



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

7:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: 6 - Mayor Dana Graham, Council Member David DeLong, Council Member David Ludescher, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, and Council Member Rhonda Pownell

Absent: 1 - Council Member Erica Zweifel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Graham noted the items in the supplemental memo.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Pownell, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, and C. Pownell

Not Present: 1 - C. Peterson White

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve the July 5, 2016 City Council meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, and C. Pownell

Not Present: 1 - C. Peterson White

1. [16-321](#) July 5, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATIONS

2. [16-322](#) Northfield Historical Society Report

*C. Peterson White arrived at 7:02 pm.
Hayes Scriven, Northfield Historical Society, provided information on activities and events at the Historical Society during the past year and proposed items for the upcoming year. Noted record number of visitors during 2015 and on pace for the same number for 2016. Reviewed new collections in 2015 and 2016. Provided highlights of youth programs, including working on a new field trip experience at the museum. Provided updates on work on the City collection and work with the Heritage Preservation Commission.*

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the items on the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the consent agenda items. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

4. [Res. 2016-071](#) Consider Adopting Assessments for the 2016 Woodley Street Reconstruction Project.

3. [16-323](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,856,271.36

Enactment No: M2016-103

5. [16-324](#) Consider Approval of Updated Personnel Policies for the Employee Handbook

Enactment No: M2016-104

6. [16-325](#) Consider approval of Part-Time/Seasonal Wage Scale effective August 1, 2016

Enactment No: M2016-105

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Niemisto, 608 Zanmiller Dr. & Artistic Director of Vintage Band Festival, thanked City for cooperation on the event. Invited all to attend the events next Thursday, July 28 through Sunday, July 31, 2016 at various locations throughout Northfield.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION

7. [16-326](#) Public Hearing Vacating Utility Easement on 1012 to 1108
Woodley Street East

Mayor Graham opened the public hearing at 7:18 pm.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.

Lauren & Jonathan Davis, 1008 Woodley Str., noted that they are neighbors to the project and that the developers have not addressed the grading, flooding and privacy issue with the current project.

Rick Vanasek, 1017 Fremont Circle, noted that there were many trees removed and would like to see a tree plan and tree replacement. Spoke regarding issues with drainage, sewage, parking, and headlights, that haven't been addressed. Spoke regarding multi family units being marketed to college students in a residential neighborhood.

City Administrator Martig answered questions posed by the Council. Noted concerned residents can leave information with staff and will be notified of upcoming meetings.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to close the public hearing at 7:31 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

8. [Ord. 980](#) Consideration of Ordinance Vacating Utility Easement on 1012 to
1108 Woodley Street East

City Planner Tempel answered questions posed by Council. Noted development agreement deals only with the storm sewer issue. It is a limited document dealing with public infrastructure only. City Administrator Martig addressed questions posed by Council. Councilor DeLong noted that the Planning Commission held an information meeting on the project. Noted the land was zoned properly and there were no actions required of the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 980 - Vacating Utility Easement. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

REGULAR AGENDA

9. [Res. 2016-072](#) Consideration of Resolution Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Northfield on Behalf of Its City Attorney.

Police Chief Nelson introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Rebecca Christianson, Prosecuting Attorney from Eckberg Lammers, provided information regarding the item and answered questions posed by Council.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., asked if information is available to media and public after it is released to the prosecution.

Chief Nelson noted that the charging document is public. Rebecca Christianson noted that Chapter 13 governs how, what and when information becomes public.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-072 - Approving State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City of Northfield on Behalf of its City Attorney. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

No: 1 - C. Ludescher

10. [16-327](#) Discussion of Hospital Bond Refunding

Finance Director Lammers introduced this item. Scott Edin, Northfield Hospital and Clinics Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview and details of the proposal for bond refunding. John Henningsgard, Piper Jaffray, provided information related to the bond refunding and ability to lower the interest rate and costs, and offering less security than currently required. Mr. Henningsgard reviewed the estimated financing economics and noted that they will be coming back with resolution on August 2, 2016 for Council consideration.

11. [16-328](#) Draft of 2016 updated debt study

Finance Director Lammers introduced this item and reviewed items in the draft debt study. Nick Anhut, Ehlers and Associates, reviewed information in the report and answered questions posed by Council. Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett answered questions posed by Council.

