

MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jacob Merculief at 9:03 AM. Councilmembers present were Naomi Edenshaw, Raymond Melovidov, Victor Clarey, Joseph Kozloff, Jason Bourdukofsky and Daniel Porath. A quorum was established. The meeting was aired on KUHB.

CALL TO  
ORDER

Clmbr Porath moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Clmbr Clarey. Motion carried by voice vote.

AGENDA  
APPROVED

Clmbr Bourdukofsky moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 12, 2022, seconded by Clmbr Porath. There was one correction on the last page in paragraph 4. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Clmbr Porath moved to approve the meeting minutes from June 7, 2022, June 8, 2022 and June 16, 2022, seconded by Clmbr Edenshaw. There were no corrections or additions. Motion carried by voice vote.

Olga Zacharof called into the meeting via zoom to address the council. She would like to address the lack of presence of the Police force in the community. All the events that have happened in the last year during the transition of the new Police force have gone too far. There has been too much going on lately. We used to be able to go to bed at night without worrying about locking our doors or vehicles and it's sad that we have to do this now due to the lack of the Police presence in the community. She has heard these same concerns from others in the community. Our community needs to feel safe and the officers need to be out patrolling especially at night.

PERSONS TO  
ADDRESS THE  
COUNCIL

Mgr Zavadil gave his report: Lynn Sterbenz, Mark Hickey and Mgr Zavadil met with the USCG Admiral Moore on June 10, 2022 to discuss the City's interest in the USCG's return to Saint Paul Island now that the building is ready to be occupied. The Coast Guard plans to use the facilities here on the island seasonally from at least now until this fall. They need hanger space for the helicopter. They also discussed additional repairs to the sewer and water systems that are needed at the facility and a commitment to work on completing these repairs in the future. On June 8, 2022, Lynn Sterbenz and Mgr Zavadil met remotely with Chris Mandregan and Beverly Woods with TDX to discuss what is needed for approval of the utility easements for the Small Boat Harbor improvement project. Everyone agreed the Final Settlement Agreement between the City and TDX needs to be reviewed. They also discussed the proposed location of the new Harbor Road. Mgr Zavadil proposed to have additional discussion on rerouting the new road along a modified path of the existing Haul Road. The Northrim Bank loan for the purchase of bulk fuel has been completed. Westshore has completed the installation of the new sirens on June 27, 2022, both sirens were tested. The department is still waiting on some computer equipment to control the sirens to arrive, once that is here the sirens will be tested again. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation got the contract in place for the engineer to do the design for the new lift stations with a company called Kuna Engineering.

CITY MANAGER  
REPORT

Mateo Paz Soldan gave his report: One of Mateo's main tasks as been to protect Saint Paul source of revenue's, particularly in the crab fisheries. Right now there is a multitude of intersecting crisis which is effecting all of us. The main one being climate change around the world, which causes the fish/crab to migrate into deeper waters, north or they simply decline because they can't cope with the change in weather or temperature. Efforts to reauthorize/renew Magnuson-Stevens Act is now on hold due to until a new Representative for Alaska. Mateo had good meetings with Janet Coit and her team and they agree with where St. Paul and other communities are coming from. They will be working with her and her team to be making changes to the National Standard Guidelines in a way that will help St. Paul. Janet spoke in favor of 2 additional Alaska Native seats on the North Pacific Council. One of the big topics over the next few years will be snow crab rebuilding. Snow crab is officially considered over fished, the total allowed catch has significantly declined about 88%. The council is now legally obligated to develop a plan to redevelop a plan to rebuild that fishery. The big challenge is now can there be a fishery in the next few years, even it is a small amount. There are two main approaches for the council to take to developing a plan. One being a very conservative plan where it prioritizes the snow crab resource and restoring it and that would mean no snow crab fisheries until it's recovered. The other being a more flexible plan where there is still enough room for some stake holders to benefit from the fishery.

## FISHERIES REPORT

A break was held between 10:18 and 10:31 am.

