



City of Northfield

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zweifel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Kathleen Holmes, Council Member Davin Sokup, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Council Member Chad Beumer, Council Member Peter Dahlen, and Mayor Erica Zweifel

Also present: Finance Director Brenda Angelstad, City Administrator Ben Martig, Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett, Police Chief Jeff Schroepffer and City Clerk Lynette Peterson. City Attorney Chris Hood attended remotely.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Zweifel noted Supplemental Agenda Background Memos No. 1 and 2.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the agenda adding item No. 14. Res. 2025-113 Consideration of Resolution for the imposition of the immediate suspension of all liquor and cannabinoid licenses issued to Froggz L.L.C., aka Froggz LLC, for the licensed premises named Froggz, located at 307 Water Street South, Ste B, and 303 Water Street South, for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility, including statutorily required liability insurance policies, in violation of State and City liquor laws, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 340A.409 and 340A.801, and Northfield City Code, sections 6-65, 6-66, and 6-69. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

PRESENTATIONS

1. 25-584

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Presentation.

Aaron Johnson, Philanthropy Director from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, presented background on their work in Southern Minnesota and Northfield. Johnson requested monetary support from the City for 2026.

2. [25-585](#) Quarterly Police Report, Quarter 3, 2025

Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer presented the Quarter 3 statistics giving an overview of calls for service, Group A crimes, Group B crimes, noteworthy events and recap of DJJD calls for service. Schroepfer answered questions from the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Beumer, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

3. [25-586](#) Consider Approval of October 21, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Beumer, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

4. [25-587](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$4,068,126.78

5. [25-588](#) City Administrator Biannual Update Summary of Grants Report per the City Council Grants Policy.

6. [Res. 2025-112](#) Review and Approval of 12.01 Art in Public Places Policy.

7. [25-590](#) Consideration of Approval of the 2026 Budget for the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

8. [Res. 2025-110](#) Consider Resolution Approving Amendment to Section 8.36 Paid Family Parental Leave for the Employee Handbook.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

9. [25-591](#) Reports From the Mayor and Council Members.

Council Member Ness - Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Veterans Appreciation and Recognition.

Council Member Sokup - No report.

Council Member Holmes - No report.

Council Member Dahlen - No report.

Council Member Beumer - EDA Meeting.

Council Member Peterson White - EDA Meeting.

Mayor Zweifel - Comments on State Rail Plan and State Climate Action Plan.

REGULAR AGENDA

10. [Res. 2025-111](#) Consider Resolution Approving City Administrator Nomination of Scott Wopata as Community Development Director.

Council Member Kathleen Holmes recused herself from discussion and voting on this item due to a conflict of interest.

City Administrator Ben Martig gave background information on the nomination of Scott Wopata as Community Development Director. Martig highlighted Wopata's professional background and qualifications.

Wopata commented on the nomination thanking the Council and sharing his vision for the future of Northfield.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve Resolution No. 2025-111 Approving Appointment of Scott Wopata as Community Development Director. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Ness, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

Recused: 1 - C. Holmes

11. 25-592 Consider Motion Authorizing Submittal of Application for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant - Lincoln Parkway Walking and Biking Improvement Project.

Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett introduced the three grants to include the Transportation Alternatives Grant for Lincoln Parkway Walking and Biking Improvement Project; Carbon Reduction Program Grant for TH 3 Trail and the Highway Safety Improvement Program Grant for the TH 246 and CSAH 1 Roundabout. Bennett gave background on the grants and answered questions from the Council.

Patrick Tomczik addressed the Council regarding opposition to the cost of bike paths included in the Lincoln Parkway project.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the motion authorizing submittal of application for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant - Lincoln Parkway Walking and Biking Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Dahlen, to amend the motion not to include the sections that were shown in red on the map (Cannon Valley Place to Greenvale Avenue and Dresden Avenue to Greenvale Avenue on Spring Street). The amended motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. Ness, C. Beumer, and C. Dahlen

No: 4 - C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, and Mayor Zweifel

The original motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, and Mayor Zweifel

No: 2 - C. Ness, and C. Dahlen

12. 25-595

Consider Motion Authorizing Submittal of Application for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Grant - TH 3 Trail.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the motion authorizing submittal of application for the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Grant - TH 3 Trail. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

13. 25-593

Consider Motion Authorizing Submittal of Application for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Program - TH 246 & CSAH 1 Roundabout.

A motion was made by Council Member Sokup, seconded by Council Member Holmes, to approve the motion authorizing submittal of application for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant Program - TH 246 & CSAH 1 Roundabout. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

14. Res. 2025-113

Consideration of Resolution for the imposition of the immediate suspension of all liquor and cannabinoid licenses issued to Froggz L.L.C., aka Froggz LLC, for the licensed premises named Froggz, located at 307 Water Street South, Ste B, and 303 Water Street South, for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility, including statutorily required liability insurance policies, in violation of State and City liquor laws, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 340A.409 and 340A.801, and Northfield City Code, sections 6-65, 6-66, and 6-69.

City Clerk Lynette Peterson presented background information on the Froggz Liquor License stating the City was notified on November 3, 2025 that the liquor liability insurance had lapsed for the establishment. Liquor liability insurance is required by City Code and State Statute therefore immediate suspension of Froggz's license is necessary until proof of insurance is obtained and confirmed from the licensee.

A motion was made by Council Member Dahlen, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution No. 2023-113 Findings, Conclusions and Order of Northfield City Council Suspending Liquor Licenses Issued to Froggz L.L.C. D/B/A/ Froggz. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE**15. 25-594**

City Administrator's Update.

Due to time constraints and the work session to follow, City Administrator Ben Martig did not give a report.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, C. Peterson White, C. Beumer, C. Dahlen, and Mayor Zweifel