

South St. Paul City Council Work Session

Session Notes for January 27, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Francis called the City Council Work Session to order at 7:00 PM on January 27, 2025

No formal Council Action is taken at a work session meeting, this is a summary of discussion that took place.

Present: Jimmy Francis, Todd Podgorski, Lori Hansen, Pam Bakken, Tom Seaberg, Joe Kaliszewski, Matt Thompson

Absent: Ryan Garcia, City Administrator

Staff Present: Deanna Werner, City Clerk

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Civic Clerk Council Refresher

City Council Members were given a brief refresher on the Civic Clerk Agenda Management System being used by city staff and the public to house all City Council and City Commission agendas and minutes.

B. South Triangle TIF/Hardman Triangle Update

The City Council will take action during the February 3rd, 2025, Council Meeting. The proposal exceeds the Tax Increment Funding (TIF) Policy. This is the 1st of 3 potential districts. Page 5 of the report submitted by Ehlers, details the TIF would terminate after 2052 (25-year TIF), or it can be decertified if it is paid off sooner. 2027 would be the earliest the project could be completed. Council discussion centered around the amount of time for the TIF, understanding the location is challenging and without the TIF, development in this area would be unlikely. There was some discussion about if the length of time could be shortened. It was clarified this proposal is not a development agreement; this is to establish a TIF District.

Staff Follow-up:

What would happen if we shortened the length of time from 25 years?

Council Members with additional questions should reach out to Mr. Garcia.

C. 2025 State Bonding Priorities

Items from the list are in our top 3-4?

Woog Arena Roof/HVAC Improvements (2023 Request: \$800,000; CIP Estimate: \$820,000)
Drinking Water Infrastructure Replacement (2023 Request: \$3,000,000; no longer in CIP - 7th Ave. S. project)
Radium Treatment Plant (2023 Request: \$3,000,000; no longer in CIP - funded through PFA Loan)
Swimming Pool Predesign/Design (2024 Request: \$500,000; not in CIP - \$5,500,000 project cost estimate; predesign underway)

No official decision on this is needed, just direction for staff.

Questions on the State Bonding Priorities

What are Rep. Rick Hansen's thoughts on paying for trail access would these projects be eligible for legacy funding. Discussion on public facing projects being a better approach as much of the State's focus is on forward facing projects. Discussion about this not the year to ask for funding for a Public Works Facility. A suggestion was made that it may be informative to the public to produce an informational video to explain the 5-year CIP, and the how and why of what goes into it. Look into the possibility of a feature on Town Square TV.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Council Member Hansen provided the Mayor and other members of the City Council an update on the Level III Offender meeting which occurred prior to the Work Session. It has been 8 years since we have had a Level III Offender in the city. Anyone with questions should contact our Police Department.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council at the regular work session meeting, Mayor Francis declared the meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/: Ryan Garcia
City Administrator