I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Furlong called the meeting to order at 6:32 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: City Manager Scott Duddeck, City Engineer Morgan Dawley, Parks & Recreation Coordinator Keith Stachowski, Deputy Clerk Mary Mills.

IV. 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 submitted.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. BizRecycling

City Manager Scott Duddeck stated Keith Stachowski, Community Services, would present this agenda item. Mr. Stachowski welcomed Jessica Paquin, BizRecycling Program Coordinator for Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy. He invited her to address the City Council regarding the City’s involvement in the BizRecycling program.

Ms. Paquin stated the BizRecycling Program is administered by Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy, a Joint Powers Board that coordinates waste management for both counties. She added BizRecycling provides funding for businesses, institutions and schools to increase commercial recycling rates. She noted the State of Minnesota has a stated goal of 75% recycling by 2030, and counties are responsible for achieving that goal.

Ms. Paquin stated BizRecycling was established in 2013 to provide technical assistance, grants and information to help businesses implement recycling programs. She added BizRecycling has provided support in the form of site assessments to 1,200 businesses in Ramsey and Washington Counties. She noted BizRecycling gives businesses the opportunity to save money by diverting their waste stream into recycling and organics, which are not taxed.
Ms. Paquin stated a 2016 commercial recycling law was enacted in the State of Minnesota requiring local businesses to divert at least 3 materials into recycling. She added most businesses recycle paper, plastic and aluminum, which can be deposited into a single sort bin.

Ms. Paquin stated BizRecycling’s experts provide site assessments for businesses and written recommendations for recycling programs. She added BizRecycling’s grant program awards up to $10,000 to businesses for purchase what they need to set up their recycling process. She noted assessments and support were provided to 9 businesses in North St. Paul, including the local VFW, who used their BizRecycling grant to purchase recycling bins and renovate their waste enclosure. She noted the North St. Paul VFW has been able to divert 43,000 pounds of waste into recycling, at a monthly savings of $321 on their hauler bill.

Ms. Paquin stated BizRecycling is launching a pilot project that awards grants to multi-unit apartment complexes that have over 4 units to purchase recycling bins and build enclosures for common spaces. She added BizRecycling has a strong outreach program and partners with cities and Chamber of Commerce organizations to get the word out about their programs.

Mr. Stachowski stated City Staff plans a City-wide outreach program to provide information and support related to BizRecycling to the City’s new development projects. He added information will be available on the City’s website as well as the BizRecycling website.

Council Member Sonnek requested clarification regarding the amount of solid waste that is recycled. Ms. Paquin stated the current diversion rate from waste to organic and recycling streams in both Ramsey and Washington Counties is approximately 50%. She added all waste goes to the Newport Recycling & Energy Center, but recycling goes to various privately-owned facilities.

Council Member Sonnek asked how recyclables are being used. Ms. Paquin stated organics and recyclables are sent to end markets in the Midwest, which is different than coastal areas.

Council Member Walczak left the chambers from 6:39-6:43 p.m.

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Sonnek requested that Item H be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to Agenda Item IXb.

Council Member Thorsen requested that Item J be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to Agenda Item IXc.

On motion by Council Member Sonnek, seconded by Council Member Walczak, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve the amended consent agenda, Resolution No. 2019-061 consisting of:

A. May 21, 2019 workshop meeting minutes
B. May 21, 2019 regular meeting minutes
C. General accounts payable: $536,176.66
D. HRA accounts payable: $5,925.63
E. Patrol Officers, LELS Local 211, approval of labor contract. Resolution No. 2019-062.
H. Colby Hills ADA Park Improvements - Moved to City Business
I. Silver Lake Water Treatment
M. Renewal of City On-sale Intoxicating Liquor Licenses with patio or outdoor serving areas. Resolution No. 2019-068.
N. Renewal of City On-sale Intoxicating Liquor Licenses w/o patio or outdoor serving areas. Resolution No. 2019-069.

VII. MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Shawn Rivet, 2483 2nd Avenue E, presented photographs of the flooded property adjacent to his property. He added the property’s owner plans to build a home with a basement. He added the continued flooding of this property has caused problems in his own home and stress for his family.

Mr. Duddeck stated he would be in touch with Mr. Rivet. Mayor Furlong thanked Mr. Rivet for providing the photos, which were helpful.

Council Member Thorsen stated there is clearly a drainage problem at this location. He asked whether a drainage study was completed by WSB.

