the final assessment role as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**12. New Business**

A. **Bidwell Street Sidewalk**

City Engineer Ross Beckwith presented project scope. Work is being done on Crusader Ave W in 2022. Bidwell was reconstructed in 2017, west curb line shifted in four feet to make room for a future sidewalk, part of Crusader project will add concrete sidewalks to two-block section of Bidwell St. Pedestrian survey work done in June and 131 letters mailed to property owners on July 9. Financing from Sidewalk Fund to cover \$110,000 cost of project; no assessments will be made. Mayor Napier opened the discussion for public comment.

The following people addressed the Council in person:

- George Mitshulis, 165 Oakview Rd
- Tom Wick, corner of Marie and Bidwell
- Joel Knoepfler, 1902 Duck Pond Dr
- Bonnie Bellows, 1925 Bidwell St
- Michelle Lewis, 1893 Winslow Ct
- John Bellows, 1925 Bidwell St
- No name or address given
- Bill Meyer, 174 Oakview Rd

Citizens who addressed the City Council by phone:

- Chris Gevara
- Jules Edward

Mayor Napier and Councilmembers Eastman, Justen, Vitelli and Gulley responded to concerns and stressed importance of community input. Mayor Napier advised all new developments have sidewalks and walkability and accessibility are important City goals.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eastman and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to move forward with Bidwell sidewalk project and give staff direction.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**B. First Reading of Ordinance Related to Vacation of Kruse Street on Augustana Lutheran Church Property**

City Attorney Land advised unbuilt right-of-way on Kruse Street will be vacated by the City and returned to the church. Vacation will be taken subject to Xcel Energy easement for existing utility. Public hearing will follow first reading.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Berry to approve the first reading as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**13. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**14. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. Napier", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David J. Napier  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul