

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Halverson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Halverson  
Councilmembers Anthony Fernandez, Ed Iago, Dave Napier, and  
Dick Vitelli

Absent: Councilmembers John Bellows and Bob Pace had excused absences

Others Present: City Manager Ryan Schroeder  
Police Chief Manila Shaver  
City Attorney Kori Land  
Community Development Director Jim Hartshorn  
Finance Director Char Stark  
City Clerk Shirley Buecksler

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Adopt the Agenda**

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

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:

- a) Marie Avenue Sidewalk Discussion – Humboldt to Livingston
- b) Rooftop Solar Installation Proposal
- c) Wentworth Avenue Sanitary Sewer

**6. Citizen Comments**

The following citizens addressed the Council:

- Julie Eastman, Ward 1, spoke regarding upcoming Council Candidate Forums.
- Jim McKie, 222 West Curtice Street, read a letter (attached hereto) to the Council regarding the City budget.

- Andi Morris, Ward 2, gave a shout-out to Officer Jesse Mettner for his appearance at a child's birthday party.
- Laura Zanmiller, Ward 1, mentioned that Independent School District 197 was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for their work in providing safer routes to school. Ms. Zanmiller also spoke about the need for safer bike paths on the east side of Robert Street and suggested grant funding from either Dakota County or the State.

Mayor Halverson thanked them for coming to the meeting.

## **7. Council Comments**

Councilmember Fernandez said the tennis courts at Marthaler Park are beautiful and suggested everyone get out and enjoy our community parks.

Councilmember Napier thanked Jade Pennig for her assistance in volunteering with the creation of the City's new website.

Councilmember Napier mentioned that another new business in West St. Paul, Jersey Mike's, appears to be opening soon.

Mayor Halverson announced that the Red Cross Blood Drive will be in the West St. Paul Council Chambers September 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pre-registration is available by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Enter location code 55118 or WSP.

Mayor Halverson said our parks are important to her and that they are well-used and should be a priority. She also said that she supports pedestrian safety, including infrastructure, and it should be a top priority, as well.

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

There were no proclamations, presentations or recognitions.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Councilmember Iago and seconded by Councilmember Vitelli to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes of August 27, 2018
  - OCWS Minutes of August 27, 2018
  - Council Minutes of August 27, 2018
- B. List of Claims for September 10, 2018
- C. City Licensing
- D. Rental Licensing
- E. Consultant Contract for Sanitary Forcemain 4 Replacement, City Project 19-4

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**10. Public Hearings**

There were no Public Hearings.

**11. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

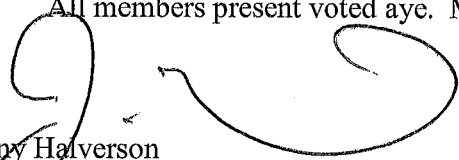
**12. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**13. Adjourn**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Napier to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



Jenny Halverson  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul

9/10/2018

To: City Council of West St Paul

From: Jim McKie, Resident, West St Paul

Dear Council Members:

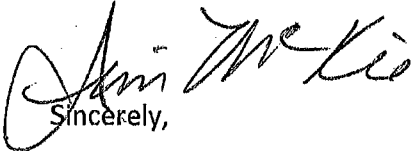
Regarding the expenditures you will authorize in the coming budget, I have a reoccurring fear. My fear is this: Fiscal restraint will not be used in continuing to keep local taxes low. With other communities that surround West St Paul having higher tax rates for properties, there could be an assumed position that if taxes increased, they would just be coming in line with other communities. a philosophical position could be held that, "Well, they are not higher, but now they are equal". This is bad fiscal policy. It is not right that those currently elected, or elected in the future, could, under the banner of "doing more for the Citizens", squander funds on insignificantly low priority desires instead of holding taxes low. Any items that are not mandatory should be denied funding until the City is back in the position of not being assessed costs - some unjustly forced on us by bad State legislative actions regarding the funding of State roads - think Robert Street. I commend the plan to request the local sales tax increase to lower the impact on us Citizens for this mistake by the Minnesota Governors office, the State Legislators, and those in the Department of Transportation, regarding funding actions for the Robert Street repairs.

I would like a written response individually from the members of the City Council, the City Administrator, and the Mayor, regarding their intentions to the following questions:

1. Will you abstain from increasing property taxes to fund the River to River trail, which should be covered by County funds?
2. Will you abstain from increasing property taxes to fund a tunnel under Robert Street for pedestrian traffic?
3. Will you abstain from increasing property taxes to fund improvements to minimally utilized city parks, unless individually approved by the Citizens through an active ballot process?

My fear is easily dismissed by some, but there are many others that I believe, would voice the same concern if asked. The reasoning of "it is a good thing to do" is not a mandate to spend my money.

I await your written comments.

  
Sincerely,

Jim McKie  
222 Curtice St West  
West St Paul