City Engineer Morgan Dawley stated a flood study was completed as part of the Capital Improvement Plan, and the area in question was identified as a surge basin to provide some relief from the existing trunk sewer system on Helen Street N and 1st Street N that is over capacity. He added there is an opportunity for City improvements to provide temporary relief from storm sewer so they can discharge and drain. He noted it was a proposed concept but not linked to a specific lot or lots, and the City does not own or control the flooded property.

Mr. Dawley stated there could be a limited opportunity to lower roadways to provide some relief from flooding and allow the area to drain into the right of way. He added however, it is a flat area with very little grade, and it would be difficult to create immediate relief. He noted the area was reviewed in the CIP from a flooding standpoint.

Mr. Duddeck stated the property owner who intends to build a home with a basement is well-informed and knows the situation with flooding on his property and is progressing with his plans.
Council Member Thorsen asked whether the City has ever discussed purchasing property to add a stormwater basin. Mr. Duddeck stated that was the original plan four years ago, but nothing materialized and the property owner decided to move ahead with developing it.

Mayor Furlong asked whether the property is a flood plain. Mr. Dawley stated he does not have a detailed survey, but from a regulatory standpoint, he is not aware of any reason that the property owner would not be able to build a structure. He added the property owner would be required to adhere to drainage regulations.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no scheduled hearings.

IX. CITY BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Polar Ridge TIF Refinance

Mr. Duddeck introduced Patrick Brama, Trident Development, and invited him to address the City Council regarding TIF refinancing for Polar Ridge.

Mr. Brama stated Trident Development is requesting TIF refinancing for the Polar Ridge senior living project property. He added Trident has a TIF note that is registered against the property from the City of North St. Paul to the property owner. He added the City Council’s packet includes documents for the City Council’s review, including reassignment of the TIF note and a collateral agreement. He noted Trident Development plans to separate the current owner of the property, Helen Street Housing LLC, into two separate entities – assets and operations.

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated he did not review the agreement, but this type of reassignment is common and does not relieve the developer of their obligations to the City.

On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to adopt Resolution No. 2019-070 approving the assignment and assumption agreement and collateral assignment as presented.

Council Member Walczak left the chambers from 7:03-7:07 p.m.

B. Colby Hills ADA Park Improvements

Mr. Duddeck stated a 2018 project proposal related to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance requires replacement of playground equipment at Colby Hills Park. He added the proposed replacement plan was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and WSB consultants for additional input and recommendations.

Council Member Sonnek asked whether there has been sufficient opportunity for public input regarding the ADA modifications. Mr. Duddeck stated the Parks and Recreation Commission
held a neighborhood meeting on May 23, 2018, to discuss equipment and park improvements, but he was unsure whether public input on ADA compliance was sought.

Council Member Sonnek stated there has been some call from residents for more involvement in the work that is being done throughout North St. Paul related to ADA compliance. Mr. Duddeck stated Mr. Stachowski, the City’s ADA Compliance Officer, is involved in all compliance issues in the City’s parks. He added information could be made available to the community that City Staff is committed to provide equal access to the City’s public spaces for people with disabilities. He stressed the importance of balancing the high costs of making playgrounds ADA accessible, while determining the level of compliance that is desirable.

Council Member Sonnek stressed the importance of providing a voice to residents who want to be involved in consideration of ADA modifications.

Council Member Thorsen stated there will be opportunities to review ADA compliance as part of the Parks Improvement Plan update. He noted the most effective method of communication is the City website as more residents go paperless, although some residents may still want notices to be sent to them.

City Attorney Soren Mattick stated ADA compliance is the minimum standard requirement for parks accessibility, but the City can create additional opportunities. He added it would not be a requirement, but a value statement of North St. Paul.

Mr. Duddeck requested that the City Council consider changing the Colby Hill plans to include a 5-foot wide concrete path from the street to the shelter, rather than an 8-foot wide asphalt trail. He added this would be more appropriate and would blend with the neighborhood. He noted the path should also be adjusted to bring it closer to the drinking fountain.

Mr. Dawley agreed with Mr. Duddeck’s recommendations. He added the cost estimate might be slightly higher but not a significant difference. He noted the contractor could be asked to revise their quote based on Mr. Duddeck’s proposed revisions, and the City Council could allow latitude for City Staff to move forward if the cost is not substantively higher.

