



City of Saint Paul

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

Minutes - Final

City Council

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

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

Please see the meeting guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.

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

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [CO 21-9](#) Mayor's Emergency Executive Orders 21-1, 21-2, 21-3 and 21-4.
Received and Filed
- 2 [AO 21-2](#) Amending CDBG projects budget and setting up a budget for 932 Payne Ave.
Received and Filed
- 3 [AO 21-4](#) Establishing three (3) new account codes for Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program awards and returning unused Year-Round STAR project funding to the Year-Round STAR Program.
Received and Filed
- 4 [AO 21-5](#) Amending HOME admin allocation project.
Received and Filed

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

**A motion was made by Councilmember Thao to Approve the Consent Agenda
The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

Nay: 0

- 5** [RES 21-37](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Property Clean Up services during November 2 to 13, 2020, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for February 16, 2021 and City Council public hearing for April 7, 2021 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2111A, Assessment No. 218510)

Adopted

- 6** [RES 21-10](#) Approving Ordinance Permit **20200010402A** for Stormwater Conveyance Infrastructure Installed by Ryan on the Ford (Highland Bridge) Site

Adopted

- 7** [RES 21-11](#) Approving Ordinance Permit **20200010403A** for Stormwater Conveyance Infrastructure Installed by Ryan on the Ford (Highland Bridge) Site

Adopted

- 8** [RES 21-12](#) Approving Ordinance Permit **20200010602** for Sanitary Sewer Collection Infrastructure Installed by Ryan on the Ford (Highland Bridge) Site.

Adopted

- 9** [RES 21-40](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into a new management agreement with KidsPark for the management of programming services at Desnoyer Recreation Center.

Adopted

- 10** [RES 21-62](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for grant funds of \$10,000 from the Minnesota Department of Health to support the implementation of virtual walking programs for people who have been diagnosed with arthritis.

Adopted

- 11** [RES 21-55](#) Authorizing the Fire Department to accept the donation of \$500 from Saint Patrick's Association.

Adopted

- 12 [RES 21-76](#) Renaming one block of Lexington Parkway that now ends with a cul-de-sac north of Montreal Avenue to Old Lexington Avenue.

Adopted

- 13 [RES 21-102](#) Authorizing the City to enter into an Electric Vehicle Public Charging Pilot Service Agreement with Xcel Energy for the electrical supply component of the Twin Cities Electric Vehicle Mobility Network.

Adopted

- 14 [RES 21-103](#) Authorizing the Police Department to enter into Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) reimbursement agreement in 2021.

Adopted

- 15 [RES 21-104](#) Authorizing the Police Department expenditures for the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training program.

Adopted

- 16 [RES 21-105](#) Authorizing the Police Department to purchase food and beverages for law enforcement trainings conducted in 2021.

Adopted

- 17 [RES 21-106](#) Authorizing the Police Department to purchase water and refreshments for witnesses, victims, and suspects during critical incident investigations and assistance programs.

Adopted

- 18 [RES 21-107](#) Authorizing the Police Department to purchase refreshments for employee recognition ceremonies and events in 2021.

Adopted

- 19 [RES 21-108](#) Authorizing the Police Department's expenditures relating to community meetings and events.

Adopted

- 20 [RES 21-114](#) Authorizing the Police Department to accept a gift from the Saint Paul Police K-9 Foundation.

Adopted

- 21 [RES 21-115](#) Authorizing the Police Department to accept a gift from the Saint Paul Police K-9 Foundation.
- Adopted**
- 22 [RES 21-109](#) Amending the 2021 Capital Improvement Budget to allocate funding for capital maintenance projects to the appropriate departments, as recommended by the Capital Improvement Budget Committee
- Adopted**
- 23 [RES 21-110](#) Approving Ordinance Permit 20200010701 for Sanitary Sewer Drop Shaft Infrastructure Installed by Ryan on the Ford (Highland Bridge) Site.
- Adopted**
- 24 [RES 21-116](#) Amending RES 20-999 related to membership requirements for the Climate Justice Advisory Board.
- Adopted**
- 25 [RES 21-72](#) Approving the Mayor's appointments of Adri Arquin, Kathleen Bacigalupi, Paul Barral, Marlon Batres, Robert Blake, Patty Born Selly, Dominique Diaddigo-Cash, Nick Martin, Louis Offstein, Kristen Poppleton, Audel Shokohzadeh, Cheng Vang, Alice Wagner-Hemstad, Janiece Watts, Melissa Wenzel, and May Yang-Lee to the Saint Paul Climate Justice Advisory Board.
- Adopted**
- 26 [RES 21-21](#) Approving a petition from Robert Salmen for specially assessing the costs of a fire protection system at 2475 Doswell Avenue. (Project No. FP2021-03, Assessment No. 217102).

Adopted

FOR DISCUSSION

- 27 [RES 21-139](#) Adopting the City's Legislative Agenda for the 2021 Legislative Session.
- Thao Mee Xiong, Mayor's office, appeared and gave a report on various topics.*
- Councilmembers Noecker, Prince, and Brendmoen commented on the report.*
- Noecker moved approval.*
- 7 in favor, none opposed*
- Resolution is adopted*
- Adopted**

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

28 [AHPC 21-1](#)

Public hearing to consider the appeal of the University of Saint Thomas to the Heritage Preservation Commission decision of Loras Hall (2260 Summit Avenue) in the Summit West Heritage Preservation District.

George Gause from PED. University of St. Thomas applied to HPC for demolition of the north dormitory building to build a new academic building on campus. The area of St. Thomas was originally the campus of a seminary funded by James J. Hill. It was designed by architect Cass Gilbert. He went on to design the Minnesota State Capitol building, Woolworth Building in New York City and the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington D.C. Demolition application is focused on 3 conditions: 1) Architecture and historic merit of the building – Gause was a noted architect. The north dormitory is eligible for historic designation, but it was not filed. 2) Demolition would result in the loss of a Gilbert structure in Saint Paul, although there have been changes to the campus over time. 3) Economic value and usefulness of the building - although the university submitted a substantial application package, it was deficient in substance. It did not objectively review the existing structure. The university performed an audit of the useful of the building. The details of the study were not clear. The question of why it had to be built in this location, has not been explained. The HPC voted to deny the demolition 6-1.

Councilmember Prince asked if this is the first time—if they allow demolition—a City has allowed a demolition of a contributing structure in a nationally registered historic district. Gause responded that he believes so, but there may be something prior to his time.

Prince said this is the oldest of the 3 Gilbert buildings on the campus. St. Thomas has expressed an interest in demolishing the other 2. Gause responded it is the oldest, but he has not been formally told they would demolish the other buildings. St. Thomas has not given us plans to demolish the other buildings.

Prince said she is struck that St. Thomas did not say why this is the only location. She wondered if that had come up. The alternatives were not presented. It looks like at least one of them allowed for the building in the existing parking lot next to the north dormitory. Gause responded he has not seen a proposal for the steam building. They were only concentrating on the demolition of this structure.

Councilmember Noecker said we are considering an error by the HPC. What specific claims do the appellants make in terms of errors? Gause responded the error is that the building is not considered historic or contributing to the district. The district is primarily residential. Noecker said contributing may not necessarily be significant. Gause responded they don't feel the building is contributing to the district. In the original designation form, it was noted as a contributing structure to the district.

Prince said an application was not made for historic designation, the fact that it is in an historic district and identified in the west summit preservation district would establish it as a contributing property. Gause responded that is correct.

Councilmember Jalali said she appreciates the questions and chance to get the staff report. She said she is going to move to approve St. Thomas' appeal. The factors she is looking at the significance was based on the homes along Summit Avenue. A report did not find the building worthy of designation, letter of support for the appeal, and district councils support it. Bishop Lawrence was a slave owner and used his profits from chattel slavery for future projects. Not all buildings by noted architects are by themselves historically significant. It has been deliberated how the building can have future use. There are limited ways to reuse a building from a layout of over a century ago. The new building may have more benefit to the existing community. The removal of the hall on its own does not impact the district. Loras Hall does not contribute to the sustainability goals in the comprehensive plan. New buildings can be energy efficient. A century old building should not inhibit the creation of a new space.

