



City of Saint Paul

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

Meeting Minutes - Action Only

City Council

Council President Amy Brendmoen
Councilmember Russel Balenger
Councilmember Mitra Jalali
Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Councilmember Jane L. Prince
Councilmember Chris Tolbert
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:31 PM

Present 6 - Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Councilmember Nelsie Yang and Councilmember Russel Balenger

Absent 1 - Councilmember Jane L. Prince

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [AO 23-33](#) Amending CDBG Project Budgets: funding for vacant building demolitions.
Received and Filed
- 2 [AO 23-37](#) Amending CDBG Project Budgets: Additional funding for North End Community Center project.
Received and Filed

ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Jane L. Prince, Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Councilmember Nelsie Yang and Councilmember Russel Balenger

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 Yang moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

- 3** [RES 23-312](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Property Clean Up services during January 3 to 13, 2023, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for April 18, 2023 and City Council public hearing for June 7, 2023 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2317A, Assessment No. 238517)

Adopted

- 4** [RES 23-313](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Property Clean Up services during January 18 to 31, 2023, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for April 18, 2023 and City Council public hearing for June 7, 2023 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2318A, Assessment No. 238518)

Adopted

- 5** [RES 23-314](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Equipment and Labor for Clean Up services during October to November 2022, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for April 18, 2023 and City Council public hearing for June 7, 2023 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2319A, Assessment No. 238519)

Adopted

- 6** [RES 23-395](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for and if awarded accept funds from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for Right Track, the City's Youth Employment Program in an amount of up to \$850,000 a year for two years.

Adopted

- 7** [RES 23-420](#) Approving an ARPA loan in the amount of \$2,070,000 for the Phalen Village Senior Housing project located at 1180 and 1186 Prosperity Avenue, authorizing the City to transfer \$2,070,000 of American Rescue Plan funds from the 30% AMI Deeply Affordable Housing account to a specific account for the Phalen Village Senior Housing project, and approving execution of loan documents, District 2, Ward 6.

Adopted

- 8** [RES 23-429](#) Granting approval to amend prior loan agreements entered into in connection with outstanding water revenue obligations of the City relating to improvements to the City's municipal water utility system operated by Saint Paul Regional Water Services; and authorizing City staff to take certain actions with respect thereto.

Adopted

- 9 [RES 23-433](#) Approving the Mayor's appointments of Lauren Dees-Erickson, Jon Kelly, Alexandra Siclait, and Pang Yang as members on the Capital Improvement Budget Committee.

Adopted

SUSPENSION ITEMS

- [RES 23-457](#) Honoring Lee Ann LaBore and expressing gratitude for her outstanding service, dedication and contributions to the community and the City of Saint Paul.

Councilmember Noecker read from the resolution and presented it to the honoree's family.

Council President Brendmoen spoke in support.

Noecker moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

- [RES 23-435](#) Authorizing the City to enter into a professional services agreement with Mythics, Inc. to provide professional consulting services for the implementation of a new enterprise asset management system.

Councilmember Noecker moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

FOR DISCUSSION

- 10 [RES 23-331](#) Authorizing the City to grant a Temporary Revocable License on behalf of the Police Department (SPPD) for lease of 235 Maryland Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN with Shindler/West Finance Partners for canine training.

Commander Jeremy Ellison, St Paul Police Canine Unit, made himself available for questions.

Councilmember Yang asked about the cost.

Ellison stated that there was no cost.

Yang appreciated the training being done farther away from community members and asked about the state of the building.

Ellison stated they would be just using the building as-is.

Councilmember Jalali confirmed details of the building and asked about other costs.

Ellison spoke to the costs of canine training.

Councilmember Balenger asked about the breeds of dogs.

Ellison spoke to the breeds of dogs.

Council President Brendmoen spoke in support.

Jalali spoke in support.

Councilmember Tolbert moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

11 [SR 23-52](#)

2023 Early Learning Legislative Advisory Committee Report.

Kristenza Nelson and Quentin Wathum-Ocama gave a joint staff report.

Council President Brendmoen thanked the presenters.

Councilmember Prince asked about the recommendations of the committee.

Nelson and Wathum-Ocama went through the recommendations.

Prince spoke to funding potentially coming from the state.

