



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 Matt Privratsky
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:32 PM

Present 7 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Councilmember HwaJeong Kim, Councilmember Anika Bowie, Councilmember Saura Jost, Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson and Councilmember Matt Privratsky

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [AO 25-36](#) Amending the 2025 spending and financing budgets in the Department of Public Works Traffic Signals and Street Lighting Maintenance Accounting Units to fund the purchase of two new wire trailers.

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

Council President Noecker stated that Item 2 would be taken separately.

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

- 3 [RES 25-780](#) Establishing the rate of pay for Data Practices Specialist, in EG 02, AFSCME Technical, Grade 039.

Laid over to July 9, 2025

- 4 [RES 25-781](#) Establishing the rate of pay for Data Practices Supervisor, EG 09., SPSO, Grade 018.

Laid over to July 9, 2025

- 5 [RES 25-901](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Rubbish and Garbage Clean Up services during April 15 to May 14, 2025, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for July 22, 2025 and City Council public hearing for September 3, 2025 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2524R, Assessment No. 258563)

Adopted

- 6 [RES 25-902](#) Approving the City's cost of providing Miscellaneous Abatement services during February to May 2025, and setting date of Legislative Hearing for July 22, 2025 and City Council public hearing for September 3, 2025 to consider and levy the assessments against individual properties. (File No. J2502A, Assessment No. 258564)

Adopted

- 7 [RES 25-924](#) Approving a Liquor On Sale- 100 Seats Or Less, Liquor On Sale - Sunday, and Entertainment (B) New Location license to STARCADE LLC d/b/a Starcade (License ID 20240001843) for the premises located at 928 7th St W.

Adopted

- 8 [RES 25-938](#) Authorizing the Department of Public Works to apply for and enter into a grant agreement with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District for the enhanced street sweeping stewardship grant to perform additional street sweeping within the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District boundaries.

Adopted

- 9 [RES 25-943](#) Establishing the rate of pay for SPRWS Asset Manager, Grade 024, Employee Group 09.

Laid over to July 9, 2025

- 10 [RES 25-955](#) Authorizing the Office of Neighborhood Safety ("ONS") to apply for grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs' 2026-2027 Community Crime Intervention and Prevention Grant.

Adopted

- 11 [RES 25-962](#) Authorizing the Fire Department to apply for the 2024 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$4,820,054.40 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to hire 12 additional firefighters.

Adopted

- 12 [RES 25-995](#) Authorizing the Fire Department to apply for the 2024 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase supplies for the community risk reduction program Project Safe Haven.

Adopted

- 13 [RES 25-975](#) Recognizing Immigrant Heritage Month, World Refugee Day, and Caribbean American Heritage Month.

Adopted

FOR DISCUSSION

- 2 [RES 25-681](#) Directing the City Clerk to notify the County Auditor to place a referendum of Ordinance Ord 25-2 on the November 4, 2025, ballot and approving the title and language for that ballot question.

Council President Noecker moved approval of Version 2.

Adopted as amended

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

- 14 [SR 25-119](#) 2025 Legislative Session Report

Laid over to July 23, 2025

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

SUSPENSION ITEMS

- [RES 25-1015](#) Honoring Community Partners and Recognizing National Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Councilmember Bowie spoke in favor and moved approval.

Councilmember Privratsky spoke in favor.

Bowie gave additional remarks.

Councilmember Johnson spoke in favor.

Bowie gave additional remarks.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

[RES 25-1030](#)

Recognizing the successes of the Hmong International Freedom Festival held by The United Hmong Family, Inc.

Councilmember Yang spoke in favor and moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

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

15 [Ord 25-36](#)

Amending the Appendix to Chapter 409 of the Legislative Code pursuant to Section 17.07.1 of the Charter, and Section 409.20 of the Legislative Code to create an additional Commercial Development District at 1624/1626 White Bear Avenue North.

Councilmember Yang spoke in favor and moved approval.

Councilmember Privratsky spoke in favor.

Councilmember Johnson spoke in favor.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

First Reading

16 [Ord 25-34](#)

Amending Chapters 33, 60, 61, 62, 63, 65 & 66 of the Legislative Code to correct errors, and to update and clarify language.

Bill Dermody, City Planner, gave a staff report and answered councilmember questions.

Laid over to July 9, 2025 for Second Reading

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- 17** [Ord 25-37](#) Authorizing Public Works to collect fees from RDUs for garbage services to support the costs of operations and disposal and setting the 2025 late fee for delinquent garbage bills.
- Councilmember Kim moved to close the public hearing.*
- Laid over to July 9, 2025 for Final Adoption**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky
- Nay:** 0
-
- 18** [RES PH 25-122](#) Approving the application of St. Paul Saints Baseball Club for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound for the Rock the Fourth event on July 4, 2025 at 360 Broadway St - CHS Field.
- Councilmember Johnson moved approval.*
- Adopted**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky
- Nay:** 0
-
- 19** [RES PH 25-123](#) Approving the application of Rondo Avenue Inc. for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on Saturday, July 19, 2025 at 271 Mackubin St - Martin Luther King Recreation Center.
- Councilmember Bowie moved approval.*
- Adopted**
- Yea:** 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky
- Nay:** 0
-
- 20** [RES PH 25-126](#) Approving the application of El Burrito Mercado for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on Tuesdays, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2025 at 175 Caesar Chavez St - El Burrito Mercado patio.
- Councilmember Jost moved approval.*
- Adopted**

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

- 21** [RES PH 25-127](#) Approving the application of Marcela Vega for the Chicano Fest event sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on July 12, 2025 at 235 Marshall Ave - Parking Lot.

