

CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
St. Francis City Hall 3750 Bridge Street NW
March 3, 2025
6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The regular City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Mark Vogel.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mark Vogel, Councilmembers Kevin Robinson, Sarah Udvig, Amy Faanes, and Joe Muehlbauer.

Also present: City Administrator Kate Thunstrom, Deputy Administrator-City Clerk Jenni Wida, Community Development Director Jessica Rieland, Assistant City Attorney Dave Schaps (Barna, Guzy & Steffen), Deputy Administrator-Public Works Director Paul Carpenter, Police Chief Todd Schwieger, Fire Chief Dave Schmidt, Finance Director Darcy Mulvihill, Liquor Store Manager Joe Pfeifer, and City Engineer Craig Jochum (Hakanson Associates, Inc.).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY: UDVIG SECOND: ROBINSON APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. City Council Minutes - February 18, 2025
- B. Code of Conduct
- C. Rental License Approvals
- D. Acknowledgement for Excluded Bingo Permit
- E. Payment of Claims

Muehlbauer shared that he will be abstaining from this vote.

MOTION BY: ROBINSON SECOND: FAANES APPROVING THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA

Ayes: Faanes, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Abstain: Muehlbauer

Motion carries: 4-0-1

5. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Anthony Colby, 4852 239th Avenue NW, came forward and shared that he would like to talk about tourism. He shared that there is a community out west that voted in private gaming versus tribal gaming. He noted that in order to do this in Minnesota, they have to show that it will not be competing with a tribe, and they have to get approval through the Racing Commission. He said that they can vote this in if they choose to. He suggested doing river tours down to Anoka for tourism. He shared that he thinks they need to loosen the grip on zoning restrictions in the City.

6. SPECIAL BUSINESS

A. Fire Service Consolidation Presentation by Triad Paradigm Presentation by Charlie Smith

Charlie Smith from Triad Paradigm reviewed a presentation with the Council on the fire service consolidation between St. Francis and Bethel. He reviewed the scope of the project and its goals as well the major study sections of the consolidation plan.

Robinson shared that he is glad that they were able to get a grant to fund this consolidation review. He said he wants to help out their fellow neighbors.

Muehlbauer asked about the timeline of this. Mr. Smith said he could bring this presentation to a Work Session so they could review it in smaller parts to see how they want to work through this.

Muehlbauer asked Mr. Smith how confident he is that they will be able to find a good solution for all parties involved. Mr. Smith shared that he is very confident based on what he has seen so far. He noted that they have already done the heavy lifting by already working together up to this point.

Mayor Vogel noted that this whole project will be a lot of work and this agreement has to be long-term for it to make sense. He said he is hoping this would be a minimum of a ten-year contract.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Dangerous Dog Ordinance Amendment – First Reading
Ordinance 345 Amending the City Code Chapter 8 Section 3-1 Animals, Dog Licensing and Regulation**

City Clerk Wida reviewed the Staff report in regard to an amendment to the dangerous dog ordinance amendment.

Muehlbauer said he thinks this change is a great idea and is in full support of it.

City Attorney Schaps said this process gives the dog owners their chance to speak with an impartial hearing officer on this matter and thinks it needs to be changed in the code.

Muehlbauer said that he has dealt with one potentially dangerous dog hearing and it was not fun and he is glad to see this process changing.

Faanes shared that she also likes this idea. She asked if there is anything currently in code about dumped dogs who then fit the criteria of a dangerous dog. Police Chief Schwieger said they would begin an investigation to find out whose dogs these are. He noted that if they cannot find the owner then there would be a quarantine period for the dog through Animal Control. He said from this point they would make a determination on a case-by-case basis.

Udvig shared that this will take any potential bias out of the equation and make this process fair for all residents.

Robinson asked where the funding has come from in the past for administrative hearings. Thunstrom shared that this process is in the fee schedule, and they will set up the administrative hearing with the dog owner.

Robinson asked where the dog would be held while they waited for the hearing. Schwieger shared that after the first offense, the dog owner is issued some paperwork and the dog likely would have a quarantine period, which can happen at the owner's home.

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: FAANES TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 345 AMENDING THE CITY CODE CHAPTER 8 SECTION 3-1 ANIMAL, DOG LICENSING, AND REGULATION.

A roll call vote was performed:

Mayor Vogel	aye
Councilmember Muehlbauer	aye
Councilmember Robinson	aye
Councilmember Faanes	aye
Councilmember Udvig	aye

Motion carried: 5-0

10. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Anthony Colby, 4852 239th Avenue NW, came forward and noted that there are kennels at the dog park and the Peace Officer could drop off a dog there in situations when dogs are being dumped. He asked what benefit the City will be getting out of the consolidation of fire services with Bethel. He stated Oak Grove

likely has a better water supply. He said these are just things he would like the Council to think about and would like them to open their minds and think big.

11. REPORTS - NONE

12. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

The Council shared the meetings and events they attended in the past few weeks, as well as highlighting upcoming events.

Robinson shared that he, Thunstrom, and Carpenter will be going to the Capitol to testify at the Capital Investment Hearing for funding of the Highway 47 infrastructure project.

Udvig shared that the Council should have all received an email from Michelle Anderson about participating in a Shark Tank scenario and she encouraged everyone to read this email and reply to Ms. Anderson with their thoughts.

Mayor Vogel shared that the MPCA came and did an inspection of the wastewater treatment plant last week. He stated the two main takeaways from this visit is how outstanding Water and Sewer Supervisor Parish Barten is for the City and that sodium will be the main concern of the wastewater treatment plant that will have to be addressed. He added that he will be meeting with the School District to discuss how things are going and the possibility of pushing Bridge Street through to Highway 47 in the future.

Public Works Director Carpenter shared that they will begin clearing trees across the street this week.

13. UPCOMING EVENTS

March 10 - Charter Commission Meeting - 5:30 pm

March 17 - City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 pm

March 19 - Planning Commission Meeting - CANCELLED

March 24 - City Council Work Session - 5:30 pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: MUEHLBAUER SECOND: FAANES TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

Ayes: Faanes, Muehlbauer, Robinson, Udvig, and Mayor Vogel.

Nays: None

Motion carries: 5-0

There being no further business, Mayor Muehlbauer adjourned the regular City Council at 7:00 p.m.

Jennifer Wida, City Clerk