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
         Council Member Walczak
         Council Member Sonnek
         Mayor Furlong

Staff: Interim City Manager Scott Duddeck, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills, Police Chief Tom Lauth, Finance Director Jason Zimmerman.

IV. ADOPT AGENDA

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

V. PRESENTATIONS


Mayor Furlong welcomed Aaron Nielsen of MMKR and invited him to address the City Council. Each year at the conclusion of their audit, the city’s auditors review the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) with the city council. Mr. Nielsen reviewed the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and financial statements ending December 31, 2018, as well as Special Purpose Report and Management Report.

Aaron Nielsen, and Jackie Huegel, partners with MMKR, attended the city council workshop to discuss the results of the 2018 CAFR, special purpose report, and management comments related to their audit. They responded to any questions of the council and they also provided a brief overview as a presentation at the regular council meeting.

MMKR issued an unmodified opinion on the City’s basic financial statements. They reported no deficiencies in the City’s internal control over financial reporting. There were no instances of noncompliance. There were two findings regarding Fire Relief Payment and the Solid Waste Management Billing.
There was no action required of the city council as the auditor’s report is informational only. Mayor Furlong thanked Mr. Nielsen for his report.

B. MNSPECT Update by Scott Qualle, President

Interim City Manager Scott Duddeck introduced Scott Qualle, from MNSPECT, and invited him to address the City Council.

Mr. Qualle reviewed the history, technology and staffing of MNSPECT, providing building inspection contract services to the City of North St. Paul. He stated MNSPECT currently has 6 former building officials on staff, who are experienced and have worked in the industry for over 30 years. He added electronic plan review and transmission through the use of City Force software has expedited the process and provided significant benefits. He stressed the importance of sharing information to ensure Code compliance.

Council Member Sonnek requested clarification regarding reporting capability of the software that is being used. Mr. Qualle stated City Force software will designed to produce a variety of reports, and will be fully implemented within the next 60 days.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether contractors and residents can pay for permits online. Mr. Qualle stated that capability will be available by October 2019.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether plan requirements will be available electronically for different projects. Mr. Qualle confirmed this, adding documents can be obtained electronically via email or from the City website, and they are also available in hard copy at City Hall. He added there is one customer service phone number with two options that gives residents the option of selecting a MNSPECT inspector or City Staff.

Council Member Sonnek stated it would be helpful to have a library of planning and building documents at City Hall. Mr. Duddeck agreed. Mr. Qualle stated legislative standards are expected to change and documents will be amended accordingly. He added changes will be made to online documents and uploaded with links on the City website.

Mayor Furlong thanked Mr. Qualle for his presentation.

C. ISD 622 2019 Bond Referendum, Superintendent Christine Osorio

Mr. Duddeck introduced Christine Osorio, Superintendent of School District #622, and invited her to address the City Council.

Ms. Osorio reviewed the District bond referendum, a vote for which will take place on May 14, 2019. She added the District hopes to address issues related to building use, traffic flow, security and safety. She noted all the District buildings are over 50 years old, and there is a need for additional space for necessary services.
Ms. Osorio gave a slide presentation featuring photos she has taken in school facilities around the District, showing spaces that are being repurposed to accommodate necessary services. She stated many buildings are not ADA-compliant, and have not been renovated to provide accommodations for accessibility. She added school safety is a major component of the proposal, as school entrances need to be renovated and traffic zones enhanced to increase safety. She added North High School’s campus is overcrowded and all students are not in one place, which is a security issue. She noted new technology will be required to increase security and provide additional options for visitor screening at building entrances.

Ms. Osorio stated the total project cost of $275 million would mean that homeowners would see approximately $5 per month property tax increase. She added a tax calculator is available on the District so residents can calculate their increase amount.

Ms. Osorio stated a community input process has been ongoing throughout the 2018-2019 school year, including a series of surveys administered by Springsted Consultants to gauge opinions of families and students. She added the proposal includes a reduction from 14 schools to 11 schools, to create flexibility for future economic changes and operating efficiency. She noted attendance boundaries would be reviewed and amended later in the process, and if the levy goes through, no changes would be initiated until the 2022-23 school year.

Ms. Osorio stated additional information related to the referendum, as well as her presentation, are available on the District website.

Council Member Walczak requested clarification regarding funding for renovations to Richardson Elementary School. Ms. Osorio stated renovations at Richardson and Castle Elementary Schools have already been completed and are not part of this referendum. She added those renovations were completed with funding from the sale of Valley Crossing Elementary School after the expiration of a 10-year agreement with two other School Districts.

Council Member Walczak asked whether Webster Elementary School will be closed. Ms. Osorio stated the referendum proposal includes closure of Webster and repurposing of the building to house District programs. She added a newly renovated entrance is proposed for Cowern Elementary School, including improved security and safety features.