Prince said she will be speaking against the motion. Preserving the City's history and architecture is why we have an HPC. This building is a poster child of 3 giants of Minnesota history: Archbishop John Ireland, James J Hill, Cass Gilbert. She knows the campus well when she served under Councilmember Jay Benanav. When they sought to expand their campus to include the historic blocks, Councilmember Benanav worked with the University to save the buildings the school planned to demolish. St. Thomas is a huge beneficiary of its location on the best-preserved 19th century Victorian boulevard in the United States. In 2004, it determined that preserving the building was the best for reuse of its campus planning. St. Thomas apparently explored as many as 5 alternatives on its campus. One option was the parking lot on the east side of its building. There are seas of parking lot. She wondered if this is a precedent that we will be passing today to allow the demolition of a contributing structure. She reached out to the President without stating a position and suggested she consider St. Thomas' role of stewardship in our City's history. In any event, the report has been improperly quoted here and in the appeal because it was incomplete. It found the building was historically significant. It expressed concern about the integrity of the campus. This is the oldest of the 3 buildings.

Council President Brendmoen asked Rachel Tierney, City Attorney's Office, if there were any concerns about Prince calling the president of the school. Tierney responded she does not know about that call. Depending on how the vote goes, that may or may not be a concern.

Prince said she was clear in the e-mail that the Council is not able to take a position. Outside a position for or against demolition, She suggested that those alternatives were worth exploring.

Yes – Jalali, Noecker, Thao, Tolbert, Yang, Brendmoen
No – Prince

6 in favor, 1 opposed
Public hearing closed and motion of intent approved

Motion of intent - appeal granted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Thao, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali and Councilmember Yang

Nay: 1 - Councilmember Prince

Council President Brendmoen said we held a public hearing online and over the phone.

Councilmember Noecker moved to close the public hearing and approve.

7 in favor, none opposed

Public hearing is closed and the resolution is adopted

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

- 30** [RES PH 21-9](#) Authorizing the Police Department to accept a gift from the Saint Paul Police Foundation.

Council President Brendmoen said we held a public hearing online and over the phone.

Councilmember Prince moved to close the public hearing and approve.

7 in favor, none opposed

Public hearing is closed and the resolution is adopted

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

- 31** [RES PH 21-10](#) Authorizing the Police Department to accept a gift from the Minneapolis Police Federation Charities.

Council President Brendmoen said we held a public hearing online and over the phone.

Councilmember Prince moved to close the public hearing and approve.

7 in favor, none opposed

Public hearing is closed and the resolution is adopted

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

- 32** [RES PH 21-11](#) Approving the Final (combined) Plat for Western Highland Bridge at 966 Mississippi River Boulevard.

Council President Brendmoen said we held a public hearing online and over the phone.

*Councilmember Tolbert moved to close the public hearing and approve.
7 in favor, none opposed
Public hearing is closed and the resolution is adopted*

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ITEMS

The Legislative Hearing Officer recommended adoption of the following resolutions, as no objections were received:

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

- 33** [RLH VBR 20-79](#) Appeal of Jesse Rosillo III, on behalf of Aaron King, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 341 ARBOR STREET.

Adopted

- 34** [RLH SAO 21-5](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1023 BARR STREET in Council File RLH SAO 20-56.

Adopted

- 35** [RLH VBR 21-1](#) Appeal of Michelle Schumacher to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 963 COMO BOULEVARD EAST.

Adopted

- 36** [RLH TA 20-618](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 895 DESOTO STREET. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503)

Adopted

- 37** [RLH SAO 21-3](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1122 EARL STREET in Council File RLH SAO 20-49.

Adopted

- 44** [RLH OA 21-1](#) Appeal of Daniel Boeseneilers on behalf of Viking Drill & Tool to a Denial of Fence Permit Application at 355 STATE STREET and 328 FLORIDA STREET.

Adopted

- 45 [RLH TA 20-627](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 937 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503)

Adopted

- 46 [RLH TA 20-621](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1600 THOMAS AVENUE. (File No. J2103A, Assessment No. 218502)

Adopted

- 47 [RLH TA 20-619](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 694 VAN BUREN AVENUE. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503)

Adopted

- 50 [RLH VBR 21-2](#) Appeal of John Bassett, VADC Holdings LLC, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 1054 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST.

