

**City of West St. Paul  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2019**

**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, Anthony Fernandez,  
John Justen, Bob Pace and Dick Vitelli

Absent: Councilmember Lisa Eng-Sarne (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  
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 Napier said the Council held a work session prior to the regular meeting to discuss the following topics:

- A. Thompson Oaks Wetland Restoration Project Update
- B. 2020 Fee Schedule
- C. 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Discussion

**6. Citizen Comments**

No one addressed the Council.

## 7. Council Comments

Councilmember Justen said he appreciated the opportunity to ride with Officer Melville during Night to Unite and said it was an inspiring night in a lot of ways. He said it was nice to receive positive feedback from residents regarding the work the current Council is doing.

Councilmember Justen wished his son, Michael, a happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday today!

Councilmember Vitelli said Night to Unite was a success and that he enjoyed it very much.

Councilmember Vitelli provided notice to everyone that Butler Avenue will be closed again at Carrie Street from 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning, August 15<sup>th</sup>, through sometime on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Detour signs will be posted similar to the last closure.

Councilmember Pace said the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon network will be hosting a Military Appreciation Day for our National Guard Armory, Company A, 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. The event will be on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the West St. Paul Sports Complex. About 160 Guard members and their families are expected to attend this event. Lunch will be served to all Guard members and their families, along with games. Anyone wishing to volunteer, donate cash or items for door prizes, may contact Beyond the Yellow Ribbon at [yellowribbon@wspmn.gov](mailto:yellowribbon@wspmn.gov) or 651-259-2614.

Councilmember Berry thanked Police Investigators Mitchell and Wood for allowing them to ride along during Night to Unite. She said it's neat that we have two female Investigators and appreciates the opportunity and said it was a lot of fun.

Councilmember Berry mentioned upcoming events:

- Wednesday, August 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Celebration Barbeque at Southview Park
- Friday, August 16, 6:00 a.m. to Noon  
Cop on the Top Special Olympics at Dunkin Donuts
- August 20-21  
Safe Kids Camp at Harmon Park

Mayor Napier said that he made it to about ten of the over 30 Night to Unite parties that were held. The biggest takeaway, he said, is that it really takes someone in the neighborhood to take on the leadership role to gather their neighbors together. Mayor Napier said it was a nice night to get the neighbors out and also nice for elected officials to go out and see what makes up the community and our neighborhoods. He added that it was amazing to see how many kids now live in these neighborhoods where many homes have turned over to new young families. Mayor Napier said he was impressed with the high quality of parties, phenomenal food and the volunteers that put them on.

Mayor Napier thanked Interim Police Chief Sturgeon, his Officers, and South Metro Firefighters who came out to Night to Unite. He said the fire trucks were a big hit and that it was really a successful and great night and an event that should continue.

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

There were no proclamations, presentations or recognitions.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

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

### **A. Minutes of July 22, 2019**

- 1) OCWS Minutes – **pulled for editing**
- 2) Regular Council Minutes

### **B. List of Claims for August 12, 2019**

### **C. City Licensing, Including:**

- 1) Resolution No. 19-076 Concurring with the Issuance of a Minnesota Premises Permit Application and Lease for Lawful Gambling Activity for Sibley Area Youth Hockey Association at Cherokee Tavern, 866 Smith Avenue South
- 2) Resolution No. 19-077 Concurring with the Issuance of a Minnesota Off-Site Gambling Permit for Tapemark Charity Pro-Am, September 20-22, 2019

### **D. Rental Licensing**

### **E. Amendments to the General Service Employee Pay Plans:**

- 1) Resolution No. 19-078 Amending the General Service Salaried Employee Pay Plan to Add Exempt Position of Marketing and Communication Manager
- 2) Resolution No. 19-079 Amending the General Service Hourly Employee Pay Plan to Remove One Title

### **F. Final Payment for the 2018 Street Improvements Project 18-1 in the Amount of \$154,849.86 to McNamara Contracting, Inc.**

### **G. Resolution No. 19-080 Approving the Application for a Redevelopment Incentive Grant (RIG) from the Dakota County Community Development Agency**

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

## **10. Public Hearings**

### **A. Final Assessment Hearing for 2018-2019 Robert Street Sidewalk Snow Removal**

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 6:42 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Vitelli and seconded by Councilmember Pace to adopt the final assessment roll for 2018-2019 Robert Street Sidewalk Cleaning.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**B. Tax Abatement Debt Issue**

Keith Dahl of Ehlers answered questions for Council.

Mayor Napier opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Napier closed the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m.

Motion was made by Councilmember Justen and seconded by Councilmember Fernandez to adopt Resolution No. 19-075 Approving Property Tax Abatements for the Marie-Oakdale Trail Project.

Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**11. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**12. Old Business**

**A. 2019 Housing Plan Review**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Justen to continue this item to a future OCWS for further discussion.

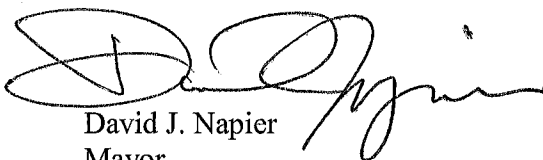
Vote: 5 ayes / 0 nays. Motion carried.

**13. Adjourn**

Prior to adjournment, City Manager Schroeder introduced Debra Gieseke as the City's new Human Resources Director. Mayor Napier and Council welcomed Ms. Gieseke to the City of West St. Paul.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fernandez and seconded by Councilmember Justen to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.



David J. Napier  
Mayor  
City of West St. Paul