



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 Molly Coleman
Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson
Councilmember Saura Jost
Councilmember Nelsie Yang

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

3:30 PM

Council Chambers - 3rd Floor

ROLL CALL

Meeting started at 3:30 PM

Present 5 - Councilmember Nelsie Yang, Councilmember Anika Bowie, Councilmember Saura Jost, Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson and Councilmember Molly Coleman

Absent 2 - Councilmember Rebecca Noecker and Councilmember HwaJeong Kim

COMMUNICATIONS & RECEIVE/FILE

- 1 [CO 25-40](#) Letter from the Department of Safety and Inspections declaring 52 Elizabeth Street East a nuisance property. (For notification purposes only; public hearings will be scheduled at a later date if necessary.)
Received and Filed
- 2 [AO 25-55](#) Amending ESG project budgets: funding for 2024-25 Emergency Solutions Grant activities administered by Ramsey County per the Joint Powers Agreement approved via RES 19-2110.
Received and Filed
- 3 [AO 25-56](#) Amending the 2025 spending budget in the Department of Public Works Grants Electric Vehicle Charging Stations accounting unit and project code to align project spending.
Received and Filed
- 4 [AO 25-60](#) Authorizing the Police Department to reallocate budget to more accurately record expenditures for the department capital fund.
Received and Filed
- 5 [AO 25-63](#) Amending CDBG Project Budgets: \$144,405.85 of funding for DSI demolitions and \$2,474.30 of additional funding for 650-658 Sherburne Ave.
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

Councilmember Johnson stated that Items 10, 13, and 24 would be taken separately.

Councilmember Jost moved approval.

Consent Agenda adopted as amended

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

- 6** [RES 25-1481](#) Authorizing the Department of Planning and Economic Development to apply to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for contamination cleanup funding for a project at 1165 Arcade Street N (Dist. 5, Ward 6).

Adopted

- 7** [RES 25-1495](#) Authorizing the Department of Planning and Economic Development to apply to the Metropolitan Council for Livable Communities Demonstration Account for Tax Base Redevelopment Account projects at: 680-694 Minnehaha Avenue E. (Hamm's Brewery - District 4, Ward 7) and 1165 Arcade Street (F2F@Arcade by Face to Face - District 5, Ward 6); as well as applying for TBRA-SEED Site Investigation funds for projects at 680-694 Minnehaha Avenue E. (West End of Hamm's) and 706 Marshall Avenue (Rondo Revitalize - District 8, Ward 1).

Adopted

- 8** [RES 25-1514](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory to accept a grant of \$400 from the Mid-America Orchid Congress for the purchase of orchid plants in the year 2025.

Adopted

- 9** [RES 25-1515](#) Authorizing the City to enter into an Interconnection Agreement with Xcel Energy, which includes an indemnification clause, for solar at Fire Station #7.

Adopted

- 11** [RES 25-1550](#) Approving a partial waiver of the Sustainable Building Ordinance for the Primates Mechanical Building at Como Zoo.

Adopted

- 12 [RES 25-1552](#) Approving a partial waiver of the Sustainable Building Ordinance for the Polar Bear Mechanical Building at Como Zoo.
Adopted
- 14 [RES 25-1557](#) Authorizing the Department of Parks and Recreation to apply for grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Community Tree Planting Grants Program to invest in public property tree planting to restore, enhance and diversify tree canopy throughout Saint Paul.
Adopted
- 15 [RES 25-1559](#) Approving the use of NSTAR grant funds for a change in scope of work for BP Sushi LLC.
Adopted
- 16 [RES 25-1561](#) Approving the use of grant funds through the Ward 6 Neighborhood Star Year-Round program for Sensuel Lingerie LLC.
Adopted
- 17 [RES 25-1564](#) Approving the Mayor's appointment of Councilmember Molly Coleman to serve on The Family Housing Fund.
Adopted
- 18 [RES 25-1569](#) Accepting the donation of registration, travel, and lodging expenses from ReConnect Rondo for Councilmember Anika Bowie to attend the Reconnecting Communities Summit 2025 in Washington, D.C. from September 28-29, 2025.
Adopted
- 19 [RES 25-1574](#) Approving the use of grant funds through the Ward 5 and Ward 6 Neighborhood Star Year-Round Programs for Lavish Luxe Hair Studios LLC.
Adopted
- 20 [RES 25-1581](#) Approving the Mayor's appointment of Mariana Smith to the Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity Commission.
Adopted
- 21 [RES 25-1582](#) Approving the Mayor's appointment of Timothy DeGiau and Barak ade Soleil to the Mayor's Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities.
Adopted
- 22 [RES 25-1583](#) Approving the Mayor's appointment of Morgan Kuschel and reappointments of Thomas Eckstein, Ronald Weisman, Marj Ebensteiner, Imogene Treichel, Meghan Redmond, Teisha Magee, and Alaina Gall to a two-year term on the Advisory Committee on Aging.
Adopted

