



City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Council Chambers - 3rd
Floor
651-266-8560

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Council President Mitra Jalali
Vice President HwaJeong Kim
Councilmember Anika Bowie
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:30 PM

Present 6 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Mitra Jalali,
Councilmember HwaJeong Kim, Councilmember Anika Bowie,
Councilmember Saura Jost and Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson
Absent 1 - Councilmember Nelsie Yang

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [AO 24-52](#) Amending the 2024 General Fund budget for the Fire and Safety Department and the Special Fund budget for General Government Accounts.
Received and Filed

CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the Consent Agenda will be enacted by one motion with no separate discussion. If discussion on an item is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim,
Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Yang

- 2 [RES 24-705](#) Ratifying the assessments for Repair of Sanitary Sewer Line on private property at 7 Sandrale Drive East. (File No. SWRP2401C, Assessment No. 243004)

Adopted

- 3 [RES 24-860](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for funds from the Otto Bremer Trust for Sprockets, Saint Paul's out-of-school time network in an amount of up to \$50,000 for program year 2024.

Adopted

- 4 [RES 24-862](#) Authorizing the Department of Public Works to expend an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the purpose of providing refreshments, marketing materials, recognition items, and other incentives for various activities, programs, volunteers, and events throughout 2024.

Adopted

- 5 [RES 24-925](#) Authorizing the Department of Planning and Economic Development to apply for the Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account Pre-Development Grant Funds for projects at 680-694 Minnehaha Avenue East. (Hamm's Brewery Redevelopment: West End) and 1449 Reaney Avenue East. (East Side Tennis and Community Center), which will include indemnification obligations.

Adopted

- 6 [RES 24-930](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Collection of Vacant Building Registration fees billed during May 2, 2023 to February 19, 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. VB2411, Assessment No. 248817)

Adopted

- 7 [RES 24-931](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Securing and/or Emergency Boarding services during March 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2411B, Assessment No. 248110)

Adopted

- 8 [RES 24-932](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Collection of Fire Certificate of Occupancy fees billed during February 22 to March 22, 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. CRT2410, Assessment No. 248209)

Adopted

- 9 [RES 24-933](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Excessive Use of Inspection or Abatement services billed during January 22 to February 20, 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2411E, Assessment No. 248319)

Adopted

- 10 [RES 24-934](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Graffiti Removal services during February 13 to 15, 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2409P, Assessment No. 248408)

Adopted

- 11 [RES 24-935](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Removal of Diseased and/or Dangerous Tree(s) during April 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. 2410T, Assessment No. 249012)

Adopted

- 12 [RES 24-936](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Removal of Diseased and/or Dangerous Tree(s) during April 2024, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. 2411T, Assessment No. 249013)

Adopted

- 13 [RES 24-937](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Towing of Abandoned Vehicle(s) services during April to November 2023, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for August 6, 2024 and City Council public hearing for September 18, 2024 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2401V, Assessment No. 248000)

Adopted

- 14 [RES 24-944](#) Approving the application for a Transportation Network Company (TNC) license (License ID #20240000933) submitted by Wridz LLC. to provide transportation network service in the City.

Adopted

- 15 [RES 24-948](#) Changing the rate of pay for Meter Reader Coordinator, EG 01, AFSCME Clerical.

Laid over to July 17, 2024

- 16 [RES 24-949](#) Changing the rate of pay for Sewer Pumping Station Operator, EG 12.

Laid over to July 17, 2024

- 17 [RES 24-952](#) Approving the application for change of ownership to the Parking Lot (License ID #20240000920) for the premises located at 471 Wabasha Street North.