Councilmember Tolbert thanked the presenters and asked about building on to current programs.

Nelson and Wathum-Ocama talked about committee discussion surrounding current programs.

Councilmember Noecker spoke to the intention to create a new funding stream or current programs, not new programs.

Councilmember Jalali spoke to future work on creating the funding stream.

Councilmember Yang expressed support for the work of the committee.

Noecker thanked committee members for their work and spoke in support.

Prince agreed with Noecker's comments.

Received and Filed

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 first reading.

First Reading

- 12 [Ord 23-16](#) Amending Chapter 63 and Chapter 69 of the Legislative Code pertaining to Stormwater Run-Off and Wetlands.
- Council President Brendmoen stated that the staff report would take place at the following meeting.*
- Laid over to April 5, 2023 for Second Reading**
- 13 [Ord 23-17](#) Amending Chapter 52 of the Legislative Code pertaining to storm water runoff management and incorporating by reference the regulatory standards and guidelines of the Saint Paul Stormwater Management Design Standards manual.
- Council President Brendmoen stated that the staff report would take place at the following meeting.*
- Laid over to April 5, 2023 for Second Reading**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- 14 [Ord 23-13](#) Granting the application of 1598 Carroll LLC to rezone the property at 1598 Carroll Avenue from T2 traditional neighborhood to I1 light industrial and amending Chapter 60 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the zoning map.
- Councilmember Prince asked about reasons for the rezoning and environmental safety.*
- Dave Birkemeier, President of Cooperative Plating, and Ed Wakefield, Senior Technical Engineer, addressed Prince's questions.*
- Councilmember Jalali asked about environmental safety.*
- Birkmier and Wakefield addressed Jalali's question.*
- Jalali moved to close the public hearing.*
- Laid over to April 5, 2023 for Final Adoption**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger
- Nay:** 0

- 15** [Ord 23-15](#) Granting the application of Rosenblum Family Limited Partnership to rezone the property at 271 Snelling Avenue North from IT transitional industrial to I1 light industrial and amending Chapter 60 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the zoning map.
- Councilmember Jalali moved to close the public hearing.*
- Laid over to April 5, 2023 for Final Adoption**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger
- Nay:** 0
- 16** [RES PH 23-53](#) Approving the application of El Burrito Mercado for two sound level variances in order to present live music for Fiesta Mexicana Fridays and Saturdays for Musica en mi Barrio Summer Music Series en La Placita beginning Friday, May 5 through Saturday, September 16, 2023 at the El Burrito LaPlacita Patio space at 175 Cesar Chavez Street.
- Councilmember Noecker moved approval.*
- Adopted**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger
- Nay:** 0
- 17** [RES PH 23-55](#) Approving the application of Macalester College Program Board for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 1600 Grand Ave- Macalester College.
- Fleury Clark Girimana, Coordinator of Student Organizations & Engagement at Macalester College, gave a staff report.*
- Councilmember Tolbert moved approval.*
- Adopted**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger
- Nay:** 0
- 18** [RES PH 23-56](#) Approving the application of Pancreatic Cancer Action Network c/o Event360, Inc for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on April 28, 2023 and April 29, 2023 at 200 Dr Justus Ohage Blvd - Harriet Island Regional Park.
- Councilmember Noecker moved approval.*
- Adopted**

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

- 19** [RES PH 23-64](#) Amending the financing and spending plans in the Fire Department in the amount of \$2,300 for a grant received from the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce for health and wellness equipment for the firefighters at Fire Station 6.

Councilmember Balenger moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

- 20** [RES PH 23-65](#) Amending the financing and spending plans in the Fire Department in the amount of \$2,300 for a grant received from the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce for health and wellness equipment for the firefighters at Fire Station 18.

Councilmember Yang moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEM

- 27** [RLH TA 23-76](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 686 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. VB2305, Assessment No. 238804) (Legislative Hearing on March 21, 2023)

Public hearing closed and laid over for four weeks to give time for Ward 1 office to provide assistance.

