



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

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:30 PM

Present 6 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Councilmember Mitra Jalali, Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Councilmember Anika Bowie, Councilmember Saura Jost and Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson

Absent 1 - Councilmember HwaJeong Kim

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [CO 24-17](#) Letters from the Department of Safety and Inspections declaring 41 Miller Crest Lane and 2117 Mohawk Avenue nuisance properties. (For notification purposes only; public hearings will be scheduled at a later date if necessary.)
Received and Filed
- 2 [AO 24-23](#) Amending the 2024 spending budget in the Public Works General Fund to align the costs in spending for the Rondo Renaming Project.
Received and Filed
- 3 [AO 24-26](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to reallocate \$15,000 from the CIB Contingency Funds for Community Proposals to the Parks Community Proposal Budget for Path Lighting between Maryland and Iowa, therefore providing the necessary funding for Parks to secure a bid for Path Lighting in Prosperity Heights.
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 Jalali stated that Items 16 and 17 would be taken separately.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 4 [RES 24-360](#) Approving precinct boundary changes for Ward 2 for the upcoming 2024 elections.
- Adopted**
- 5 [RES 24-385](#) Authorizing the City to enter into a subrecipient agreement with American Lung Association for the expansion of the Electric Vehicle Spot Network on the East Side of Saint Paul, and rescinding Council Resolution RES 24-145.
- Adopted**
- 6 [RES 24-408](#) Acknowledging a public purpose of community participation in the co-design of City services and technical solutions and granting permission to the Office of Technology and Communication to spend city funds on behalf of the City to incentivize and compensate residents, business owners, and other community stakeholders who participate in design research and usability testing.
- Adopted**
- 7 [RES 24-410](#) Approving the Liquor On-Sale 100 seats or less, Liquor On-Sale Sunday, Gambling Location, and Liquor outdoor Service Area (Sidewalk) licenses for Pauly's of St. Paul d/b/a Pauly's (License ID# 2023002257) for the premises located at 1668 Selby Ave.
- Adopted**
- 8 [RES 24-428](#) Approving EPA grant applications to decarbonize downtown.
- Adopted**
- 9 [RES 24-431](#) Approving an EPA grant application to expand the EV Spot Network and Evie Carshare.
- Adopted**
- 10 [RES 24-432](#) Approving the City as a coalition partner in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's application to EPA for Equitable Residential Decarbonization.
- Adopted**

- 11 [RES 24-453](#) Approving the application for change of ownership to the Auto Repair Garage license now held by Al's Garage LLC d/b/a Al's Garage (License ID #20240000043) for the premises located at 977 Front Avenue.

Adopted

- 12 [RES 24-460](#) Approving a Wine on Sale, Malt on Sale (Strong) and Entertainment (A) license to Pallch Inc. d/b/a Chimborazo Restaurant (License ID 20240000209) for the premises located at 508 Lexington Parkway South.

Adopted

- 13 [RES 24-461](#) Approving the application for change of ownership to the Parking Ramp license now held by Allied Parking Inc d/b/a Allied Parking Inc (License ID #20240000191) for the premises located at 59 Kellogg Boulevard West.

Adopted

- 14 [RES 24-462](#) Approving the City being a coalition partner in an application led by the City of Minneapolis to the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program for a business decarbonization grant program.

Adopted

- 15 [RES 24-470](#) Authorizing the City to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota to participate in the Multijurisdictional Disparity Study.

Adopted

FOR DISCUSSION

- 16 [RES 24-478](#) Commemorating the observance of Ramadan 2024 and the significance to Muslims in Saint Paul.

Councilmember Johnson gave an introduction.

Imam Hassan from the Darul Uloom Mosque gave remarks.

Abdisamad Loyan, community leader and member of Darul Uloom, gave remarks.

Johnson read from the resolution, with Somali translation provided by Abdulahi Farah, Lead Organizer with ISAIAH. Johnson then moved approval.

Councilmember Yang spoke in support.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 17 [RES 24-481](#) Recognizing Brittney Baker for her historical promotion to Captain in the

Saint Paul Fire Department.

Councilmember Johnson gave an introduction.

Butch Inks, Fire Chief, gave remarks.

Johnson read from the resolution alongside Brittney Baker's daughter, Naaziah.

Brittney Baker, Fire Captain, gave remarks.

Councilmember Bowie spoke in support.

Councilmember Noecker spoke in support.

Councilmember Yang spoke in support.

Councilmember Jost spoke in support.