**On motion by Council Member Thorsen, seconded by Council Member Petersen, with all present voting aye (5-0), motion carried to approve Colby Hills ADA Park Improvements and authorizing discretion on the part of City Staff to request the following additions to the contractor’s quote: replacement of the 8-foot wide asphalt path from the street to the shelter with a 5-foot wide cement path, bringing the path closer to the drinking fountain.**


Council Member Thorsen stated the City Council had a recent workshop discussion regarding the Design Review Commission (DRC). He added the City Council discussed the fact that the DRC’s role is redundant, as they review the same issues as the Planning Commission. He noted he does not support DRC re-appointments.
On motion by Council Member Petersen, seconded by Council Member Sonnek, with Council Members Petersen, Sonnek and Mayor Furlong voting aye, Council Members Walczak and Thorsen voting nay (3-2), motion carried to approve Resolution No. 2019-065 placing the Design Review Commission on active status and making Commission reappointments for 2019.

X. REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Duddeck stated the Design Review Commission (DRC) is scheduled to meet June 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Duddeck stated street maintenance projects will be commencing in the area of 15th Avenue E, Spirit Drive E, McKnight Road and 17th Avenue E. He noted proposed repairs include replacing damaged curb sections, pothole patching and edge mill along the curb with complete resurfacing of the roadway.

Mr. Duddeck stated street maintenance near Silver Lake will begin on June 17, along with 11th and 12th Avenue E. He added preconstruction meetings are planned. He noted a mill and overlay project will be completed on 12th Avenue E to McKnight Road, which was planned to begin after school was out for the summer.

Mr. Duddeck stated a proposal for a new home on Margaret Street and 12th Avenue to be built for use by veterans and their families will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on June 6, 2019, and by the City Council at its next meeting. He added veterans’ organizations are planning a groundbreaking ceremony on June 20, 2019, to which the City Council may receive notice. He noted this is a timing issue and not meant to disregard the approval process.

Mr. Duddeck stated work is continuing on the M&I Homes project on the Anchor Block south site, and a four-unit building is currently under construction.

Mr. Duddeck stated the Car Show will kick off on Friday, June 7, 2019. He added a Public Safety Open House is planned for that night as well.

Mr. Duddeck stated approval of the City’s labor contracts at tonight’s meeting completes negotiations with six different groups. He thanked the City Council and City Staff for their hard work and diligence in completing this process.

Mr. Duddeck stated redevelopment plans continue for the Anchor Block north site and will be reviewed at the City Council’s next workshop.

Mr. Duddeck stated an update on the Street Improvement Plan process will be reviewed at the next City Council workshop meeting.
Mr. Duddeck stated the City hall parking lot will undergo maintenance beginning June 5 2019 at 7:30 a.m., and will be completed before Friday, June 7 2019.

Mr. Duddeck stated Finance Director Jason Zimmerman is working on a budget process presentation for an upcoming City Council meeting.

Mr. Duddeck stated a new Police Officer will begin training in the field in June 2019. He added another new Police Officer has been given a conditional offer.

Mr. Duddeck stated another water main occurred last week on Reardon Avenue by Silver Lake.

Mayor Furlong stated he received a call from a concerned resident who indicated that the Henry Street construction project will cause a delay in completion of Lake Boulevard. Mr. Dawley stated project completion is scheduled for September 2019, and he is unaware of any issues on Henry Street that would cause a delay. He added the proposed start date is June 17, 2019. He noted any changes or issues will be brought to the City Council for their review.

Mr. Duddeck stated the roads project will start in the Dorothy Park area, so there is no direct conflict with the Silver Lake Splash event. Mr. Dawley confirmed this, adding he has provided additional information to the event planners.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES

Council Member Sonnek stated the Planning Commission will meet Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

XII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Council Member Thorsen reviewed a concern expressed by a resident regarding potholes on Helen Street and 17th Avenue, which is a County road. He asked whether the City could provide the resources to fix simple road problems in a temporary way so the County can address them later. He noted the road is ultimately within North St Paul, and residents reach out for support to the City.

Mr. Duddeck stated the potholes at that location were reported to the County, and who assured City Staff that they will be taken care of this week. He added he contacted the resident with this information.

Council Member Thorsen stated he noted a failure in the silt fence at McKnight near Highway 36 on Memorial Day, with water flowing to the drainage pond that was half clear and half muddy. He added a similar situation is occurring near Richardson School. He asked whether there is a process for monitoring drainage runoff.

Mr. Duddeck stated he referred this issue to M&I Homes on Memorial Day, and they made the necessary corrections immediately. He added they have taken full responsibility for required clean-up. He noted the Watershed District is following up with inspections due to the project.
size, and erosion control and runoff inspections will also be done as part of the building permit process.

Mayor Furlong stated he was detained on June 3, 2019 due to a personal matter and was unable to attend the Mayor Meeting at City Hall. He added he visited the homes of three residents who had come to meet with him. He apologized for the inconvenience.

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 7:46 p.m.*

/s/ Terrence J. Furlong, Mayor

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