

**City of West St. Paul
City Council Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2022**

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
Assistant City Manager Dan Nowicki
Police Chief Brian Sturgeon
Community Development Director Ben Boike
Finance Director Char Stark
City Clerk Nicole Tillander

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Adopt the Agenda

Agenda amended – Item 5A. moved to 5B; 5B moved to 5A. Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the agenda as amended.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

A. Presentation - Pink Patch Project and the Annual Police / Fire Charity Hockey Game to benefit the American Cancer Society

Police Chief Sturgeon and Fire Chief Juelfs presented information. The 4th annual hockey game will take place October 8th at 3:00 p.m.

B. Oath of Office - Introduction of New Police Officer

Chief Sturgeon and Mayor Napier swore in new police officer Cole Rach. Cole is a recent graduate and was previously a CSO in Maple Grove. Many friends and family members were present in the council chambers. Thank you for choosing West St. Paul, Officer Rach!

6. OCWS Briefing

Council discussed the following items during the Open Council Work Session of August 22nd:

- A. Opioid Settlement Funding Policy Position
- B. South Metro Fire Department - Creation of Fire District
- C. Cannabinoid Product Regulations

7. Community Comments – In Person

- Edgar Herrera, Ward 1 – personal experience with opioids, addiction
- Kimetha (KaeJae) Johnson – personal experience with opioids/marijuana, ROCC backpack giveaway was a great success, next event is October 29th from 11-5 at Thompson Park
- Joel Knoepfler – Y closure, would like a community center built in West St. Paul for the health and benefit of the entire community
- Kevin Hendricks, Ward 3 – thank you for a great Explore WSP Days event, WSP Rider successful event, upcoming Art Park event Tuesday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Community Comments – Phone Line

- No one called in to address the council.

9. Council Comments

Mayor and Councilmembers addressed the public on various topics.

10. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes of July 11, July 25 and August 8, 2022
- B. City Licensing
- C. Rental Licensing
 - 351 Schletty Lane (Single Family – Renewal)
 - 464 Ruby Drive (Single Family – New)
 - 1233 Hall Avenue (Single Family – New)
 - 1898 Audrey Drive (Single Family – New)
 - 126 Logan Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
 - 1322 Livingston Avenue (Single Family – Renewal)
 - 2050 Delaware Avenue (Apartment – Renewal)
 - Total Amount – \$1,987.00
- D. Donations to the City
- E. List of Claims for August 22, 2022

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

11. Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment of Unpaid Administrative Citations

Finance Director Char Stark presented the proposed assessment roll for the annual assessment process for outstanding invoices for administrative citations on properties that were out of compliance with code enforcement ordinances. Property owners were notified and notice was published in the paper. Staff is requesting a public hearing be held and Council approval of all non-contested citations assessed to property taxes for collection in 2023.

Public hearing opened at 7:00 p.m. Residents, Christian Berry and Eli Berry, of 240 Arion St E. provided a letter and spoke regarding the outdoor storage citations and asked that the citations be repealed; staff will do further research and bring this property back to the next council meeting for final assessment. Public hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Gulley to remove the 240 Arion St E citations for reconsideration at a future meeting and adopt the remaining final assessment role as presented.

Vote: Berry – aye
Gulley – aye
Eastman – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Justen – aye
Vitelli – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

B. Public Hearing on Proposed Assessment of Unpaid Miscellaneous Invoices

Finance Director Char Stark presented the proposed assessment roll for the annual assessment process for outstanding invoices for miscellaneous charges, such as police false alarms and snow removal. Property owners were notified and notice was published in the paper. Staff is requesting a public hearing be held and Council approval of all non-contested citations assessed to property taxes for collection in 2023.

Public hearing opened at 7:19 p.m. Resident of 78 Annapolis St E spoke regarding the snow removal citations and asked that the charges be reduced; staff will do further research and bring this property back to the next council meeting for final assessment. Public hearing closed at 7:24 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eastman and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to remove the 78 Annapolis St E citations for reconsideration at a future meeting and adopt the remaining final assessment role as presented.

Vote: Eastman – aye

Eng-Sarne – aye
Berry – aye
Gulley – aye
Justen – aye
Vitelli – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

12. New Business

A. Site Plan Amendment for a New Restaurant with a Drive-Through at 2001 Robert Street South – Café Zupas

Community Development Director Ben Boike presented the site plan amendment. Planning Commission reviewed on August 16th, 2022. Planning Commission voted 6-0 to recommend approval of the site plan as recommended by city staff. Staff looks for approval of the site plan amendment subject to listed conditions.

Council discussion regarding mural, art, signage on the building and potential changes. Also discussed number of parking spots, pedestrian safety and crossings and future improvements to the lot. Applicant is willing to add a sign that asks customers to turn off their vehicles while waiting for their orders.

Michael Orange – West St. Paul resident of 1211 Bidwell Street offered comments and an alternative to the site plan.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Justen to approve Resolution No. 22-059 Approving a Site Plan Amendment for the Construction of a New Restaurant with a Drive-Through at 2001 Robert Street South (Café Zupas) as presented.

Vote: Vitelli – aye
Justen – aye
Berry – aye
Eastman – aye
Eng-Sarne – aye
Gulley – aye
6 ayes
Motion carried.

13. Old Business

14. Adjourn

Motion was made by Councilmember Eastman and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. Napier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "D" and "N".

David J. Napier
Mayor
City of West St. Paul