Council Member Walczak asked whether parking at Cowern Elementary School will be added on site, to reduce congestion on Margaret Street N. Ms. Osorio stated potential solutions are still being considered. She added the School District is aware of that issue.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether the Cowern Elementary School student population would be re-balanced. Ms. Osorio confirmed this, adding attendance boundaries are proposed to be re-drawn, as that has not happened in a long time and most Districts do it periodically. She added no proposed plans for development have been finalized, and changes would not occur for another 3 years. She noted expansions proposed for Richardson and Castle Elementary Schools to accommodate greater student capacity.
Council Member Sonnek asked whether there are projected cost savings estimates due to school closures that are available to the public. Ms. Osorio stated estimates have not been published as they are not finalized. She added a reduction in the number of buildings will result in significant energy savings and more efficient bus routes.

Council Member Sonnek asked when the high school would be renovated if the referendum passes. Ms. Osorio stated the elementary and middle schools would be completed by Fall of 2022, and the high school would be renovated last to ensure accurate boundary changes. She added a fairly cautious timeline would put completed high school renovation in Spring of 2024.

Mr. Duddeck how the proposed referendum will affect deferred maintenance. Ms. Osorio stated the deferred maintenance budget has been maintained in this proposal as the newly renovated buildings will still require maintenance.

There was a question from the audience regarding polling places for voting on May 14, 2019. Ms. Osorio stated Ramsey County residents can vote early at Maplewood Library or at the Plato Building in St. Paul. She added North St. Paul residents can vote at Cowern Elementary School on May 14, 2019 rather than Richardson Elementary school due to road construction issues. She noted any questions can be directed to the District Offices.

Mayor Furlong thanked Ms. Osorio for her presentation.

D. Proclamation to Recognize National Police Week 2019 and to Honor the Service and Sacrifice of Those Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty While Protecting Our Communities and Safeguarding Our Democracy

Mayor Furlong read a Proclamation in full recognizing 2019 National Police Week. He requested a moment of silence in honor of those who have fallen and sacrificed their lives in service to our nation.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Thorsen requested that Consent Agenda Item I be removed and added to the Regular Agenda.

On motion by Council Member Walczak, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt the consent agenda, Resolution No. 2019-043 consisting of:

A. April 16, 2019 workshop meeting minutes
B. April 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes
C. April 16, 2019 HRA meeting minutes
D. General accounts payable: $602,684.97
E. HRA accounts payable: $2,805.21
F. Adoption of Ramsey County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Resolution No. 2019-044.
G. Continuation of funding for services provided by Youth Service Bureau (YSB). Resolution No. 2019-045.
H. Request by the American Legion for a temporary extension of their on-sale liquor license to be used with their Special Event Permit for a “Car Show” on May 19, 2019. Resolution No. 2019-046.

I. Separation agreement with Jeanne Day Moved to City Business


VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Don Bieniek stated the Letter Carriers Food Drive will be held May 11, 2019. He added this is the 27th year of the Food Drive, which helps stock local food shelves for the summer. He added 1.6 billion pounds of food were donated during last year’s event. He noted postcards were delivered by U.S. Mail to residents.

Sue Springborn, 2573 13th Avenue, expressed her support of the School District 622 bond referendum. She added she has been a resident of North St. Paul for 74 years, graduating from North High School in 1963. She added she loves this City, and she has been appalled and ashamed at the conditions at the schools. She noted good schools are important to property values and great communities.

Ms. Springborn urged residents to support the referendum. She thanked the City Council for their hard work and efforts.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SAD 18-01, 2018 S&U Improvement Project, Bid Award Package 2

City Planner Morgan Dawley requested City Council consideration of approval for Project SAD 18-01, 2018 Street and Utility Improvement Project. He added this component of the project will address streets completion and stormwater utilities. He noted the low bidder was OMG Midwest dba Minnesota Paving and Materials, Rogers, Minnesota.

Mayor Furlong asked when the project will end. Mr. Dawley stated completion is anticipated in early Fall 2019. He added City Staff are sympathetic to residents who have been living with construction for two years. He noted a schedule will be obtained from the contractor that will be communicated to City Staff and residents.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether bids were consistent with City Staff’s expectations. Mr. Dawley confirmed this, adding the project is on track with what has been anticipated.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Waleczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-048 approving the
acceptance of bids and awarding construction contract for 2018 Street and Utility Project SAD 18-01 to OMG Midwest dba Minnesota Paving and Materials.

B. Supervisory Unit, IBEW Local #160, Approval of Labor Contract

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff is requesting the City Council’s approval of a labor contract for Supervisory Unit with IBE-W Local #160.