12. [Res. 2016-073](#) Consider Resolution to sell 2016 Bonds

Finance Director Lammers introduced this item. Nick Anhut, Ehlers & Associates, reviewed the proposed debt issue, terms and financing targets and answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve Resolution 2016-073 - Providing for the Sale of \$2,720,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016A. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

13. [Ord. 981](#)

Consider Ordinance Regarding Proposed changes to City Code Chapter 50 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions Related to Disorderly Conduct, Loud Parties and Noise.

Police Chief Nelson introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.

Diane Burry, 709 Summit Ave. & shareholder at Contented Cow, noted the Contented Cow will be directly affected by this ordinance. Noted lots of opinions on music and noise downtown. Spoke regarding economic impact of downtown on the City's economy. Thanked staff for timely delivery of information requested. Spoke regarding data on the number of complaints received. Asked Council to allow people to enjoy outdoor music until 10 pm Sunday - Wednesday, 11 pm Thursday and 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Norm Butler, 709 Summit Ave., spoke regarding train noise and a quiet zone. Asked the Council to consider creating a quiet zone. Noted that it will have a positive economic impact on the community. Noted all members of the community will be positively impacted by the silencing of the train whistle.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., spoke in agreement with Ms. Burry's idea of expanded hours. Spoke regarding the train noise issue.

Paul Niemisto, 608 Zanmiller Dr., asked whether zoning could have different kinds of requirements. Commented on train quiet zone issue. Stated Northfield is a music city and we need to find a way to make that work. Noted lot of events have noise connected with them.

Jenaveve Bell Pittman, Tanzenwald Brewing Company, stated concern with noise ordinance. Noted their business plans on closing at 11 pm so the proposed ordinance would not affect them. However, noted they want to send patrons to other establishments. Stated they chose Northfield because it was an arts community. Noted that she does not like idea the of music stopping before 11 pm during the week and midnight on weekends.

Todd Bornhauser, Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke regarding study of University of Minnesota regarding the economic impact of restaurants and noted 26% of tax revenue is received from eating and drinking establishments. Noted we should try to use assets that we have such as the river. There are not enough establishments with outdoor dining and music. Spoke in favor of 11:30 pm as a compromise. Noted operators could help as well by lowering the volume level for outdoor music later in the evening.

Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., suggested more work to be done on the noise ordinance. Stated music is not noise. Noted Bridge Square incident during Vintage Band Festival where train noise interrupted a concert. Suggested Council create a quiet zone. Supported music until midnight.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Pownell, to have the First Reading of Ordinance No. 981 as worded with the exception of the hours Sunday - Wednesday until 10 pm, Thursday until 11 pm and 12:00 midnight Friday & Saturday in the C1, C2 & Industrial Zones and Sunday - Thursday until 10 pm and Friday & Saturday until 11 pm in all other zones.

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to amend the motion to go with staff's proposal of Sunday -

Thursday until 10 pm and Friday and Saturday until 11:30 pm. The motion on the amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - C. Peterson White

No: 5 - C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Pownell and Mayor Graham.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to amend the original motion with the hours of 11 pm - 7 am Sunday - Thursday and 12 midnight - 7 am Friday and Saturday.

A motion was made by Council Member Ludescher, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to call the question. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White

No: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Pownell and Mayor Graham

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to postpone this item to the next meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell and Mayor Graham

14. [Ord. 979](#)

Consider Amendment to City Code Chapter 10 - Animals

City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to have the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 979 - Amending City Code Chapter 10 - Animals, Article II: in General, Division 1. - Generally, Sec. 10-39 - Permit to Keep. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Mayor Graham, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

No: 2 - C. DeLong, and C. Ludescher

Extend the Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to extend the meeting ten minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

15. [Res. 2016-074](#) Consider Resolution establishing a “Committed” Fund Balance Designation for Certain TIF#4 Funds for the Purpose of Site Improvements Associated with the “Save the Northfield Depot” Redevelopment Project and Related Transit Hub.

City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., questioned the discussion at the Work Session. Spoke in favor of money being devoted to paying for the Depot project. Asked Council to spend some time on parking lot proposals in the Q block.

Alice Thomas, Save the Northfield Depot, summarized data for support of funding for project. Noted the use and benefits are consistent with TIF goals. Noted that the completed drive would show City's commitment during the reapplication for a transit hub grant. Stated the City could take advantage of MPCA report and the completed elements would benefit the general public, businesses and industries. Spoke in support of the project and noted this would help the Save the Northfield Depot complete the exterior project before winter.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-074 - Establishing a "Committed" Fund Balance Designation for Certain TIF #4 Funds for the Purpose of Site Improvements Associated with the Save the Northfield Depot Redevelopment Project and Related Transit Hub. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Pownell

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm.