

South St. Paul City Council Work Session

Session Notes for September 8, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Francis called the City Council Work Session to order at 7:00 PM on September 8, 2025

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

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

Staff Present: Ryan Garcia, City Administrator, Clara Hilger, Finance Director, Joe Michael Healy, Planning and Zoning Manager, Deanna Werner, City Clerk.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City Precinct Realignment for 2026 Elections

Ms. Werner summarized proposed adjustments to the City's five voting precincts, which Staff recommends changing well in advance of the 2026 Election season. The proposed changes are intended to more evenly distribute registered voters and polling places throughout the community. Council was generally supportive of the realignment, although it was noted that The Lawshe Memorial Museum had relatively limited parking which might present frustrations for voters on election day. Staff will look into potential staffing and other strategies to help alleviate this concern on election day.

B. Disposition of 2024 General Fund Excess Fund Balance

Council discussed the disposition of the 2024 General Fund Excess Fund Balance of \$156,686, and agreed that these funds should be transferred to the Capital Programs Fund.

C. 2025 Second Quarter Financial Report

Ms. Hilger provided a brief summary of the 2025 Second Quarter Financial Report.

D. 2026 Preliminary Budget, Tax Levy, Fee Schedule, Capital Improvement Plan Discussion

Mr. Garcia presented an overview of the preliminary proposed 2026 Budget, Property Tax Levies and Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Garcia shared that based upon Council feedback at the initial preliminary budget and levy presentation during the August 11 Worksession, Staff made modifications to the budget and reduced the proposed property tax levy for 2026. As proposed, the preliminary Budget for 2026 is \$28,655,049 for all tax levy supported funds, representing a 10.03% increase over the Revised 2025 Budget. The preliminary proposed 2026 Property Tax Levy was presented at \$18,530,136 and would represent an 8.36% increase over the Revised 2025

Property Tax Levy. Council directed Staff to prepare the 2026 Budgets and Levy for consideration and potential certification, as presented, at the regular meeting of the City Council on September 15, 2025.

D. City Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

Council concurred that with the extension of Verderosa Avenue, and the full implementation of the Wakota Crossing Redevelopment south of 494, the City should cease operations of the City Yard Waste Dropoff site following the Fall 2025 Season. Staff was encouraged to undertake a robust communications effort to redirect residents to the alternative options that are available and equally affordable and convenient, such as Gertens in Inver Grove Heights.

F. City Administrator's Update

Mr. Garcia and Mayor Francis discussed the possibility of conducting "Town Hall" style events at periodic intervals over the fall and winter to engage with community members about city issues such as public safety, major capital improvements and projects in the City, and other issues identified through the goal-setting process. Council thought this was a good idea and Staff will work with the Mayor and Council to structure a series of events over the next 6-8 months.

Mr. Garcia confirmed with Council that Monday, September 29 would work for public works facility tours in Oakdale and Minneapolis.

Mr. Garcia provided a brief update on the PFAS study underway, and confirmed that a facility location near existing Well #4 was under consideration for a water treatment facility.

Mr. Garcia shared that the Administration had received a favorable quote from our existing provider for the Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

3. COUNCIL COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

There were none.

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 9:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/: Ryan Garcia
City Administrator