I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Scott Thorsen
         Council Member Candy Petersen
         Council Member Tom Sonnek
         Council Member Jan Walczak
         Mayor Terry Furlong

Staff: City Manager Scott Duddeck, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, City Attorney Soren Mattick, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman.

III. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as presented.

IV. TOPIC(S)

A. Continued discussion related to the Assessment Policy

The current Assessment Policy was reviewed by the City Council at the November 26, 2019 Council Workshop meeting. During that review several options were discussed pertaining to maintaining, amending or eliminating the policy.

The Council originally adopted the policy with the understanding that these assessments assign a portion of the cost of the improvement to those receiving a direct benefit from the public improvement, thereby reducing the reliance on the general tax levy.

However, the City Council has found that the special assessment policy has created debate about whether it is fair for a particular neighborhood to shoulder more of the burden for public improvements than the rest of the City tax payers. In addition, the process of preparing for a special assessment has added cost to the projects. Further, in particular situations the policy has created relatively sudden large financial burdens on particular residents, sometimes thousands of dollars, when a project is scheduled for their street or neighborhood. This created the need to adopt a resolution which limited special assessments on single family homes to a maximum of $8,000. Despite this 2018 resolution, the City Council has determined that repealing the City’s special street assessment policy is in the best interest of North St. Paul residents.

The City Council wishes to repeal the special assessment policy as it pertains to the Capital Improvement Plan for street reconstruction projects. Effective with the 2020 Street and Utilities Improvement project there will no longer be special assessments imposed to property owners.
This action item will be brought forth to the January 21, 2020 City Council meeting for formal approval.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the workshop meeting at 6:04 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

Attest:

/s/ Scott A. Duddeck, City Manager/Clerk