

City of North Saint Paul
June 19, 2018
Adopted City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kuehn called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Terry Furlong
Council Member Candy Petersen
Council Member Tom Sonnek – arrived at 5:02 p.m.
Council Member Jan Walczak
Mayor Mike Kuehn

Staff: City Manager Dr. Craig Waldron, Finance Director Jeanne Day, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, Director of Electric Utilities Brian Frandle, Fire Chief Scott Duddeck.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Furlong, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye, Council Member Sonnek absent, motion carried (4-0) to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. 2019 Budget

Jeanne Day stated that preparation of the 2019 Budget is underway. Departments have been looking at 2018 activity, 2019 goals and initiatives, and are preparing their draft budgets to present to the City Manager beginning June 22. The City Manager and Finance Director will meet individually with each department to review budget requests along with their goals and initiatives as well as related revenue analytics.

This workshop is intended for Council to express their goals and initiatives for 2019 as well as expectations for the overall budget, levy, and financial impacts.

Tom Sonnek had the following comments:

- Council needs to take action related to Fiber. All options need to be put on the table and a determination made. This is a repeat note in the audit every year.
- Requested that we increase our communications that go out to the residents, as well as change the overall tone. The City website is not as well utilized as it could be. The City needs to dedicate time to this.
- Would like to revisit the data related to having the city remove all sidewalk snow in the city and maintain all sidewalks.
- Pull back on Local Government Aid (LGA).

Terry Furlong had the following comments:

- Requested that the department heads list their needs first, then their wants. We have to address what those needs are rather than asking for “pie in the sky” items. Then base the levy increase on that.

Mayor Kuehn had the following comments:

- Also commented on the Fiber and technology as a whole.
- Mayor Kuehn also inquired about the building maintenance funds for city hall and the community center. There are immediate needs at the center.
- Mayor Kuehn wants to work on a summer recreation program for kids with an initial start amount of \$5,000
- and \$3,000 toward creating an arts and cultural society.
- Mayor Kuehn inquired about staffing needs in the Community Development Department.

Council Member Petersen had the following comments:

- Requested that we bring back the city pins, pens and promotional items.

There was discussion related to an upcoming request to develop an RFP (Request for Proposal) for trash hauling and recycling, including residential, business and apartments. The customer service with Republic has gone downhill since they began utilizing a call center. Ramsey County will be assisting the city with the RFP process.

Scott Duddeck

- Indicated that there are numerous computers that need replacing by the end of 2019. This is not something that can wait.

Overall the council would endeavor to keep the levy increase under 10% (ten percent).

Mayor Kuehn called a short recess at 6:05 p.m.

Strategic Operations Director Debra Gustafson joined the meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Mayor Kuehn reconvened the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

B. Closed session - “The meeting was closed as permitted by section 13D.03 to discuss the City’s labor negotiation strategy related to the City’s negotiations with the AFSCME union”

Mayor Kuehn called the closed session to order at 6:12 p.m.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye, motion carried (5-0) to adjourn the closed session at 6:33 p.m.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Furlong, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Kuehn adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:33 p.m.

/s/ Michael R. Kuehn, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Dr. Craig Waldron, City Manager