Councilmember Jalali spoke in support.

Johnson moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

First Reading

- 18** [Ord 24-5](#) Amending Chapter 63 of the Legislative Code pertaining to electric vehicle charging infrastructure in surface parking lots.
- Bill Dermody, City Planner, gave a staff report and answered councilmember questions.*
- Laid over to April 3, 2024 for Second Reading**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- 19** [RES PH 24-60](#) Amending the 2024 budget by adding a \$9,000 donation to the Police Department ("SPPD") from the Saint Paul Police Foundation ("SPPF").
- Councilmember Yang moved approval.*

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 20** [RES PH 24-61](#) Amending the 2024 budget by adding a \$25,000 donation to the Police Department (“SPPD”) from the Saint Paul Police Foundation (“SPPF”), made possible by a grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

Councilmember Bowie moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 21** [RES PH 24-62](#) Authorizing the Police Department to amend the 2024 Grant Fund for the sub-grant received from Ramsey County for the Violent Crime Enforcement Team (VCET).

Councilmember Noecker moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 22** [RES PH 24-63](#) Approving the application of White Squirrel Bar for a sound level variance in order to present amplified sound on Saturdays, June 1 - August 31, 2024 at 974 Seventh Street West - the White Squirrel Bar patio.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 23** [RES PH 24-65](#) Amending the financing and spending plan in the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$1,211,812 by increasing spending in Parkland Dedication, through the use of fund balance and increasing spending for the Como Shuttle and Great River Passage budgets to reflect funding received from legacy grants.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval.

Adopted

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEMS**39 RLH VBR 24-18** Appeal of Marlene Barrett to a Vacant Building Registration Requirement at 1297 SEVENTH STREET WEST.

Public hearing closed and laid over to June 26, 2024

Also in attendance: Marlene Barrett, appellant (remote attendance)

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This is an appeal of a Vacant Building Registration status. It went into the program on January 29, 2020. The City Council had an appeal on this property in 2021 for unpaid Vacant Building Fee assessment. The owner wanted it either brought down from a Category 2 Vacant Building to a Category 1, or have it removed from the program entirely. They also wanted the assessment removed. The outcome of that appeal was that it remained a Category 2 Vacant Building and the assessment was to be paid. It fit all of the requirements for being a Category 2 building. Water was shut off in 2017. Water hadn't been running since 2013. However, it didn't come to the Vacant Building Program's attention until 2020 when an inspector was called out due to exterior code violations, and then the inspector sent it to Vacant Building program. This doesn't automatically mean conditions inside are bad. In that circumstance, sometimes getting the water turned on can be enough. For the previous appeal, I recommended treating it as "Category 2-lite," requiring only a Building Conditions Code Compliance Inspection Report (CCIR), rather than one with all 4 trades inspectors. The application for that report was made almost at the same time as the Council meeting that approved that recommendation. However, the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) never scheduled an inspection and the owner never followed up. This was all 3 years ago for the 2021 appeal. Now, we are here today, and the inspection has still never happened. The same things that were true then are true now. The water is still off. Exterior conditions are not great but not horrible. My recommendation is still to keep it in the Vacant Building Program and get that Building CCIR to maybe bump this down to a Category 1 Vacant Building. I'm not an inspector and can't look at a photo and make determinations about building code. The eyes of a professional are needed. I am also recommending waiving the fee for 90 days to get that inspection done. I know the owner has talked about selling the property, which may be a good idea as it is currently not providing housing or rental income.

Marlene Barrett: This is the home my siblings and I grew up in. This should not be Vacant Building at all, but if it is one, it should be a Category 1 at very worst. I want to sell it to a family, but since it's listed as a Category 2, I have only been contacted by investors wanting to flip it and pay half of its value. I go through the house every week to make decisions on donate, selling, or recycling items. I've also been cleaning and painting, but it takes me longer to do them because I have a disability. All utilities are functioning. Coffee and food is made at the home. The COVID pandemic was also an issue regarding household projects and getting it out of the Vacant Building Program. I would like Council to credit me for all of the past Vacant Building Fees,

which would allow me to get current on back taxes by May 15. If you have questions, I can answer them or have my realtor answer them. I did resent the building inspection form to the inspector, so hopefully we can get them in as quickly as possible.

Councilmember Noecker moved to close the public hearing. Approved 6-0.