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEM

- 25** [RLH TA 25-290](#) Amending Council File RLH AR 25-34 to ratify the assessment for Collection of Vacant Building Registration fees billed during March 11 to October 17, 2024 at 1003 ARCADE STREET. (File No. VB2508, Assessment No. 258807)

Assessment ratified and made payable over 5 years.

la Lee, owner, appeared by phone

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This is an appealed vacant building fee that has already been ratified. I'm bring items like this back when there is reason to believe there may have been a City error. A person can file in district court to bring that to the attention of the City Attorney's Office. In this case, we can look at it but still keep that option available to them. What gave me pause was the address that the notice was sent to. I wanted to verify if the notice went to where it should have gone in the timing that it should have gone. The fee period is from September 2024 to September 2025. When the owner, la Lee, first got the letter, she appealed the registration notice. The address was correct at that time. Council granted a 90-day waiver. There were questions then about address changes during Legislative Hearings on that subject. Ramsey County updated the address changes the day after Council had made its decision. So, notice did go to the correct place. The second layer of this had to do with the owner not thinking it was doable to complete the work in under three months. The waiver is just that, a waiver. If work is not completed then, they are responsible for the whole fee. In this case, Lee got the Fire Certificate of Occupancy (FCO) last week. That puts us 9-10 months into the fee period. I can't find an argument for a reduction, given the notice being properly done and the time it took to complete the work. I don't see extenuating circumstances. Lee stated that she thinks notices should have been emailed. City Departments use US Mail. I see nothing to make me recommend a reduction or deletion. If you decide to make changes, we can pass a new resolution.

Council President Noecker: Could you clarify the time period? The file says different dates than what you mentioned.

Moermond: That title is the assessment roll for fees billed during that period. This fee appeared on that assessment roll and was billed during that window you see in the title.

Councilmember Johnson: Were no permits pulled until last week?

Moermond: The permits pulled in the last fall and also in March, April, and June. They were all finalized in mid June and the FCO was issued June 23.

Johnson: Could you restate your recommendation?

Moermond: To not amend the already ratified assessment roll, which includes ratification of this assessment.

Ia Lee: I want to be clear that I was not aware of mail coming to the building or to me at my home address. I don't know which department is responsible for that. The only reason I found out about this is when I went into the office last month to pay property taxes. They told me I had this assessment there. I would like a waiver because we did bring this building up to code. I bought this back in 2022 and there were a lot of issues that weren't disclosed to us. We worked hard to get the building back up and running. The City takes so long with permits, inspections, and approvals, going one step at a time. I'm asking for leniency on this fee. The work is all done.

Councilmember Yang moved to close the public hearing. Approved 7-0.

Yang: I'm not inclined to amend the amount, since we already ratified the assessment, but I move to spread the amount out over 5 years.

Noecker: I support that.

Yang: I also want to make sure the mail is going to the right place. Could that be followed-up on?

Moermond: We went through an exhaustive review of all addresses that notices have been sent to. There were four different ones and there was no mail returned to the City. These addresses were confirmed in the Legislative Hearing.

Johnson: Are permits pulled or is the project done?

Moermond: Both. The FCO was issued this Monday. It can now be occupied.

Adopted as amended (assessment made payable over 5 years)

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

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 Privratsky moved approval.

Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 7 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Kim, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Privratsky

Nay: 0

- 22** [RLH SAO 25-43](#) Appeal of Carlos Block to a Summary Abatement Order at 2125 AMES AVENUE.
Adopted
- 23** [RLH FCO 25-35](#) Appeal of Ronald Staeheli to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice at 358 ARBOR STREET.
Adopted
- 24** [RLH VO 25-11](#) Appeal of Connie Baehr to a Fire Inspection Correction Notice (which includes condemnation) at 961 ARCADE STREET.
Adopted
- 26** [RLH RR 25-17](#) First Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 887 CHARLES AVENUE in Council File RLH RR 24-17.
Amended and referred to July 15, 2025 Legislative Hearing
- 27** [RLH FCO 25-33](#) Appeal of Rebecca J Monsoor-Cassidy Tr to a Fire Certificate of Occupancy Correction Notice - Complaint Inspection at 944 CROMWELL AVENUE.
Adopted
- 28** [RLH VBR 25-23](#) Appeal of David Jacobowitch to a Vacant Building Registration Renewal Notice at 839 EDMUND AVENUE.
Adopted

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 4:12 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>.

Council Meeting Information

The City Council is paperless which saves the environment and reduces expenses. The agendas and Council files are all available on the Web (see below). Council members use mobile devices to review the files during the meeting. Using a mobile device greatly reduces costs since most agendas, including the documents attached to files, are over 1000 pages when printed.

Web

Meetings are available on the Council's website. Email notification and web feeds (RSS) of newly released minutes, agendas, and meetings are available by subscription. Visit www.stpaul.gov/council for meeting videos and updated copies of the agendas, minutes, and supporting documents.

Cable

Meetings are live on St Paul Channel 18 and replayed at various times. Check your local listings.