

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2019**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Dick Vitelli  
Councilmembers Wendy Berry, Anthony Fernandez,  
John Justen, Lisa Eng-Same and Bob Pace

Absent: Mayor Dave Napier (excused)

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Interim Police Chief Brian Sturgeon  
Human Resources Director Debra Gieseke  
Finance Director Char Stark  
Parks & Public Works Director/City Engineer Ross Beckwith  
Community & Economic Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**5. OCWS Briefing**

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said the Council held a work session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the following topics:

- A. Police Department Remodel
- B. Sidewalk Snow Removal on Robert Street
- C. Legislative Priority Review with Senator Matt Klein and Representative Rick Hansen
- D. Livingston Avenue Sidewalk Assessments

## 6. Citizen Comments

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Ron Josephs, 1080 Felix Street, regarding increasing taxes, the proposed project at Signal Hills/Kmart property, Robert Street, and parks that he stated are not being used. Mr. Josephs requested information on field usage and scheduling.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said that taxes pay for public amenities for everyone to use. He also commented on the quick response times from West St. Paul Police and South Metro Fire.

- Kevin Hendricks, 988 Seminole Avenue, thanked public employees and the workers who make things happen in this city, as well as the great parks we have that are full all the time with people.
- John Markham asked what priorities were discussed with Senator Klein and Representative Hansen.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said Senator Klein and Representative Hansen gave us advice on the list of items the City had prepared. One of the most important things discussed was the bonding program for the sewer lift station and he said this will be our number one priority. The second most important was funding for Infiltration and Infrastructure (I/I), he said.

## 7. Council Comments

Councilmember Eng-Sarne said that West St. Paul has joined a program called “Adopt-a-Drain” through Hamilton University. She said that 132,000 lbs of debris has been collected so far program-wide, with almost 5,000 homes and people participating. She said anyone interested in joining the program can go to [www.adopt-a-drain.org](http://www.adopt-a-drain.org) to adopt one in their own neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said he is extremely impressed that our Officers arrived within 90 seconds to apprehend a person within a few hundred feet of the house.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said the school district passed a \$115M referendum, and last Friday night was the dedication of the football field at Henry Sibley High School. Friday night was also their first football game on the field. Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said he has never seen such a big crowd. He said our community is doing well and it is nothing but an asset for our neighborhoods and the value of our homes.

## 8. Proclamations, Presentations and Recognitions

### A. Recognition of the Outstanding Property Nominees

Hartshorn presented Outstanding Property Awards for the following properties:

954 Smith Avenue – Sean Grasz  
1323 Bidwell Street – Stanley and Janet Szymanski  
1089 Robert Street – Peter Ladd  
879 Stryker Avenue – Steve Iverson and Louie Hawkins

Hartshorn said this is a record year with ten awards for outstanding properties. He added that he is proud to present five outstanding properties at the August 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and the other five tonight.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli said he appreciates property owners reinvesting in their homes and their businesses because it makes a much better community.

Motion made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Pace to approve the Outstanding Property Awards for the above mentioned properties.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

#### **B. Police Department Mass Notification Program Presentation**

Interim Police Chief Sturgeon provided a presentation on the Police Department Mass Notification Program to inform the Council and the public about the community-wide notification system that the Police Department, South Metro Fire Department and Emergency Management utilizes when critical, life threatening events occur.

Sturgeon said the Everbridge notification system can send over 60,000 notifications per hour. He recommended that everyone self-register for Everbridge by visiting [www.mn-dcc.org](http://www.mn-dcc.org) or follow the link on the West St. Paul Police Department's website. He said the snow emergency notifications is on the City's website, as well, and recommended that everyone sign up for these important notifications.

Sturgeon suggested that residents also follow the West St. Paul Police Department on Twitter and Facebook. People will get to see what we do and some programs and events coming up. Every once in a while, he said we also have a virtual ride-along on Twitter on what type of calls the Police Department is responding to, which is part of a statewide campaign on Twitter.

