



City of Saint Paul

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

Meeting Minutes

City Council

Council President Rebecca Noecker
Vice President HwaJeong Kim
Councilmember Anika Bowie
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:34 PM

Present 5 - Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Councilmember HwaJeong Kim,
Councilmember Anika Bowie, Councilmember Saura Jost and
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

Absent 1 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker

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 Johnson moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie,
Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 1 [RES 25-397](#) Authorizing payment in the amount of \$35,000 in full and final settlement of the claim of Amanda Fiallos.
Adopted
- 2 [RES 25-398](#) Authorizing payment in the amount of \$24,553.80 in full and final settlement of the claim of Adam Murphy.
Adopted
- 3 [RES 25-465](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for funds up to \$350,000 from the Outdoor Recreation grant program and up to \$250,000

from the Local Trail Connections grant program.

Adopted

- 4 [RES 25-467](#) Authorizing the Police Department to submit an application to the Automobile Theft Prevention Grant Program of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.
- Adopted**
- 5 [RES 25-473](#) Directing the Department of Safety and Inspections to suspend the Liquor On Sale-100 Seats or Less, Entertainment (A) Liquor On Sale Sunday and Gambling Location license against the Taste of Rondo LLC d/b/a Taste of Rondo Restaurant, (License ID #20190000107) for the premises located at 976 Rondo Avenue.
- Adopted**
- 6 [RES 25-481](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation and Libraries to be named as joint partners with Saint Paul Public Schools in their application to the Minnesota Department of Education for 21st Century Community Learning Center for up to \$75,000 a year for program years 2025/26 to 2029/30, with no match requirement.
- Adopted**
- 7 [RES 25-482](#) Authorizing the City to accept a donation of K9 Ballistic Vests on behalf of the Police Department (SPPD) for canine officer protection from Brady's K9 Fund.
- Adopted**
- 8 [RES 25-483](#) Approving the Five Year Lease of office space for the Office of Neighborhood Safety.
- Adopted**
- 9 [RES 25-502](#) Authorizing reimbursement up to \$500 for the purchase of snacks and refreshments for a City Council community engagement event to be held on March 27, 2025.
- Adopted**
- 10 [RES 25-504](#) Authorizing reimbursement up to \$450 for the purchase of snacks and refreshments for a City Council east side community engagement event to be held on March 28, 2025.
- Adopted**
- 11 [RES 25-435](#) Establishing the rate of pay for Water Maintenance Supervisor I, Grade 036, Employee Group 10.
- Adopted**
- 12 [RES 25-498](#) Supporting the Gold Line BRT Extension from the City of Saint Paul to the City

of Minneapolis.

Adopted

RECESS

Meeting recessed at 3:38 PM

ROLL CALL

Meeting resumed at 3:47 PM

Present 5 - Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Councilmember HwaJeong Kim, Councilmember Anika Bowie, Councilmember Saura Jost and Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

Absent 1 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker

FOR DISCUSSION

13 [RES 25-459](#) Appointing the interim Ward 4 councilmember. (To be amended)

Councilmember Kim gave remarks and moved to lay over to Friday, March 28, 2025.

Councilmember Jost asked to move an amendment prior to laying the item over.

Therese Skarda, Deputy City Attorney, provided parliamentary information.

Councilmember Yang moved to recess. Approved 5-0.

Meeting resumed.

Kim renewed her motion to lay over to Friday, March 28. Motion failed 2-3 (Those opposed being Councilmembers Bowie, Jost, and Johnson).

Jost gave remarks and moved Version 2.

Yang spoke against the amendment.

Kim spoke against the amendment.

Councilmember Johnson spoke in favor of the amendment.

Version 2 approved 3-2 (Those opposed being Councilmembers Kim and Yang).

Jost moved to lay over to Friday, March 28, 2025.

Amended and laid over to March 28, 2025

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 14 [RES 25-434](#) Amending Appendix A-2 of the Administrative Code to establish the creation of the City Council Public Safety & Community Wellness Committee. (Laid over from March 12, 2025)

Councilmember Bowie moved to lay over for two weeks.

Laid over to April 9, 2025

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 15 [RES 25-472](#) Outlining the City's 2025 Legislative Agenda. (Laid over from March 19, 2025)

Brynn Hausz, Government Relations Director in the Mayor's Office, and Eric Peterson, Government Relations Associate in the Mayor's Office, gave a staff report and answered councilmember questions.

Councilmember Johnson gave remarks.

Councilmember Yang moved the A-1 Amendment. Approved 5-0. (The language was added to the Taxes section of the Legislative Agenda attachment)

Councilmember Kim moved the A-2 Amendment. Approved 5-0. (The language was added to the Taxes section of the Legislative Agenda attachment)

Johnson moved approval.

Adopted as amended

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

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 second reading.

Final Adoption

- 16 [Ord 25-23](#) Granting the application of St Paul Property Group, LLC to rezone properties at 10 River Park Plaza from T3M traditional neighborhood with master plan to ITM transitional industrial with master plan and amending Chapter 60 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the zoning map.

Councilmember Kim moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

17 [Ord 25-24](#)

Amending Chapter 427 of the Legislative Code to reference and incorporate Uniform License Procedures as outlined in Legislative Code Chapter 310, clarify ambiguous language, update outdated gender language, add Infrared heated sauna fitness studios to the definition license category, and change the on-duty staffing exceptions.

Councilmember Bowie spoke in favor and moved approval.