Also in attendance: Somdy Kong, property owner and appellant

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This is an appeal for a vacant building registration fee from October 2022 - October 2023. You originally heard an appeal for this property when it went into the vacant building program in November 2020. At that time, you granted a 3-month waiver on the fee but denied the appeal, as it had been condemned and found vacant as well. In this case, if the permits were filed for rehabilitating the property by the time of this hearing, I would recommend that the assessment be cut in half. The appellant was notified of the need to have a code compliance inspection and get permits filed back in 2020 when this was originally in

front of you. During yesterday's hearing, the appellant stated that he had applied for a code compliance inspection last month and received it last week. Therefore, he would not have received finals on the permits. The appellant seemed under the misapprehension that simply applying for the permits would result in my recommendation to halve the fee. That was not ever on the table from my perspective. It seems like there was a miscommunication. I am recommending that it be made payable over 5 years. This is the 3rd vacant building fee. It seems like it might be a good time to make connections with organizations to rehabilitate the property. The code compliance inspection is square one. The fee is \$2,616. It precedes the recent fee increases that you adopted.

Kong: During the 3 month extension, I did take time to clean up the property. I did pay that fee. For this year, I am saying that I don't want to pay the fee. I asked what I could do in early February to not have to pay the fee. I am short on funds at this time. She gave me a month to apply for the permit and get guys to inspect the property, and then she would halve the fee. I said I could do that. I did it and paid that fee. I talked to her yesterday and told her I did my portion. I didn't know how long the inspection people would take. If she knew that she should have given me more time. Yesterday she told me I would have to pay full, but I did my part. I have no control over inspections coming to property. No she wants to pay, but I am short on funds. If you're going to tell me one thing, that I did, why would you tell me that at the beginning? I did my part and am waiting for them to see what they are going to do to me. If I could get everything solved I would do it now.

Council President Brendmoen: Do you live in St. Paul?

Kong: Yes.

Brendmoen: So the building is vacant and you do not have a certificate of occupancy, so no one can live in there?

Kong: Correct.

Brendmoen: Do you have anything else to add?

Kong: I don't have anything else to add.

Councilmember Balenger: It sounds like they're not hearing each other. I would like to give him an opportunity to..the Ward 1 office is willing to help you with that fee or get you some help. Maybe we just put this off for 3 weeks while we do that.

Brendmoen: We don't have a meeting next week. Would 2 weeks work?

Balenger: How about a month?

Brendmoen: One month, and the question is whether to charge the vacant building fee at the old price.

Balenger: Yes.

Brendmoen: If we lay it over for a month would that switch to the new price?

Moermond: No. I would say that the next steps are getting some contractors in to get bids and get an idea of cost and asking about financing. I would be clear that those

are the next steps regardless of how you move forward with the fee, which is right now at the 6 out of 12 month juncture.

Brendmoen: Just making sure we didn't accidentally bump up the fee.

Balenger moved to close the public hearing and lay over for 4 weeks.

Public hearing closed and laid over to April 19, 2023

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

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 Noecker moved approval.

Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Prince, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang and Councilmember Balenger

Nay: 0

- 21** [RLH VBR 23-12](#) Appeal of Blai Vang, JB Vang Management LLC, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 1015 BANDANA BOULEVARD WEST.
Adopted
- 22** [RLH TA 23-71](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1621 BIRMINGHAM STREET. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304)
Adopted
- 23** [RLH TA 23-36](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 586 BURGESS STREET. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304)
Adopted
- 24** [RLH TA 23-66](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 528 COMO AVENUE. (File No. 2304T, Assessment No. 239003)
Adopted
- 25** [RLH RR 23-13](#) Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 781 COOK AVENUE EAST in Council File RLH RR 22-33.
Adopted as amended (granted 60 additional days)