Project/Grant Specialist Lynn Sterbenz gave her report: In June a grant was submitted to the State of Alaska Homeland Security and Emergency Management to help pay for some of the salary for the Emergency Management Coordinator position. The amount requested was \$20,000.00. This is currently pending. A grant was submitted to the USDOT Maritime Administration for the Harbor improvement and expansion project. This is still pending. In April a grant was submitted to the Alaska Energy Authority for energy efficient upgrades in the City Hall. The amount requested was \$134,781 with a 30% in-kind match, this was denied. There were a lot more applications than there was money. In March there was a joint grant with the Aleut Community of Saint Paul submitted to the Department of Justice for the Detention Facility and Safe Room. As of today this grant is still pending. Lynn is working a few other grants that will be submitted in the next couple of months.

## PROJECT/GRANT SPECIALIST REPORT

Finance Director Stephanie Mandregan gave her report: Stephanie provided the City Council monthly finance reports for all City funds including the Water and Wastewater utilities. The finance department is still advertising for an Accounting Clerk Supervisor. The Northrim loan for fuel purchases was finalized.

## FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT

Public Works Director David Joyner gave his report: There has been some recent IT issues with the computers and phones out at Public Works. David is working with LMJ to resolve these issues. Last month 3,000 gallons of gasoline was received. Based on estimates on what was being used the supply would run out before the barge arrived. The barge is scheduled between July 16<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. There is 133,000 gallons of diesel, and 75,000 gallons of gasoline on the barge. The diesel will hold the community over until the next barge comes at the end of September or early October. That barge will have 275,000 gallons of diesel. The

## PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT

gas price right now is \$6.52 and that will go up about .10c when the barge arrives.

Cimbr Melovidov asked why the price at the dock is higher than at the gas station. Mgr Zavadil stated the gas truck must make a run from the station to the dock to make that sale. Basically, it is adding in the call out fee. If halibut fishing were to occur this price can be adjusted and additional staff would need to be hired to cover the sales at the dock.

Cimbr Melovidov stated that since the interest on the loans are in the 4% range would the City be better off serving the community by taking the CD's that are not earning anything and using that cash to purchase fuel instead taking a loan out with interest. Mgr Zavadil stated that Stephanie and Ben had that conversation and once that money is gone, it is gone. Based on current fuel and gas prices the City needs to plan on spending a lot more on fuel. The money couldn't be recovered once it gone. If there is no crab season or a lower quota next year what is going to happen to ongoing City operations. That money could help with these operations that would need to continue. There is a larger project happening in the Electrical department. The team is working on changing the transformer at the Radomes.

Cimbr Porath asked if the transformers were budgeted. Mgr Zavadil stated that transformer replacements were a part of the budget. PwDir Joyner stated that the transformer was purchased last year but it took a while to arrive. The department has run into an issue with the new Ampy metering system software. The software has to be redownloaded and he has to work with the tech service to get the programming set up. The new system will work remotely, and all the information will go to the program in real time. Once this is all programmed the meter switch will take place. There will be a brief power outage that will occur once the old meters are taken off and the new meters are placed.

A lunch break was held between 12:05 and 1:30 pm

The Water/Wastewater Operators attended the Level 1 Water treatment course. They continue to send out the water samples monthly. The Refuse utility is operating seamlessly. Operations are slowing down since Trident has left.

Chief Castro gave his report: The ongoing issue of juveniles breaking curfew and into homes is treated differently from adult cases. These cases are cited into the Tribal court system and submitted to the state if appropriate. As the Police department there are limitation and guidelines that legally need to be followed. Even if there are 1-3 officers patrolling at a time around the clock it will not prevent all the crimes from happening. Chief Castro is in the process of scheduling an open town meeting to discuss these issues to come up solutions to better resolve these issues. The Eforce implementation has started. The dispatchers have started training virtually, however this has been difficult with internet issues. Part of the cost incorporated into the agreement was for a trainer to come to St. Paul to do the training but with the COVID restrictions this cannot happen. Chief Castro is working with the online trainer's schedule to reschedule the online virtual training.

PUBLIC SAFETY  
REPORT

A break was held between 2:45 and 2:58 pm.

