I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

II. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Thorsen
          Council Member Petersen (Arrived at 6:44 p.m.)
          Council Member Walczak
          Council Member Sonnek
          Mayor Furlong

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

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye, Council Member Petersen absent (4-0), motion carried to approve the agenda as submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Walczak requested to remove item D (HRA Accounts Payable) from the Consent Agenda and place it under City Business.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the amended consent agenda, Resolution No. 2020-056 consisting of:

A. April 21, 2020 workshop meeting minutes.
B. April 21, 2020 workshop meeting minutes.
C. General accounts payable: $380,874.68.
D. HRA accounts payable: $2,190.59 Moved to City Business
VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

John Schmahl requested an update on the City’s utility billing, specifically inclusion of itemized water charges, which will be included in the new Incode 153.0 that will be coming online as an amendment to the current billing practice. He added the purpose is to increase awareness of water usage, so users can track the amount of water they are using, and what they are paying.

Mr. Schmahl stated the City water bill he receives does not have a unit cost or fee schedule included. He asked whether that can be included, with Incode 153.0 coming soon, so water usage and charges can be communicated to customers.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City’s current water bill does include a fee schedule. He added City Staff have made recent updates to the water bill and is now in compliance.

Finance Director Jason Zimmerman confirmed that solid waste management tax is broken out and itemized on the City’s water bills that were sent last week.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Incode update will include an app that can be used by water customers to track metering for water or electric, showing alerts and notifications, and setting parameters for usage. He added the City’s current bill includes an update for solid waste.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Wellhead Protection Plan – Part 2, Accepting and Authorizing Submission of the Plan to the Minnesota Department of Health

City Engineer Morgan Dawley reviewed Minnesota State Department of Health’s groundwater protection plan, which is on a 10-year cycle and set to expire shortly. He added every County that uses groundwater wells for drinking water must complete a wellhead protection plan. He noted the City is required by the State to provide information on the plan and hold a public hearing and authorize submittal of the plan to the Department of Health for formal review and approval, for the protection of the City’s drinking water source.

Ray Theiler, Engineer with WSB, gave a presentation on the wellhead protection plan, which is developed to protect groundwater aquifers and identify and manage potential sources of contamination. He stated the goal is to ensure that North St. Paul continues to provide residents with a safe and abundant supply of clean drinking water for generations to come.

Mr. Theiler stated Part 1 of the wellhead plan, approved by Department of Health in 2018, delineated the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA), and determined there were no significant changes in physical environment or use. He added Part 2 of the plan was completed on January 10, 2020, and submitted to all local governments, with a mandatory 60-day review period ending soon. He noted components of Part 2 include evaluation of geological data, soil conditions, water resources, land use, and public utility services.

Mr. Theiler stated one comment was received from the Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation District, which has been addressed.

Mayor Furlong opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m.
No members of the public addressed the Council.

Mayor Furlong closed public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Council Member Walczak requested clarification regarding Figure 11 on page 85 of the Plan, related to the number of wells. She added the chart shows 21 wells in North St. Paul which was surprising as she thought there were only 1 or 2 wells that are not sealed. She noted she thought that there were efforts made to close all the wells.

Mr. Theiler stated WSB and the City have been reaching out to homeowners with existing wells, using Department of Health records. He added the ultimate goal is to seal all the wells. He noted some wells on record may have already been sealed.

Mr. Dawley stated it is not uncommon for well records to be out of date or incomplete, and there may be anecdotal situations that may or may not be accurate. He added the City can use this data to make contact, update records and correct these situations. He noted it is in the best interest of all the cities involved to update records, seal wells and implement the plan over the next 10 years, to reduce the risk of contamination of drinking water.

Mr. Dawley stated some private wells may be approved and can stay operational, and some homeowners may not even know they have a well on their property. He added the City can provide resources through the well sealing program, and there is funding at the County level as well.

Mr. Duddeck stated there is at least one property that he knows of in the community that has a well and is not on City water.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-057 accepting Part 2 of City of North St. Paul Wellhead Protection Plan, for submission to the Minnesota Department of Health.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Approval for Demolition of 2377 Margaret Street (TIF 4-9)

Mr. Duddeck stated City Council approval is requested for demolition of a building at 2377 Margaret Street, which is the former Nelson dental office, across from the old City Hall site. He added this proposed demolition can potentially tie into reconstruction and street work in the downtown area. He noted the property would be used to locate a portable recycler to crush concrete and asphalt on the streets to be recycled and reused for roadwork in this area.