- 23 [RES 25-1584](#) Approving the Mayor's appointment of Sequoia Rutan to the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA).
Adopted
- 25 [RES 25-1610](#) Approving the appointment of Saura Jost to serve on the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA) Board of Trustees.
Adopted

FOR DISCUSSION

- 10 [RES 25-1545](#) Approving the Proposed Issuance of Conduit Revenue Bonds by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the Twin Cities German Immersion School Project, 1031 Como Avenue, under Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.152 through 469.1655 (District 10 Ward 5).
Councilmember Yang spoke in opposition.
Councilmember Bowie moved approval.
Adopted
Yea: 4 - Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Coleman
Nay: 1 - Councilmember Yang
Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim
- 13 [RES 25-1556](#) Approving the proposed issuance of conduit charter school lease revenue notes by the Port Authority (the "Port Authority") for the Metro Deaf School Project located at 1125 Energy Park Drive (District 10, Ward 4).
Councilmember Yang spoke in opposition.
Councilmember Coleman moved approval.
Adopted
Yea: 4 - Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Coleman
Nay: 1 - Councilmember Yang
Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim
- 24 [RES 25-1598](#) Authorizing the City's ranked list of 2026 State General Obligation bonding requests for submittal to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB).
Councilmember Yang moved approval.
Adopted as amended
Yea: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Coleman
Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

SUSPENSION ITEM

[RES 25-1650](#)

Appointing the Public Rights Project as special counsel for the purpose of providing legal representation to the City of Saint Paul in the matter of City of Boston, et al. v. Department of Homeland Security, et al., to be filed in the District of Massachusetts.

Councilmember Bowie spoke in favor and moved approval.

Adopted

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

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.

First Reading

26 [Ord 25-59](#)

Amending Chapters 60, 63, 65, 66, 67, and 69 of the Legislative Code as recommended in the Traditional Neighborhood (T) District Zoning Study.

Spencer Miller-Johnson, City Planner, gave a staff report.

Councilmember Jost moved to lay over for three weeks.

Laid over to November 5, 2025 for Second Reading

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

27 [Ord 25-61](#)

Amending Chapter 74 of the Legislative Code by enacting a new section designating the Theodore Hamm Brewing Company Heritage Preservation District as a Heritage Preservation Site.

Marie Franchett from the Department of Planning and Economic Development gave a staff report.

Christine Boulware from the Department of Planning and Economic Development continued the staff report.

Councilmember Johnson moved approval of Version 2.

Amended and laid over to October 22, 2025 for Second Reading

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

- 28** [Ord 25-58](#) Considering the application of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to rezone property at 1059 Maryland Avenue (NW Corner of Earl Street) from B2 Community Business to T2 Traditional Neighborhood and amending Chapter 60 of the Legislative Code pertaining to the Zoning Map.

Councilmember Bowie moved to close the public hearing.

Laid over to October 22, 2025 for Final Adoption

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

- 29** [RES PH 25-227](#) Approving the application of Saint Paul Public Schools for a conditional use permit for an outdoor trade school in an I2 zoning district at 0 Empire Drive. (To be withdrawn)

Withdrawn

LEGISLATIVE HEARING DISCUSSION ITEM

- 33** [RLH SAO 25-55](#) Appeal of Mark Puchala II to a Summary Abatement Order and Vehicle Abatement Order at 2016 FREMONT AVENUE. (Public hearing closed and laid over from October 15, 2025)

Laid over for 3 weeks.

Mark Puchala, appellant, appeared in person

Marcia Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer: This is about a summary abatement order, but there is also a related vehicle abatement order so I will cover that quickly. The vehicle order involved a trailer parked on an unapproved surface. To keep it there, there would need to be an approved site plan and appropriate surfacing. The owner was referred to the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI) to pursue that if they wish. This summary abatement order is about tall grass and weeds. City code says turf lawns can't be more than 8 inches tall. State law has exceptions for managed natural plantings, which are distinct from turf lawns. If it doesn't meet that definition, which I don't believe this case does, the height cannot exceed 8 inches. Photos on the screen

show you the situation at the time of the legislative hearing as well as when we dealt with a similar issue last year. I am recommending, as I did last year, that the appeal be denied and that the owner be granted to October 20 to come into compliance.