There is no old business on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Cmbr Porath moved to approve Resolution 22-10, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Saint Paul Authorizing the City to Apply for EDA FY21 EAA Funds and Provide Required Match, seconded by Cmbr Bourdukofsky. This resolution replaces 21-11 that was approved by the Council on November 18, 2021. This grant would provide utility expansions to the Small Boat Harbor. This would extend a new water main that would run through the center of the harbor subdivision and increase water distribution reliability. Sewer service would provide service to the 3 existing buildings, proposed harbor office and small boat harbor. This would install a new transformer at the proposed new harbor office. These improvements will increase the harbors safety, efficiency and reliability.

RESOLUTION  
22-10,  
AUTHORIZING  
THE CITY TO  
APPLY FOR  
FY21 EAA  
FUNDS

A roll call vote was held:

Ayes- Kozloff, Edenshaw, Clarey, Porath, Bourdukofsky, Melovidov, Merculief

No- 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Cmbr Edenshaw moved to approve Resolution 22-11, A Resolution Authorizing an Exception to Competitive Bidding and/or Pricing Quotes for Saint Paul Municipal Electric Utility Improvement Project, seconded by Cmbr Bourdukofsky. The CCO Title 4 requires a competitive bid process for purchases over \$150,000.00. This was also done with Current River, however they failed to complete the upgrades so the contract was terminated. The City contracted Electric Power Systems to evaluate what was complete and needs to be done to move forward. Electric Power Constructors, Electric Power Systems and Mechanical Builders provided the City with a quote to perform the upgrades at the Electric Utility.

RESOLUTION  
22-11,  
AUTHORIZING  
AN EXCEPTION  
TO  
COMPETITIVE  
BIDDING TO  
THE ELECTRIC  
UTILITY  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT

A roll call vote was held:

Ayes- Porath, Melovidov, Kozloff, Edenshaw, Bourdukofsky, Clarey, Merculief

No- 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Cmbr Porath moved to approve Emergency Ordinance 22-98, An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Saint Paul Regarding Protective Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Throughout Saint Paul Island, seconded by Cmbr Edenshaw. The recent outbreak in May/June showed about 103 people were infect with COVID. Since there then there has been about a case a week. There were a couple proposed changes in the Emergency ordinance due what was recently seen with the outbreak and the recent positive cases. The testing at 24 and 48 hours prior to traveling was kept in the ordinance. Proposed change the quarantine day to 3 days rather than 5. People would test at 24 hours, day 3 and on day 5. Testing options are still readily available. People who test positive will isolate for 10 days rather than 5. On average people were testing negative around day 8. They can get out of isolation earlier by testing negative 3 days in a row.

EMERGENCY  
ORDINANCE 22-  
98, AN  
EMERGENCY  
ORDINANCE TO  
PREVENT THE  
SPREAD OF  
COVID-19  
THROUGHOUT  
SAINT PAUL  
ISLAND

Cmbr Melovidov commented that there was a recent traveler that tested positive at day 4. He could have been out and about after 3 days, he's not comfortable with changing it when there is a possibility of testing positive at day 4. This is not very effective.

Cmbr Melovidov made a motion to change the quarantine days from 3 days to 4 days, seconded by Cmbr Kozloff. Motion carried by voice vote.

A roll call vote was held on the main motion:

Ayes- Bourdukofsky, Melovidov, Edenshaw, Kozloff, Merculief

No- Clarey, Porath

Motion carried.

Cmbr Bourdukofsky made motion to table this item until the next regular City Council meeting on August 11, 2022, seconded by Mayor Merculief. Motion carried by voice vote.

DISCUSSION OF  
PERSONNEL  
POLICY 10.34,  
VACCINATION  
POLICY

Cmbr Bourdukofsky made a motion to table to hold a special meeting tomorrow, July 15, 2022 at 4 pm for Executive Session, seconded by Cmbr Porath.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

A roll call vote was held:

Ayes- Porath, Melovidov, Edenshaw, Bourdukofsky, Kozloff, Merculief

No- 0

Motion carried unanimously.

The regular next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2022 at 9 am.

NEXT MEETING

Cmbr Porath moved to adjourn, seconded by Cmbr Melovidov. Motion carried by voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

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Monique Baker, City Clerk

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Date