Mr. Mattick stated a total of six bargaining unit contracts will be reviewed. He added, after meeting in labor negotiations, the contract for which approval is being requested meets the expectations laid out by the City Council. He noted good progress is being made.

Mr. Duddeck noted the following correction in the Staff memo: under Vacation Accrual and Carryover, replace “200 hours to 140 hours” with “160 hours to 200 hours”.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-049 approving the 2019-2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of North St. Paul and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local #160 representing North St. Paul Supervisors.

C. Separation Agreement with Jeanne Day, former Finance Director

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated the City Council reviewed this Consent Agenda item at tonight’s Workshop Meeting, and agreed to remove the item from the Consent Agenda and address it on the Regular Agenda.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with Council Members Petersen, Sonnek, Walczak and Mayor Furlong voting aye, Council Member Thorsen voting nay (4-1), motion carried to approve Separation Agreement with Jeanne Day, former Finance Director.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

A. City Manager Report

Mr. Duddeck stated Statewide seasonal road restrictions were lifted on May 7, 2019.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Fire Department conducted a controlled burn at Southwood Nature Park that day. He added there have been no reports of smoke.

Mr. Duddeck stated City Staff are reviewing options for trash and recycling containers for the downtown area. He added the City Council’s next regular meeting will include approval for funding through a Ramsey County grant program to purchase containers.
Mr. Duddeck stated the Police Department is in the process of recruiting and training new police officers.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Design and Historical Review Commission will be engaged to help with planning for downtown projects. Mayor Furlong stated the Commissioners have expressed a desire to get involved and collaborate with the Planning Commission.

Mr. Duddeck stated construction has begun on four M&I Homes at the Anchor Block South site. He added the contractor is in the process of completing soil correction. He noted a grand opening/ribbon cutting is planned in August 2019 in preparation for the Parade of Homes.

Mr. Duddeck stated the City Council discussed the 2020 budget process tonight at its Workshop meeting. He added the first budget meeting with City Staff will be held Thursday May 9, 2019.

**XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission will hold their second monthly meeting on May 16, 2019. He added the variance request that was to be considered at tonight’s meeting was tabled due to insufficient details and discrepancies on the proposed home site plan.

Mr. Duddeck stated the BATC Foundation is very committed to the project and will be amending their submission.

Council Member Walczak stated the Environmental Advisory Commission’s tree adoption event on Saturday May 4, 2019 was a big success, and almost all 50 trees were adopted. She added the event was held in the Public Works facility this year, which was a big improvement over holding it in the parking lot.

Council Member Petersen stated the Ramsey County League of Local Government will be hosting an event on May 30, 2019 at the John Rose Oval in Roseville from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Food will be served, and everyone is welcome.

Council Member Petersen stated the Egg Hunt sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department was very successful, and many residents attended.

Council Member Petersen stated a recent Parks and Recreation Commission meeting included a discussion about costs related to ADA compliance. She added this might be a good issue for a City Council Workshop.

Council Member Thorsen stated the Ramsey Washington Suburban Cable Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 9, 2019.
XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Petersen stated the City-wide garage sale is scheduled for May 18, 2019 weekend. She added 40 garage sales have been registered so far. She noted information is still available on the City website and at City Hall.

Council Member Petersen stated the Pub Crawl raised over $10,000. She thanked all the participants.

Council Member Peterson wished everybody a Happy Mother’s Day.

Council Member Thorsen stated the tennis courts at Silver Lake Park are scheduled to be renovated. He asked whether the possibility of replacing them with a park shelter and restrooms has been considered. He asked whether this issue could be discussed at an upcoming Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He added a resident survey might be helpful.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the McKnight complex tennis courts will be renovated or repurposed. Mayor Furlong stated the McKnight complex is used by North High School. He added issue would need to be reviewed with the School District.

Council Member Thorsen asked whether the tennis court renovation could be discussed at an upcoming Parks Commission meeting. Mr. Duddeck agreed.

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Furlong announced that the meeting would be closed as permitted by attorney-client privilege, pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b), to consider Opioid Litigation Support.

Mayor Furlong recessed the regular meeting at 8:31 p.m. to conduct the closed session.

Motion by Council Member Walczak  
Second by Council Member Sonnek  
All votes aye (5-0)

Mayor Furlong called the closed session to order at 8:36 p.m.

Mayor Furlong adjourned the closed session at 9:01 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Sonnek  
Second by Council Member Thorsen  
All votes aye (5-0)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Council Member Sonnek, Seconded by Council Member Thorsen, with all present voting aye (5-0), Mayor Furlong reconvened and adjourned the regular meeting at 9:01 p.m.
The next City Council Regular Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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