

**MINUTES
CITY OF SAINT PAUL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
May 29, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.

II. ROLL CALL

Council members present were Daniel Porath, Heidi Mercurief, Joseph Kozloff, and Jason Bourdukofsky. CM Raymond Melovidov joined at 9:05. CM Naomi Edenshaw attended through Zoom and attended in person for the Executive session.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CM Porath MOVED to approve. Seconded by CM Bourdukofsky. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 7 Ayes.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

CM Kozloff MOVED to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by CM Mercurief. There were no comments or questions. Motion to approve was carried by a Voice vote with 7 Ayes.

V. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

There was no one to address the Council.

VI. REPORTS

A. Fisheries

Mateo joined CBSFA in a call with the Department of Fish and Game, they advised on spend plan funds for tanner crab disaster a couple of years ago, City won't get much funds but that spend plan final is approved. Beginning of May, CBSFA reps went to DC and visited with the Alaska congressional offices and NMFS on status of the spend plan funds for the snow crab and red king crab fisheries, they were under the understanding that the spend plan was with OMB for review. It was with NMFS who had adopted new software, kinks are still being worked out.

The new disaster determination for the 23/24 snow crab fishery came out a couple of weeks ago, Saint Paul filed a request in December. Similar in amounts to what was requested in previous disasters, but it will depend on congress. Aiming for a total of 300 million to respond to disasters in Alaska.

The North Pacific Fish Council will be reviewing a 17 year long crab rationalization program. Mateo is drafting comments for signature by tomorrow in support of the document and the program. City is an intervenor on Amendment 123, an action by NMFS that implements NPC management on halibut. Implemented in November 2023, Amendment 80, ground fish trawl filed challenging saying it was arbitrary and capricious and caused them economic harm. There is disagreement and it's believed the bycatch reductions are applicable. Low levels might cut into their income, but they are not being singled out or discriminated against.

Met with congressional office and asked them to write an amicus brief in support of the case and what NPC did. Secured pro bono law firm that will do the brief for the congressionals.

It's been indicated Trident will use a % of their spend funds for the Saint Paul plant. In addition, 4 million was secured to do a red king crab research project to take place at the Trident plant. The plan is to enhance the growth of little crabs and their survival rates in release to the wild. Everything is being done to keep the plant viable and to help Trident keep costs sustainable. So far there are no indications that they're planning to leave.

B. Mayor

Mayor Mercurief has been making himself available to assist with City needs. His availability will be limited in the coming months.

C. City Manager

The harbor maintenance project- the Corp has some additional funding and will put it out to bid this next month to make a selection in August. The project will be divided into two parts, base dredge work and then rock work.

Services with Polarconsult have been terminated; an RFP was put out to get another engineering group.

GCI- The poor service is due to an antenna; it needs to be replaced. A replacement has been ordered, yet to be received. Next steps are to stabilize service, maintain spare parts, and stabilize for high winds.

Landfill work is starting this week, a surveyor will be on island to mark everything out. Items are being shipped on Bowhead, they are scheduled to leave Seattle in the second week of June, will stop in Seward and be here around July 9.

Audit starting this next month. Andrew resigned; the open position is being advertised.

1024 break. 1035 back on record

Bulk Fuel- supply of fuel next month and two in July. Price has gone up slightly. Notice on April 25 that Saint Paul Fuel will no longer take on fuel delivery. Staff started to reach out to folks and got accounts set up. Councilman Melovidov commented to follow up with Rena to get credit transferred from TDX to the City.

Power Plant- parts are here for Unit 6, waiting for the mechanic to come in.

CM Melovidov had a question on water, if sampling includes heavy metals or lead. It is all on a frequency. Coliform is monthly. Lead and copper are every two years, and some are every three years. It is all shown in the water report that goes out to the community.

D. City Clerk

Wegeleben provided a written report.

E. Project/Grants Specialist

Sterbenz provided a written report.

F. Public Safety

Village Public Safety Officer

VPSO Program coordinator Michael Nemeth addressed the council, reviewing some concerns he received from the community. VPSOs are allowed to record audio, soon they

will record video. The VPSO program has become a division of the Department of Public Safety, with a director with the state office. Following their OPM means some changes, they will have no choice anymore when things take place like the body worn cameras. A few years ago they had been able to opt out. There have been some reports in the recent past of drunk drivers, officer Davis responded, sometimes that driver is not come upon for probable cause to pull over. One time, a person was contacted at the bar and that person had the VPSO drive them home, officers can drive people home. If someone calls in, provide as much information as possible, officers are new and don't know everyone. The more information provided the better. Body cams aren't required during EMS calls unless it is an assault or requires an Officer vs EMS response only. If a recording is called in for legal, unrelated information will be redacted. There have been a few cases of assaults and DV where people were injured, arrests made, and case reports filed. The Officer does everything they are supposed to and has no control after that. There was one where someone was arrested the case was dismissed prior to arraignment; this happening is new. With his supervisor he met with DA that covers the region. A different burden of proof at arrest vs at trial, DA expects beyond a reasonable doubt before arraignment. Once someone is under arrest, the officer has them so they cannot continue investigation until after arraignment and what the judge decides. We know that victim/community might not feel safe, someone released does something illegal again, they can be arrested again, and it moves forward. In a meeting with the State director, he provided the case information and found that it wasn't just happening in our region but around the state other officers are having cases dismissed prior to arraignment. During investigations victims often say they are fine, that ties the officer's hands. They must take it into account if victims say they are not victims. It makes it hard; DA is not going to take a case if victims recant and do not give information needed for probable cause. Municipal departments and state troopers are also experiencing dropped cases for whatever reason by the department of law. Until the recent past he has never experienced cases dropped before arraignment. The jail guard program does help the community, income, not difficult, and frees up the officers to respond to other calls. Even if someone is released, the victim can still apply for a protective order. There are many resources willing to help. If the person breaks the order, it is an automatic arrest, and the person gets put back before the DA. If a Tribal Order is in the system, they can enforce it. Officers on the island will respond to all calls whenever made.

G. Finance Director

Mandregan provided a written report.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

CM Porath MOVED to go into Executive Session. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion to approve was carried by Voice Vote of 7 Ayes.

The council went into Executive Session at 11:27AM.

The council came out of Executive Session at 11:50AM.

There was no action taken.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS

A. June 18, 2024 @ 9AM

IX. ADJOURNMENT

CM Porath MOVED to adjourn. Seconded by CM Kozloff. Motion was carried by Voice vote with 7 Ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50AM.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

Date