Adopted

- 18 [RES 24-953](#) Supplementing the general resolution (RES 23-289) relating to Water Revenue Bonds of the City; accepting the offer of the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority to purchase a Water Revenue Note in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$29,000,000; providing for the issuance of a Water Revenue Note, Series 2024-1; and authorizing execution of a Project Loan Agreement with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.
- Adopted**
- 19 [RES 24-958](#) Approving the application for Eagle Auto Body LLC d/b/a Eagle Auto Body LLC for a change of ownership to the Auto Body Repair/Painting Shop (License ID #20240000663) for the premises located at 786 Robert Street South.
- Adopted**
- 20 [RES 24-959](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for \$15,000 in cost-share funding from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District for mechanical harvesting of aquatic vegetation on Lake Phalen in 2024.
- Adopted**
- 21 [RES 24-961](#) Accepting the gift of travel, lodging, and conference registration expenses from Local Progress for Council President Mitra Jalali and Council Member Cheniqua Johnson to attend the 2024 Local Progress National Convening.
- Adopted**
- 22 [RES 24-962](#) Supporting The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library's application for The Jerry Kline Community Impact Prize.
- Adopted**
- 23 [RES 24-982](#) Authorizing the City to enter into the attached Management Agreement between the City and the Saint Paul Yacht Club for operation of two marinas within Harriet Island Regional Park.
- Adopted**
- 24 [RES 24-983](#) Authorizing the City to approve the Management Agreement between the City and Joy of the People for the operation of the South Saint Anthony Recreation Center.
- Adopted**
- 25 [RES 24-995](#) Approving assessment costs and setting date of City Council public hearing to ratify the assessment for installation of a fire protection system for 1730 Old Hudson Road (File No. FP2024-01, Assessment No. 247100).
- Adopted**
- 26 [RES 24-896](#) Approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and the Tri-Council: LIUNA Laborers, Local 363; General Drivers, Local 120; and Operating Engineers, Local 49 for the purpose of amending Article 4 of the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement regarding the LIUNA Pension Fund contribution.

Adopted

- 27 [RES 24-903](#) Approving the Memorandum of Agreement between the City and AFSCME Local 3757 - Legal for the purpose of revising the previously negotiated wage adjustment in the 2023 - 2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Adopted**FOR DISCUSSION**

- 28 [RES PH 24-153](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept grant funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program) and amending the financing and spending plan in the Department for forestry planning, planting, and management of the tree canopy throughout the City. (Public hearing closed and laid over from June 26, 2024)

Rachel Jongeward from the Forestry Division of Parks and Recreation gave a staff report.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval.

Adopted**ORDINANCES**

An ordinance is a city law enacted by the City Council. It is read at three separate council meetings and becomes effective after passage by the Council and 30 days after publication in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press. Public hearings on ordinances are generally held at the second reading.

First Reading

- 29 [Ord 24-17](#) Amending Title XII of the Legislative Code to add Chapter 143 titled Comprehensive Downtown Improvement Special Service District.

Joe Spencer from the Downtown Alliance gave a staff report and answered councilmember questions.

Laid over to July 17, 2024 for Second Reading

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Live testimony is limited to two minutes for each person. See below for optional ways to testify.

- 30 [Ord 24-15](#) Amending Chapter 67 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the EG East Grand Avenue Overlay District.

Dan Marshall, business owner, spoke during the public hearing.

Cody Fischer, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Ari Parritz, developer, spoke during the public hearing.

Ellen Brown, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Councilmember Noecker spoke in favor and about the possibility of amendments.

Councilmember Bowie spoke in support.

Noecker moved to close the public hearing.

Laid over to July 17, 2024 for Final Adoption

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim,
Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Yang

- 31** [RES PH 24-147](#) Approving the River Balcony Basis of Design Report as an addendum to the River Balcony Master Plan.

Kady Dadlez, City Planner, gave a staff report.

Council President Jalali moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim,
Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Yang

- 32** [RES PH 24-155](#) Accepting the Rocky Mountain Institute grant for a Department of Energy sub-recipient grant as awarded via RES 23-1300 and amending the financing and spending in the Public Works grant budget in the amount of \$62,467.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim,
Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Yang

- 33** [RES PH 24-156](#) Approving the Installation of a bike lane on Concordia Avenue and Rondo Avenue from Pascal Street North to Western Avenue North. (Public hearing closed and laid over from July 10, 2024)

David Peterson from Public Works gave a staff report and answered councilmember questions.

Kandace Logan, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Earl Bronaugh, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Jenna Czapieceski, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Charles Walker, resident, spoke during the public hearing.