Councilmember Yang spoke in favor.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

18 [Ord 25-25](#)

Repealing Chapter 440 of the Legislative Code related to Energy Benchmarking.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

19 [Ord 25-28](#)

Amending Chapter 189.10 of the Legislative Code pertaining to duties of frequency of the Truth-in-Sale of Housing Board evaluator examination.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

First Reading

- 20 [Ord 25-26](#) Amending Chapter 43.03 of the Legislative Code pertaining to Vacant Buildings as it relates to the Vacant Building Registration Fee. (Laid over from March 26, 2025)

Councilmember Kim moved to lay over for one week.

Laid over to April 23, 2025 for Second Reading

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- 21 [RES PH 25-47](#) Approving the petition of Marc David to vacate the portion of alley right-of-way behind 1178 Burns Avenue.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 22 [RES PH 25-53](#) Amending the financing and spending plans in the Fire Department in the amount of \$115,068 for a contribution received from the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) to pay training for firefighters.

Councilmember Kim moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 23 [RES PH 25-54](#) Approving the application of University of St. Thomas, Aaron Fimon, UST Public Safety Manager, for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on May 10, 2025 at 2115 Summit Avenue, University of St. Thomas, O'Shaugnessy Stadium.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

24 [RES PH 25-56](#)

Amending the financing and spending plans in the Police Department in the amount of \$350,000 for the Intensive Comprehensive Police Officer Education and Training (ICPOET) Program from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

SUSPENSION ITEMS

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ITEM FOR RECONSIDERATION

[RLH TA 25-26](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 912 FRY STREET. (File No. VB2506, Assessment No. 258805)

Assessment ratified and made payable over 3 years.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: The property owner was on the line last week and disconnect from the call before his item came up on the agenda. He spoke to staff later and asked for the assessment to be divided over 3 years. That is what I recommend.

Councilmember Jost: I move that recommendation.

Adopted as amended (assessment made payable over 3 years)

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEMS

25 [RLH TA 24-335](#)

Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 586 BURGESS STREET. (File No. VB2501A, Assessment No. 258809) (Public hearing closed and laid over from March 26, 2025)

Laid over for two weeks.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: I ask for this to be laid over for two weeks.

Councilmember Bowie: I move that recommendation.

Laid over to April 9, 2025

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

32 [RLH VBR 25-4](#) Appeal of Ozzy Zahran, O.I.G. Holdings, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 383 TORONTO STREET.

Appeal denied.

Ozzy Zahran, appellant, appeared by call-in.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This is an appeal of a vacant building registration where the fire certificate of occupancy was revoked. Fire inspectors tried to get in over 5 months and could not complete an inspection of the interior, ostensibly because the tenants were not allowing access, and the owner was not facilitating an inspection. The owner successfully evicted the tenants, where 9 people were inside, some of them not being on the lease. The owner talked about difficulty getting in, as someone threatened to loose dogs on people and there was an FBI raid. The property is now empty. In Legislative Hearing, I asked if we could get a fire inspection to see what kind of vacant building it should be categorized as. The inspection found mechanical and electrical issues, along with plumbing and building work done without a permit. I will also add that the Department of Safety and Inspections only had an abbreviated list of violations in their first letter that we looked at in Legislative Hearing. The letter did not seem consistent with the photos, and the supervisor then reviewed the case with the assigned inspector. An updated list of orders was sent on March 10, 2025, and that is the one to be looking at. Based on the violations, I recommend that this be considered a Category 2 vacant building. This would require a code compliance inspection to pull permits. The space is not condemned, but fire inspectors don't condemn a space when it's already vacant. The orders don't represent whether or not the space is habitable, but rather that it has major code violations. I recommend denial of the appeal.

Ozzy Zahran: We pulled permits for everything, including electric. We haven't touched the HVAC system yet. That is last on our agenda. I was shocked that this was being considered a Category 2 vacant building. I am a local landlord and do a lot of work in Saint Paul. I do construction as well. I think describing the property as having major violations is stretching it. We had some missing cover plates for switches and they have been put back. We just bought the property a year and a half ago. With the HVAC, the unapproved duct tape was already there when we bought it. The house is habitable. It has running water, heat, electricity, and is clean. This should not be a Category 2 vacant building.

Councilmember Kim moved to close the public hearing.

Kim: I've reviewed this as a proxy for the absent Council President Noecker, and move

Moermond's recommendation.

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

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 Johnson moved approval.

Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Noecker

- 26** [RLH VBR 25-15](#) Appeal of Lori Moseng-Wegner, on behalf of owner Steven G Moseng, to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 1577 6TH STREET EAST.
Adopted
- 27** [RLH VBR 25-14](#) Appeal of Ali Ahmed to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 219 BELVIDERE STREET EAST.
Adopted
- 28** [RLH TA 25-165](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 24-116 to delete the assessment for Tall Grass and Weed Removal services during August 1 to 30, 2024 at 116 JESSAMINE AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2507T, Assessment No. 258515)
Adopted
- 29** [RLH TA 25-149](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 718 LAFOND AVENUE. (File No. J2504T2, Assessment No. 258544)
Adopted
- 30** [RLH SAO 25-23](#) Appeal of David West to a Summary Abatement Order at 145 LAWSON AVENUE EAST.
Adopted
- 31** [RLH RR 25-12](#) Referring to City Council of a potential stay of enforcement of demolition for

Jay Mitchell, on behalf of Quality Residences, LLC, for property at 401 ROSE AVENUE EAST.

Adopted

- 33** [RLH TA 25-166](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 25-3 to delete the assessment for Collection of Vacant Building Registration fees billed during May 2 to July 24, 2024 at 575 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST. (File No. VB2505, Assessment No. 258804)

Adopted

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 5:23 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:

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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>.

Council Meeting Information

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Web

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