Adopted

For the following items, no objection to the Legislative Hearing Officer's amended recommendation was received and, therefore, she recommends amendment and adoption:

- 42 [RLH TA 20-286](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 158 SIDNEY STREET EAST. (File No. J2009E, Assessment No. 208310) (Amend to delete)

Adopted as amended (assessment deleted)

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

Nay: 0

- 52 [RLH AR 20-146](#) Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during July 1 to 14, 2020. (File No. J2103A, Assessment No. 218502)

Adopted as amended (continue public hearing on 1393 Prosperity Avenue to March 3)

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

Nay: 0

- 53 [RLH AR 20-147](#) Ratifying the assessments for Property Clean Up services during July 14 to 30, 2020. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503)

Adopted as amended (referred 308 Como Avenue to February 16 Legislative Hearing and continued 1393 Prosperity Avenue to March 3 City Council public hearing)

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

Nay: 0

For the following items, the Legislative Hearing Officer's recommendations are to continue the public hearing to the dates listed:

39 [RLH TA 21-21](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1030 FOURTH STREET EAST. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503) (Public hearing continued to July 21, 2021)

Public hearing continued to July 21

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

Nay: 0

40 [RLH TA 20-667](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1508 IVY AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503) (Public hearing continued to May 19, 2021)

Public hearing continued to May 19

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

Nay: 0

41 [RLH RR 20-55](#)

Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 578 LAFOND AVENUE in Council File RLH RR 19-26. (Public Hearing continued to February 3, 2021)

Public hearing continued to February 3

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

Nay: 0

48 [RLH TA 21-17](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 634 WATSON AVENUE. (File No. J2104A, Assessment No. 218503) (Public hearing continued to July 21, 2021)

Public hearing continued to July 21

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

Nay: 0

For the following items, the Legislative Hearing Officer's recommendation was to refer the items to January 26 Legislative Hearing:

- 43** [RLH RR 20-22](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 678 SNELLING AVENUE NORTH within fifteen (15) days after the May 27, 2020 City Council public hearing.

Referred to January 26 Legislative Hearing

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

Nay: 0

- 51** [RLH RR 20-32](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 901 YORK AVENUE within fifteen (15) days after the October 7, 2020, City Council Public Hearing. (To be referred back to Legislative Hearing on January 26, 2021)

Referred to January 26 Legislative Hearing

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

Nay: 0

An objection to the Legislative Hearing Officer's recommendation was received and a staff report was given:

- 49** [RLH TA 20-620](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 227 WESTERN AVENUE NORTH. (File No. J2103A, Assessment No. 218502)

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer, said testimony was received at 3:38 p.m. It has been attached to the record. This case is an assessment for a cleanup. There was no dispute of the facts. The City issued orders on June 29. Compliance was July 3. Inspector went out July 9. The grass was taller. The following day the Parks Crew removed the grass and weeds. The appellant is a new owner of the property. He purchased the property on July 20. He said this did not show up as a pending assessment. The way it works is when you buy the property it is incumbent

on the seller on these matters. The seller did not disclose this. The appellant indicated that he talked to his realtor. He said his Realtor didn't think it was worth it and can't the City be responsible. I explained this was a private dispute.

Councilmember Thao asked if the property was a single-family home? Was it owner-occupied prior to the sell?

Moermond said it was sent to Mound, Minnesota.

Thao moved to approve the Legislative Hearing Officer's recommendation.

7 in favor, none opposed

Public hearing is closed and the resolution is adopted

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

Legislative Hearing Officer withdrew the following:

- 38** [RLH RR 20-45](#) Ordering the rehabilitation or razing and removal of the structures at 2531 EDGCUMBE ROAD within fifteen (15) days after the December 9, 2020, City Council Public Hearing. (To be withdrawn)

Withdrawn

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

In-person meetings, or meetings conducted under Minn. Stat. § 13D.02 of the City Council, are not practical or prudent because of the COVID-19 health pandemic emergency declared under Minn. Stat. Chapter 12 by the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. In light of the COVID-19 health pandemic, members of the City Council will participate in City Council meetings by telephone or other electronic means.

Public attendance at the City Council's regular meeting location is not feasible due to the COVID-19 health pandemic. Members of the public may view City Council meetings online at stpaul.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or on local cable Channel 18.

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.

While the Council will make best efforts to decide all issues before them, the Council may delay decisions on certain matters where the members believe meeting in-person is necessary. All City Council public hearings will be held at 3:30 p.m. and there will be no separate 5:30 p.m. public hearings. More information is available at www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council

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Cable

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.