Councilmember Bowie moved to close the public hearing. Approved 5-0.

Bowie asked about construction and assessment timelines.

Nick Peterson spoke to Bowie's questions.

Council President Jalali asked about how residents could be involved in the process.

N. Peterson spoke to Jalali's question.

Councilmember Jost asked about this project in relation to the City's bike plan.

D. Peterson spoke to Jost's question.

Councilmember Johnson asked about engagement efforts and notification.

D. Peterson spoke to Johnson's question.

Bowie moved to lay over to August 7 to give time for community engagement.

Jalali asked how that would affect the construction timeline.

N. Peterson spoke to Jalali's question.

Jalali asked for a two-week layover instead.

Johnson asked for clarification from Bowie.

Bowie addressed Johnson's question.

Jost asked if layovers would delay construction.

N. Peterson addressed Jost's question.

Jalali spoke against a layover to August 7.

Bowie renewed her motion. Failed 1-4 (Councilmembers Jalali, Kim, Johnson, and Jost opposed).

Councilmember Kim moved a two-week layover.

Jalali spoke in support.

Johnson spoke in support.

Bowie spoke in support.

Public hearing closed and laid over to July 24, 2024

Yea: 4 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 1 - Councilmember Jost

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Yang

- 34** [RES PH 24-158](#) Amending the financing and spending plans in the Fire Department in the amount of \$15,408.02 for the Minnesota Task Force One (MNTF1) reimbursement from the City of Edina.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Yang

- 35** [RES PH 24-159](#) Amending the financing and spending plans in the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$1,987,150 to reflect additional 2024 funding expected from Como Friends.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Yang

- 36** [RES PH 24-163](#) Approving the petition of Daniel L. Boblit and Allison L. Boblit, property owners of 71 Otis Lane, to vacate the City's interest in a portion of Mississippi River Boulevard and divert its use as City parkland.

Brian Alton, representing the petitioners, spoke during the public hearing.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Yang

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEM

- 42** [RLH TA 24-170](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 695 OHIO

STREET. (File No. 2406T, Assessment No. 249004)

Assessment ratified

Also in attendance: Daniel Witucki, appellant, appeared via call-in

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This stemmed from a notice to eliminate trees. Two were in the front yard and one in the backyard. The order went out on September 1, 2023. The deadline for completion was October 2. A work order was sent and the work was done on January 18, 2024. The cost was \$3,700 with a service Charge of \$336.67, for a total of \$4,036.67. The cost of the tree removal is based on the contract cost for the City. The owner indicates he did not receive the notice, and that there were later conversations with staff after the tenant found a note on the door about the tree removal. This was a complicated removal because it required power lines to be dropped. The owner then got a contractor to look at the 3 trees, who came in December. The trees were then gone by the time the private contractor came back. The owner said he got an extension, but there is no record of that. The notice before you shows what the owner received, including how a failure to resolve the nuisance would result in an assessment. City code does classify this as a nuisance and the City has authority to abate this nuisance. The owner wants a reduction based on a lower bid he says he received for \$3,000. There was a question in Legislative Hearings from the owner, where he argued that it was only partially on his property. The photo here shows the stump in line with the driveway, and so in the City's view this is on the property line. My recommendation is approval of the assessment as written.

Daniel Witucki: I'm partially contesting this assessment. A note from October 16 that one of my tenants found was the first I heard of this. I had an arborist scheduled to remove the trees and told Inspector Carl Mueller that. He had no objection to my time frame and now he says he doesn't have a recollection of that conversation. My ask is to only pay \$3,000, which was the cost of my private tree contractor. I did not have any contact from the contractor that the City hired or the inspector saying that the tree was going to be removed, which the City is supposed to do. I'm also confused with a notice saying that the amount had already been assessed. I would like clarification on that.

Moermond: On June 26, Council laid this over to allow him to participate in this hearing. If he received an invoice letter, that was in error from assessment staff and that will be corrected if this is ratified.

Kim: I move approval.

Jalali: I support that.

Bowie: We are voting whether to ratify an assessment for \$4,000, the tenant asked for \$3,000, and your recommendation is the full \$4,000?