Mark Puchala: I'm looking for help to find out how I can get whatever landscaping is necessary to qualify as maintained. The photos from the hearing also don't reflect what it looks like today. I've chopped most of the plants since then. It is a point of grief for me because a lot of plants that I care for, that I was planning to have for wintering for habitats for pollinators and insects and birds, they're all gone now. I worry I'm still going to be found as not having a maintained yard. All I really get is an occasional phone hearing that I pay \$20 for to be told the yard still doesn't work. I'm looking for concise parameters. This has become a large financial burden. I am late with my mortgage and still figuring out how to pay because of these abatement orders. I can't pay them and so they get rolled into my mortgage, which is now \$200 more per month because I can't establish enough communication to figure out what I need to do. I inherited this from my mom when she died in 2020 and have been struggling with home ownership ever since.

Councilmember Johnson: Is having until October 20 enough time? What is your ask of the Council?

Puchala: Can you point me towards departments I can go to? I think I was recommended to talk to DSI at the last hearing. I was able to go to them. They guided me through how I could set up proper paving stones and explained why the previous paving stones didn't qualify. I'm currently trying to figure out how I can find paving stones for free. I told DSI that when I find them I'll be digging them into the ground and taking photos to ask if it passes. For the tall grass, I've been working with Inspector Anthony Munos. He admitted me that his boss sees my house as sort of a target zone because it's always easy to call it unmaintained, so he just makes the rounds. I'm told I'm one of 3 houses. I got some information in the Legislative Hearings, but then still got found as unmaintained. I want to know which department I can go to where I can sit down with someone and make a plan.

Johnson moved to close the public hearing. Approved 5-0.

Johnson: Moermond, could you elaborate on the recommended October 20 deadline?

Moermond: The original orders were issued on September 11, 2025. I conducted a hearing on September 30. October 20 makes it about a 6-week period since the orders were issued.

Johnson: Where were the pictures you showed today taken?

Moermond: They were taken for the hearing on September 30. If the property is in compliance now. There is no issue. I don't go through and identify plants. I'm not an expert there. I don't think Council should do that either. This is a conversation with the inspector. Specific advice on native landscaping should come from someone like a master gardener. As assessment that Puchala referred to, which he mentioned got added to his property taxes, was from an abatement that occurred in June 2024 when the City had mowed the grass. That abatement order wasn't appealed. The one from last fall was appealed, as was the one from this fall that's before you today.

Johnson: How could the owner determine if his yard is still not in compliance?

Moermond: They would contact Inspector Munoz or his supervisor, Lisa Martin. They could tell the owner whether they would issue a work order for the current conditions. Today is about a deadline. DSI enforces the deadline you establish.

Johnson: I move Moermond's recommendation.

Councilmember Yang: What does the homeowner need to do to come into compliance? I've heard clearly that they want to have a pollinator plants in their yard and they're looking for guidance.

Moermond: They would have to go from having the turf lawn they have now to having a native planting according to what's listed in state statute. This usually involves plowing up an entire yard and planting according to what statute says. The owner here said that was too expensive and wanted to do it piecemeal. I do not have the expertise to give that advice.

Yang: I don't know if October 20 gives enough time to find the advice they need. I'm sure many nonprofits would be able to give that advice.

Johnson: Is there a time limit on this? Could we lay this over to November 5?

Moermond: You could.

Councilmember Bowie: I agree with Yang. This seems to come up a lot and it would be nice if DSI could offer assistance or have references linked in their orders.

Moermond: If Council is laying this over that, will give time for some language to be drafted. Typically, Council does not issue orders for how DSI will execute these responsibilities. It's usually more of a conversation. Council could specify its wishes to have these things clarified for a property owner.

Johnson: I withdraw my motion and move a layover to November 5.

Public hearing closed and laid over to November 5, 2025

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and 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: 5 - Councilmember Yang, Councilmember Bowie, Councilmember Jost, Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Coleman

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Councilmember Noecker and Councilmember Kim

- 30** [RLH SAO 25-57](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 42 BAKER STREET WEST in Council File RLH SAO 25-53.

Adopted

- 31** [RLH VO 25-19](#) Appeal of Isaac Garland and Franchesca Vann-Wickstrom to a Notice of Condemnation as Unfit for Human Habitation and Order to Vacate at 705 DAYTON AVENUE. (Public hearing continued to October 15, 2025)

Adopted as amended

- 32** [RLH TA 25-275](#) Ratifying the Appealed Special Tax Assessment for property at 1762 ENGLEWOOD AVENUE. (File No. VB2510A, Assessment No. 258833)

Public hearing continued to January 7, 2025

- 34** [RLH SAO 25-54](#) Making finding on the appealed nuisance abatement ordered for 1593 MARGARET STREET in Council File RLH SAO 25-50.

Adopted as amended

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 4:25 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>.

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