#### **9. Consent Agenda**

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

##### **A. Minutes of August 26, 2019**

- 1) OCWS Minutes
- 2) Regular Meeting Minutes

##### **B. List of Claims for September 9, 2019**

**C. City Licensing, Including:**

- 1) Cherokee Service, Motor Vehicle Related
- 2) Play It Again Sports, Second Hand Dealer
- 3) Signal Garage Auto Care, Motor Vehicle Related

**D. 2019 Rental Business Licenses –Renewals**

**E. Revised General Services Employees' Health Care Savings Plan**

**F. Resolution No. 19-087 Approving a No Parking Zone on Thompson Avenue East**

**G. Sanitary Sewer I/I Private Property Assessment Agreements**

**H. Resolution No. 19-088 Adopting the 2040 West St. Paul Comprehensive Plan Update, a Compilation of Policy Statements, Goals, Standards, and Maps for Guiding the Overall Development and Redevelopment of the Local Governmental Unit**

**I. Resolution No. 19-089 Approving Submittal of an Amendment to the 2040 Comprehensive Plan to the Metropolitan Council**

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**10. Public Hearings**

**A. Final Reading of Ordinance Vacating Haskell Street right-of-Way/Conveyance**

Schroeder said that the City entered a Stipulation of Settlement with DTS Partnership, LLC, the owner of property at 946 Robert Street, to acquire property interests for the phase 2 portion of Robert Street. Under the Stipulation, the City agreed to vacate the excess right-of-way on the south side of realigned Haskell Street for the conveyance to the DTS parcel. In order to complete the conveyance, Schroeder said that Council is requested to adopt:

- Ordinance No. 19-14 Providing for the Vacation of a Right-of-Way by Ordinance Pursuant to City Code
- Resolution No. 19-084 Authorizing the Conveyance of Certain Land
- Quit Claim Deed

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

John Zanmiller, 1016 MacArthur Avenue, asked for a moment of personal privilege to speak in response to Mr. Josephs' statements during Citizen Comments. He said he will never make apologies for when he sat at the Council table and that the current Council should not either because they all do what they believe is in the best interest of this city. He commended each and every one on the Council. As the former Mayor of West St. Paul, Mr. Zanmiller apologized to Mr. Josephs' for not living up to his expectations but said that he is available, should Mr. Josephs choose to find him.

Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli thanked Mr. Zanmiller and said we appreciate everything he did for this city.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Pro Tem Vitelli closed the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Pace to adopt Resolution No. 19-084 Authorizing the Conveyance of Certain Land.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Berry to approve Ordinance No. 19-14 Providing for the Vacation of a Right-of-Way by Ordinance Pursuant to City Code.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Pace to approve the Quit Claim Deed.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

## **11. New Business**

### **A. Order Preparation of Proposed Assessment and Call for Final Assessment Hearing for 2019 Street Improvements Project 19-1**

Motion was made by Councilmember Pace and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adopt Resolution No. 19-090 Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments for 2019 Street Improvements Project 19-1.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adopt Resolution No. 19-091 Calling Final Hearing on Proposed Assessment for 2019 Street Improvements Project 19-1 and scheduling the final hearing for October 14, 2019.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

### **B. Order Preparation of Proposed Assessment and Call for Final Assessment Hearing for Wentworth Avenue Reconstruction Project 17-7**

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adopt Resolution No. 19-093 Ordering Preparation of Proposed Assessments for Wentworth Avenue Reconstruction Project 17-7.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Berry to adopt Resolution No. 19-094 Calling Final Hearing on Proposed Assessment for Wentworth Avenue Reconstruction Project 17-7 and scheduling the final hearing for October 14, 2019.

Vote: 6 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**12. Old Business**

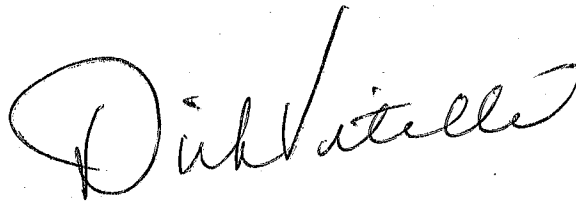
There was no Old Business to discuss.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Berry and seconded by Councilmember Eng-Sarne to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Dick Vitelli  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of West St. Paul

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Vitelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".