Noecker: Looking at photos, we can't make determination based on them. This situation does warrant an inspection to gauge if it should be in the Vacant Building Program, or what category it should be. I'm disappointed to hear that nothing was done on this by DSI since Moermond's recommendation 3 years ago. I will move 90-day layover of this item to give DSI time to fulfill their obligation and to give time for figuring out what happened.

Public hearing closed and laid over to June 26, 2024

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 37** [RLH RR 23-43](#) Fourth Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 595 PARK STREET in Council File RLH RR 23-12. (Public hearing continued to July 10, 2024)

Public hearing continued to April 10, 2024.

Councilmember Bowie: Could we pull Item 37 from the Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda to get more information?

Council President Jalali: We could also lay this over for a week or two.

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: I would welcome a 2-3 week continuation of the public hearing.

Bowie: Two weeks is fine. So moved.

Public hearing continued to April 10, 2024

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

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 Jost moved approval.

Legislative Hearing Consent Agenda adopted as amended

Yea: 6 - Councilmember Noecker, Councilmember Jalali, Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost and Councilmember Johnson

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Councilmember Kim

- 24** [RLH TA 24-74](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 87 ACKER STREET EAST. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304)
Adopted
- 25** [RLH TA 24-94](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1003 ARCADE STREET. (File No. J2405B, Assessment No. 248104)
Adopted
- 26** [RLH TA 24-88](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 32 BENHILL ROAD. (File No. VB2405, Assessment No. 248804)
Adopted
- 27** [RLH TA 24-65](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 712 DELAWARE AVENUE. (File No. CRT2404, Assessment No. 248203)
Adopted
- 28** [RLH TA 24-66](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 839 EDMUND AVENUE. (File No. VB2405, Assessment No. 248804)
Adopted
- 29** [RLH RR 24-8](#) Second Making finding on the appealed substantial abatement ordered for 733 FAIRVIEW AVENUE NORTH in Council File RLH RR 23-11.
Adopted
- 30** [RLH TA 24-91](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 355 GERANIUM AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304)
Adopted
- 31** [RLH TA 24-137](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1157 HERBERT STREET. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304) (Public hearing continued to October 16, 2024)
Public hearing continued to October 16, 2024
- 32** [RLH TA 24-81](#) Deleting the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 823 JUNO AVENUE. (File No. 2403T, Assessment No. 249002)
Adopted

- 33 [RLH TA 24-50](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 384 LAWSON AVENUE EAST. (File No. J2411A1, Assessment No. 248528)
Adopted
- 34 [RLH TA 24-51](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 384 LAWSON AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2303A2, Assessment No. 230113)
Adopted
- 35 [RLH TA 24-56](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 384 LAWSON AVENUE EAST. (File No. CG2304A2, Assessment No. 230115)
Adopted
- 36 [RLH TA 24-87](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 126 NINTH STREET EAST. (File No. J2405B, Assessment No. 248104)
Adopted
- 38 [RLH VO 24-7](#) Appeal of Tianna Verdega, Tenant, dba Clubhouse Entertainment, to a Fire Certificate of Occupancy Correction Notice, including Condemnation, at 220 ROBERT STREET SOUTH. (Refer back to May 14, 2024 Legislative Hearing)
Referred to May 14, 2024 Legislative Hearing
- 40 [RLH TA 24-64](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1617 UPPER AFTON ROAD. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304) (Public hearing continued to September 18, 2024)
Public hearing continued to September 18, 2024
- 41 [RLH TA 24-115](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 747 WINSLOW AVENUE. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304)
Adopted
- 42 [RLH AR 24-9](#) Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Vacant Building Registration fees billed during May 9 to August 14, 2023. (File No. VB2405, Assessment No. 248804)
Adopted
- 43 [RLH AR 24-10](#) Ratifying the assessments for Securing and/or Emergency Boarding services during September 2023. (File No. J2405B, Assessment No. 248104)
Adopted
- 44 [RLH AR 24-11](#) Ratifying the assessments for Collection of Fire Certificate of Occupancy fees billed during August 28 to September 19, 2023. (File No. CRT2404, Assessment No. 248203)
Adopted
- 45 [RLH AR 24-12](#) Ratifying the assessments for Excessive Use of Inspection or Abatement

services billed during July 24 to August 21, 2023. (File No. J2405E, Assessment No. 248304)

Adopted

- 46 [RLH AR 24-13](#) Ratifying the assessments for Removal of Diseased and/or Dangerous Tree(s) services during October 2023. (File No. 2403T, Assessment No. 249002)

Adopted

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 4:51 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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