



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

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

3:30 PM Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Parkway N

This meeting is being held outdoors at the Como Lakeside Pavilion. It will include a public hearing for attendees to comment on the 2022 budget at the end of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m.

Present 6 - Councilmember Amy Brendmoen, Councilmember Chris Tolbert, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Jane L. Prince, Councilmember Mitra Jalali and Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Absent 1 - Councilmember Dai Thao

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [AO 21-48](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to reallocate \$405,000 within its various accounting units in the 2021 adopted budget to most accurately reflect the projected actual spending in each accounting unit and provide the appropriate levels of spending authority.

Received and Filed

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Adopted Consent Agenda

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

- 2 [RES 21-1088](#) Approving the application with conditions, per the Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, for Erag Auto LLC (License ID # 20210000368), d/b/a the same, for an Auto Repair Garage, located at 1033 Thomas Avenue.
- Adopted**
- 3 [RES 21-1294](#) Approving the application with conditions, per the Deputy Legislative Hearing Officer, for Candlestick Hospitality LLC (License ID# 20210000722), d/b/a Myriel, located at 470 Cleveland Avenue South.
- Adopted**
- 4 [RES 21-1404](#) Repealing special assessment policies in Appendices A-7 and A-8 of the Administrative Code.
- Adopted**
- 5 [RES 21-1425](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for \$74,750 in funding through the Conservation Partners Legacy grant program to enhance 23 acres of forest habitat at Swede Hollow Park and, if successful, enter into an agreement providing indemnification for the MN Dept of Natural Resources.
- Adopted**
- 6 [RES 21-1445](#) Approving the Use of Grant Funds through the Neighborhood Star Year-Round Program for the Highland Reservoir Sidewalk Project.
- Adopted**
- 7 [RES 21-1453](#) Approving Ordinance Permit 20210011004 for sanitary sewer infrastructure installed by Pulte Model Homes.
- Adopted**
- 8 [RES 21-1456](#) Approving adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco-Product Shop License held by Twones Tobacco (“Licensee”) (License ID# 20180003705) at 2005 Ford Parkway.
- Adopted**
- 9 [RES 21-1458](#) Approving adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco License held by Northern Tier Retail LLC (“Licensee”) d/b/a Speedway #4151 (License ID# 20100004247) at 1580 Ford Parkway.
- Adopted**

- 10 [RES 21-1471](#) Approving assessment costs and setting date of City Council public hearing to ratify the assessment for the 2021 Street Maintenance Service Program. (File No. 2021SMSP, Assessment No. 210025)

Adopted

- 11 [RES 21-1474](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into a Limited Use Permit (LUP) with and provide indemnification for the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for continued use of an amenity zone within the right-of-way of Trunk Highway No. 149 for the High Bridge project.

Adopted

- 12 [RES 21-1478](#) Approving adverse action against the Cigarette/Tobacco License held by Walgreens #06995 ("Licensee") (License ID# 20020005083) at 1788 Old Hudson Road.

Adopted

FOR DISCUSSION

- 13 [RES PH 21-243](#) Approving the request of District Energy St. Paul, Inc. to amend District Cooling rates for fiscal year 2022. (Public hearing closed October 6, 2021.)

Council President Brendmoen said the public hearing was closed and laid over for a final vote.

Councilmember Prince moved approval. She had a few questions about this matter concerning District Energy. She had a good talk with resilient person Russ Stark and Xcel Energy executive director Ken Smith. She got an opportunity to get an update on electrification. She is working with District Energy on this issue.

6 in favor, none opposed

Resolution is adopted

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

- 14 [RES PH 21-244](#) Approving the request of District Energy St. Paul, Inc. to amend District Heating rates for fiscal year 2022. (Public hearing closed October 6, 2021.)

*Councilmember Prince moved approval.
6 in favor, none opposed
Resolution is adopted*

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

- 15 [RES PH 21-252](#) Amending the open space lot specific standards for the Ford Site Zoning and Public Realm Master Plan. (Public hearing closed October 6, 2021.)

Council President Brendmoen said the public hearing was closed last week so it would pass in partnership with a companion item on this agenda.

Councilmember Tolbert moved approval.

Councilmember Prince said she is supportive. She is prepared to vote on part of it, but she did not have the opportunity to get into it, so she will abstain.

Councilmember Tolbert said it is a good resolution. This does not affect our parkland. This has to do with open space on actual sites.

*5 in favor, one abstention (Prince), no one opposed
Resolution is adopted*

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali and Councilmember Yang

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

Abstain: 1 - Councilmember Prince

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 Legal Ledger. Public hearings on ordinances are held at the second reading.