Moermond: Yes.

Jalali: Can it be made payable over time?

Moermond: It can be made payable over 10 years. It was mentioned as a possibility during hearing but was not requested.

Adopted

Yea: 4 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Jost

- 40** [RLH OA 24-7](#) Appeal of Jonah Martin to an Appeal to Denial of Request for Fence Variance at 1672 MCAFEE STREET.

Public hearing continued to July 17, 2024.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: I am asking for this to be laid over for one week to accommodate the appellant being able to testify.

Councilmember Kim moved approval.

Public hearing continued to July 17, 2024

Yea: 4 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Jost

- 47** [RLH RR 23-58](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 378 SIMS AVENUE within fifteen (15) days after the December 20, 2023, City Council Public Hearing. (Amend to remove within 15 days)

Public hearing continued to July 17, 2024.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: My recommendation had been to remove within 15 days, but at 2:50 PM today we received what appears to be the final materials needed. I have not had a chance to review them and am asking for a one week layover.

Council President Jalali moved approval.

Public hearing continued to July 17, 2024

Yea: 4 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Jost

LEGISLATIVE HEARING CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under the Consent Agenda will receive a combined public hearing and be enacted by one motion with no separate discussion. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for a separate public hearing and discussion if desired.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 4 - Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Jost

- 37** [RLH TA 24-217](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 927 DESOTO STREET. (File No. J2418A, Assessment No. 2488522) (Refer to July 16, 2024 Legislative Hearing)
Referred to July 16, 2024 Legislative Hearing
- 38** [RLH TA 24-194](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 68 DOUGLAS STREET (ALSO 72 DOUGLAS STREET). (File No. J2419A, Assessment No. 248523) (Public hearing continued to October 9, 2024)
Public hearing continued to October 9, 2024
- 39** [RLH VBR 24-33](#) Appeal of David Abbott to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Requirement at 1818 GRAND AVENUE.
Adopted
- 41** [RLH SAO 24-37](#) Appeal of Jennifer Roba to a Notice to Cut Tall Grass and/or Weeds at 1990 NOKOMIS AVENUE.
Adopted
- 43** [RLH VBR 24-34](#) Appeal of Moe Thida, Moenaymoe LLC, to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 933 PAYNE AVENUE.
Adopted
- 44** [RLH FCO 24-39](#) Appeal of Christopher Heinze, attorney of Libby Law Office representing Property Owner Vincent Hughes, to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 1058 SELBY AVENUE.
Adopted as amended (appeal granted)
- 45** [RLH TA 24-215](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 499 SHERBURNE AVENUE. (File No. J2419A, Assessment No. 248523)
Adopted as amended (assessment ratified)
- 46** [RLH SAO 24-38](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1472 SHERBURNE AVENUE in Council File RLH SAO 24-8.
Adopted
- 48** [RLH TA 24-208](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1698 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. VB2407B, Assessment No. 248821)
Adopted

- 49 [RLH AR 24-42](#) Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during January 10, 2024 at 927 DESOTO STREET. (File No. J2418A, Assessment No. 248522)
(Refer to July 16, 2024 Legislative Hearing)

 Referred to July 16, 2024 Legislative Hearing
- 50 [RLH AR 24-43](#) Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during January 22 to 24, 2024. (File No. J2419A, Assessment No. 248523)

 Adopted

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 5:17 PM

City Council meetings are open for in person attendance, but the public may also comment on public hearing items in writing or via voicemail. Any comments and materials submitted by 12:00 pm of the day before the meeting will be attached to the public record and available for review by the City Council. Comments may be submitted as follows:

The public may comment on public hearing items in writing or via voicemail. Any comments and materials submitted by 12:00 pm of the day before the meeting will be attached to the public record and available for review by the City Council. Comments may be submitted as follows:

Written public comment on public hearing items can be submitted to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us, CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us, or by voicemail at 651-266-6805. Live testimony will be taken in person in the Council Chambers, and by telephone by registering to speak by noon on the day before the meeting. The registration link is located on the City Council website at www.stpaul.gov/council or <https://forms.office.com/g/TD3xN7WHy5>.

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