- 26 [RLH TA 23-5](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 199 DUKE STREET. (File No. J2308A, Assessment No. 238507) (To refer back to August 15 Legislative Hearing, 2023; Public hearing continued to October 4, 2023)
- Referred to August 15, 2023 Legislative Hearing**
- 28 [RLH FCO 23-21](#) Amending Council File RLH FCO 23-5, adopted January 25, 2023, to grant Greg Lehman an additional extension for property at 839 FOURTH STREET EAST.
- Adopted**
- 29 [RLH RR 23-7](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 901 FULLER AVENUE within fifteen (15) days after the March 22, 2023, City Council Public Hearing. (To refer back to April 11, 2023 Legislative Hearing)
- Referred to April 11, 2023 Legislative Hearing**
- 30 **RLH RR 23-8** Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 1082 LOEB STREET within fifteen (15) days after the March 22, 2023, City Council Public Hearing. (To refer back to March 28, 2023 Legislative Hearing)
- Referred to March 28, 2023 Legislative Hearing**
- 31 [RLH TA 23-52](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1547 MARION STREET. (File No. CRT2304, Assessment No. 238203)
- Adopted**
- 32 [RLH TA 23-42](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 905 MARYLAND AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2310A2, Assessment No. 238527)
- Amended and referred to April 4, 2023 Legislative Hearing**
- 33 [RLH TA 23-45](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 619 MENDOTA STREET. (File No. VB2305, Assessment No. 238804)
- Adopted**
- 34 [RLH TA 23-46](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 619 MENDOTA STREET. (File No. J2303B1, Assessment No. 238108)
- Adopted**
- 35 [RLH TA 23-43](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 820 OCEAN STREET. (File No. CRT2304, Assessment No. 238203)
- Adopted**

- 36 [RLH TA 23-62](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 848 PLEASANT AVENUE (aka 842 PLEASANT AVENUE). (File No. CRT2304, Assessment No. 238203)
Adopted
- 37 [RLH TA 23-50](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1181 ROSS AVENUE. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304)
Adopted
- 38 [RLH VBR 23-10](#) Appeal of Mohsen Aghamirzai to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 834 SEVENTH STREET WEST.
Adopted
- 39 [RLH TA 23-57](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 368/370 SNELLING AVENUE SOUTH. (File No. J2303P, Assessment No. 238402)
Adopted
- 40 [RLH TA 23-63](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 800 SNELLING AVENUE SOUTH (AKA 750 SNELLING AVENUE SOUTH). (File No. CRT2304, Assessment No. 238203)
Adopted
- 41 [RLH TA 23-109](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 120 STEVENS STREET WEST. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304) (Legislative Hearing on March 21, 2023)
Public hearing continued to April 19, 2023
- 42 [RLH TA 23-92](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 779 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J2304E3, Assessment No. 238310) (Public hearing continued to April 19, 2023)
Public hearing continued to April 19, 2023
- 43 [RLH TA 23-93](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 779 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304) (Public Hearing continued to April 19, 2023)
Public hearing continued to April 19, 2023
- 44 [RLH TA 23-77](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 708 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH. (File No. J2305B, Assessment No. 238104) (Legislative Hearing March 21, 2023)
Adopted as amended (assessment ratified)
- 45 [RLH TA 23-79](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 820 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304) (Legislative Hearing on March 21, 2023; Public Hearing continued to April 19,

2023)

Amended and public hearing continued to April 19, 2023

- 46** [RLH AR 23-14](#) Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Vacant Building Registration fees billed during July 11 to September 19, 2022. (File No. VB2305, Assessment No. 238804)
Adopted
- 47** [RLH AR 23-15](#) Ratifying the assessments for Securing and/or Emergency Boarding during October 2022. (File No. J2305B, Assessment No. 238104)
Adopted
- 48** [RLH AR 23-16](#) Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Fire Certificate of Occupancy fees billed during July 28 to September 23, 2022. (File No. CRT2304, Assessment No. 238203)
Adopted
- 49** [RLH AR 23-17](#) Ratifying the assessments for Excessive Use of Inspection or Abatement services billed during August 22 to September 21, 2022. (File No. J2305E, Assessment No. 238304)
Adopted
- 50** [RLH AR 23-18](#) Ratifying the assessments for Graffiti Removal during September 29 to October 26, 2022. (File No. J2303P, Assessment No. 238402)
Adopted
- 51** [RLH AR 23-19](#) Ratifying the assessments for Removal of Diseased and/or Dangerous Tree services during June to November 2022. (File No. 2304T, Assessment No. 239003)
Adopted
- 52** [RLH AR 23-20](#) Ratifying the assessments for Removal of Dangerous Tree service during July 2022 at 183 GEORGE STREET WEST. (File No. 2305T, Assessment No. 239004)
Adopted

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 4:46 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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