Final Adoption

- 16 [Ord 21-33](#) Amending Chapters 65 and 66 of the Legislative Code pertaining to homeless services facilities. (Public hearing closed October 6, 2021.)

Council President Brendmoen asked was there anything final.

Councilmember Prince said she would like to lay this over for 3 weeks for some minor amendments to clarify language.

6 in favor, none opposed

Ordinance is laid over to November 3

Laid Over to final adoption on November 3

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

- 17 [Ord 21-35](#) Amending Chapter 66 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the Ford Districts (Leg. Code §§ 66.900 Ford Districts and 66.931 Ford District Dimensional Standards by zoning district). (Public hearing closed October 6, 2021.)

Council President Brendmoen said this item is before us for final vote and Councilmember Prince is abstaining.

Councilmember Tolbert moved approval.

5 in favor, no one opposed, 1 absention (Prince)

Ordinance is adopted

Adopted

Yea: 5 - Councilmember Brendmoen, Councilmember Tolbert, Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali and Councilmember Yang

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

Abstain: 1 - Councilmember Prince

First Reading

- 18 [Ord 21-38](#) Amending Section 94.13 of the Legislative Code to ensure consistency with the 2015 MN Plumbing and Building Codes.

Council President Brendmoen said Travis Bistodeau is here. During COVID, they adjusted their ordinance to a 3-reading vote. First reading is a staff report, second reading is a public hearing, and they vote on the last reading.

Travis Bistodeau, Deputy Director of DSI (Department of Safety and Inspections), said he is one of 2 deputy directors in DSI. This amendment is to remove some confusing and conflicting language in the legislative code in regards to heat exchangers. Municipalities are prohibited from creating and enforcing building code requirements that are more restrictive than the code itself. Since the state adopted the 2015 building code and plumbing code, some of the language in the legislative code conflict with double walled heat exchangers. This amendment removes some language and minimizes confusion and complaints. Neither DSI nor Saint Paul Regional Water District have reservations about removing this provision.

This ordinance is laid over to October 20 for second reading/public hearing.

Laid over to October 27 for Second reading Public hearing

- 19 [Ord 21-40](#) Granting the application of Abah Mohamed to rezone the property at 576 Lexington Parkway N from RT1 Two Family Residential to RM2 Multi-Family Residential, and amending Chapter 60 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the zoning map.

Council President Bendmoen said they are electing to hear the staff report at the second reading/public hearing.

This is laid over to October 20 for second reading/public hearing

Laid over to October 20 for Second reading Public hearing

PUBLIC HEARINGS

LEGISLATIVE HEARING ITEMS

No one was here to testify on these items.

Councilmember Noecker moved to pass the Legislative Hearing agenda as amended. 6 in favor, none opposed

Public hearings are closed & Consent Agenda is adopted as amended

The Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda is adopted with amendments:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Thao

- 20 [RLH TA 21-182](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1323 BARCLAY STREET (1327 BARCLAY STREET-ARCHIVED). (File No. J2105E, Assessment No. 218304) (Continue public hearing to October 13, 2021)
Adopted as amended (ratify assessment)
- 21 [RLH TA 21-206](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 750 BLAIR AVENUE. (File No. J2116A, Assessment No. 218515) (Public hearing continued to October 13, 2021)
Adopted as amended (reduce assessment)
- 22 [RLH TA 21-414](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 21-9 to delete the assessment for Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during July to September 2020 at 914 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2004A4, Assessment No. 200166)
Adopted
- 23 [RLH TA 21-415](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 21-40 to delete the assessment for Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during October to December 2020 at 914 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2101A4, Assessment No. 210103)
Adopted
- 24 [RLH TA 21-416](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 21-70 to delete the assessment for Collection of Delinquent Garbage Bills for services during January to March 2021 at 914 COOK AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2102A3, Assessment No. 210108)
Adopted
- 25 [RLH TA 20-670](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1525 DIETER STREET. (File No. VB2103, Assessment No. 218802) (Amend to File No. VB2103A, Assessment No. 218812)
Adopted as amended (ratify and make payable over 5 years)
- 26 [RLH VBR 21-61](#) Appeal of Anna Decrans, Premier Housing Management, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 765 EDGERTON STREET.
Adopted
- 27 [RLH TA 21-260](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 181 FRONT AVENUE. (File No. J2021A1, Assessment No. 208558) (Public hearing continued to October 13, 2021)
Adopted as amended (reduce assessment)