Mr. Duddeck stated the contractor would do the demolition of the office building in exchange for use of the site to locate the recycler. The site would be graded and prepared for potential development. He added the recycler would be in use for a few weeks. He noted City Council approval is required for this project as the building is substandard and the site is set up as a TIF district.
Council Member Walczak asked whether it is necessary for all the trees on the site to be removed. Mr. Duddeck stated most of the trees on the site are low brush trees with the exception of one large maple tree that is in rough shape.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether there will be impact on the downtown area in terms of dust and noise. Mr. Duddeck confirmed this, although dust control measures will be put into place.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2020-058 approving demolition of a building at 2377 Margaret Street.

B. Ordinances Amending City Code 117.60, Sunday Sales License; reduce the cost of an On-Sale Wine License; and authorize an existing License to sell intoxicating Malt Liquor

City Attorney Soren Mattick reviewed an amendment to the City Ordinance related to liquor licenses which would allow establishments to sell 3/2 beer and wine without a full liquor license. He added this is allowed in State Statute but must be added to City Code. He noted the cost of the license is substantially reduced.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Ordinance No. 789 authorizing an existing license to sell intoxicating malt liquor.

On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Ordinance No. 790 reducing the cost of on-sale wine license.

Mayor Furlong asked whether the amendment would be effective immediately. Mr. Duddeck stated the Resolution is not related to a specific license, and the change would go into effect on July 1, 2020 when liquor licenses are renewed.

C. Approval of HRA Claims from Consent Agenda

Council Member Walczak asked whether the local part-time employee working on the high school house project is being paid by the City. Mr. Duddeck confirmed that the part-time employee’s pay will be charged to the HRA and recouped in the sale of the property.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve HRA Accounts Payable of $2,190.59.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated the City Council had discussed holding a special meeting next week. He added the meeting could be held during the day on Tuesday, or in the evening to coincide with the City Council’s workshop.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Silver Lake project will soon resume, with completion anticipated in mid-June. He added the McKnight Road and Anchor Drive projects are progressing with crews
working nights. He noted sewer and water work has started on the 7th Avenue project, and a high school intern has been working in the field on this project, posting her photos and project updates on the City’s social media sites.

Mr. Duddeck stated an agreement has been reached and is expected to be signed tomorrow for commencement of construction on the home for veterans across from Veteran’s Park. He added a traffic control lane shift is planned eastbound Margaret Street to allow for a construction zone on the west side. He noted traffic will continue in this shift pattern until the work is completed.

Mayor Furlong requested an update on the renovation of the Silver Lake tennis courts. Mr. Duddeck stated final color coat and striping will be happening soon. He agreed to follow up on the timeline. He added the trail will be paved next week, weather permitting.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission will meet via Zoom meeting on Thursday May 7, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. He added there will be a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit for Caring for Cats, a cat rescue organization. He noted a lot width size discussion is planned as well as a discussion regarding a proposed Ordinance amendment to allow keeping of chickens and bees.

Council Member Petersen stated she attended the Metropolitan Cities’ annual election via Zoom meeting. She added Mayor Mark Steffenson of Maple Grove was elected President, and Council Member Lisa Laliberte of Roseville was elected Vice President.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City Council had discussed the possibility of a City-wide Clean-up Day on May 16, 2020. He added City Staff have not moved forward with plans for a clean-up day due to the current Statewide stay-at-home order. He noted it is hoped that City Staff can plan some form of curbside collection throughout the City on a date to be determined.

Mayor Furlong stated that would be a good topic for next week’s work session. Mr. Duddeck agreed.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen wished everyone a Happy Mother’s Day.

Council Member Thorsen stated for the record that he does not believe it is necessary for the City to comply with the State’s “emergency declaration” and stay-at-home order. He added things have progressed and changed. He noted there is no logical explanation for the decisions coming from the State, and certain businesses should be allowed to be open.

Mayor Furlong thanked the Police and Fire Departments for the birthday visits to residents. He added not only children, but also older adults have been excited to see the parades. He noted residents of Polar Ridge Senior Care Center have been quarantined for over a month, and it has been a difficult and challenging time for the City’s senior citizens.

Mayor Furlong stated he appreciates everyone’s patience as the City Council adjusts to the Zoom meeting format. He thanked City Planner Erin Perdu for being the moderator of the meetings.
Mayor Furlong wished everyone a happy Cinco de Mayo, and a happy Mother’s Day.

Mr. Duddeck stated a new local business, Suite Living Senior Care, officially opened on May 4, 2020. He added the City of North St. Paul welcomes and supports Suite Living in the community. He noted the Fire Department has recently donated face masks to the new residents.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Sonnek, Seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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