- 28 [RLH VBR 21-63](#) Appeal of Shirzad Raimi, Venture Capital LLC, to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 666 FULLER AVENUE.
- Adopted**
- 29 [RLH VBR 21-56](#) Appeal of Lialoni Hutchinsen to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 722 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST.
- Adopted**
- 30 [RLH RR 21-50](#) Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 1629 HARTFORD AVENUE in Council File RLH RR 21-19.
- Adopted**
- 31 [RLH TA 21-394](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 375 HAWTHORNE AVENUE EAST. (File No. CRT2111A, Assessment No. 218212)
- Adopted**
- 32 [RLH SAO 21-66](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 913 JOHNSON PARKWAY in Council File RLH SAO 21-63.
- Adopted**
- 33 [RLH TA 21-413](#) Amending Council File No. RLH AR 21-33 to delete the assessment for Securing and/or Emergency Boarding services during December 2020 at 104 LARPENTEUR AVENUE WEST. (File No. J2107B, Assessment No. 218106)
- Adopted**
- 34 [RLH VBR 21-58](#) Appeal of Steven Kraut to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 58 LAWSON AVENUE WEST.
- Adopted**
- 35 [RLH TA 21-291](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 329 LAWSON AVENUE WEST. (File No. J2109B2, Assessment No. 2181117) (To be referred back to October 5, 2021 Legislative Hearing and Public Hearing on October 13, 2021)
- Continue public hearing to January 19, 2022.**
- 36 [RLH TA 21-367](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 990 MARION STREET. (File No. J2124A, Assessment No. 218543) (Amend to delete)
- Adopted as amended (delete assessment)**

- 37 [RLH VBR 21-60](#) Appeal of Jeffrey Boston, J and M Boston Properties LLC, to a Vacant Building Registration Notice at 1865 OLD HUDSON ROAD.

Adopted

- 38 [RLH FCO 21-141](#) Appeal of Adrienna Case, ShowCase Properties, to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 295 PAGE STREET.

Adopted

- 39 [RLH FCO 21-135](#) Appeal of Enrique Monjarrez and Erin Delaney (Monjarrez), Trustees, to a Reinspection Fire Certificate of Occupancy With Deficiencies at 785 STRYKER AVENUE.

COMMUNITY INPUT

40 [PH 21-4](#)

Community input on the 2022 City Budget.

Council President Brendmoen said they are holding annually a community input session on the budget far in advance of their vote in December. They are here to hear input on the budget proposed by Mayor Carter and input on ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds, which is \$166 Million. It is one time funding. There are other items that are affecting the budget. They will hear from Holly Huston. She has handed some of us information about the budget. Then, they will go to a public event format and take people's comments.

Holly Huston, City Council Chief Budget Officer, said she will briefly go over the City's budget. It consists of the general fund expenses that flows through this fund to support annual services. The property taxes support these services. The total budget is \$332 Million. They have special funds supported by fees or grants, some of these are multi-year programs. They represent \$328 Million. Finally, there are debt funds that ensure the maintenance of the City's infrastructure. That is \$52.2 million. Total budget is \$772 Million.

The property tax portion is 27.5% of the total. Looking at the handout, the first page focuses on property taxes. The property tax levy this year is \$176.6 Million. That is half of the City's total general fund. The change this year is 6.9% proposed. The City Council is evaluating the total and has the opportunity to make adjustments before final adoption. Within that \$11.4 Million, there is \$6.1 Million of new investments the Mayor proposed. This includes restoring some budget reductions resulting from the pandemic last year and cut from the budget this year. It also includes establishing an Office of Neighborhood Safety for \$1.25 Million, service changes, housing and economic development, support the law enforcement career path academy and each year the City's budget expenses grow. The revenue side does not grow unless the City Council makes agreements to fees or property taxes.

When you receive your property tax bill, a portion of that goes to the City, not the total amount: Ramsey County, school district, etc. About 29% of last year's tax bill went to the City. The City received ARP allocation from the federal government allocation of \$176.6 Million. The Mayor's proposed budget sectioned off investment for safety, housing, and job readiness of \$40 Million each. Modernization of City services of \$18 Million. Modernization would be to do some of the application work online. Vaccination and health investment of \$3.6 Million. Grant administration of \$10 Million.

There are some other items there on how the total budget is sectioned off by department. The City Council has a budget survey that they want people to take. There were over 180 responses so far. That information will be summarized for the Council. The Council adopts the budget on December 8. There is another public hearing once you receive your property tax bill on December 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Brendmoen thanked Huston. They are going to move into the public input session. This is by no means the only way to reach out to the councilmembers. The councilmembers are accessible and their information is available on the internet. The legislative aides are here. They welcome the back and forth. There will be a 2-minute limit to the comments. We want to be as tuned in to the last person as to the first person. Please sign in and tell your address, then we will start the timer.

(Approximately 20 people addressed the City Council at this public hearing.)

Public hearing closed

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

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. More information is available at www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council

Council Meeting Information

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