



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, October 18, 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 Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Council Member Rhonda Pownell, and Council Member Erica Zweifel

Absent: 1 - Council Member David Ludescher

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. Peterson White arrived at 7:01 pm.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [16-455](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve the October 4, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PRESENTATIONS

3. [16-457](#)

Presentation from the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Lisa Peterson, Convention & Visitor's Bureau Director of Tourism and Todd Bornhauser, President of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism, presented information on the activities of the CVB. Bornhauser and Peterson provided updates on the CVB work plan, performance measurements and budget information, and answered questions posed by the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the items on the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by the following

vote:

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

4. [16-458](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$649,541.04

Enactment No: M2016-142

5. [Res. 2016-104](#) Consider Approval of Electronic Signatures for Employees

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Goerwitz, Chair of the Northfield Library Board, asked for Council support of the grant for the Bookmobile, collection and part time Outreach Coordinator. Spoke regarding the Bookmobile being part of Northfield culture and the importance of serving people who may not have access to Library services otherwise.

Bill North, Friends & Foundation of the Northfield Public Library, presented a check for \$12,000 to the City for the next installment of the Library improvement project. Spoke about the Trivia Bee on October 27, and spoke in support of the new Bookmobile and grant. Noted two members have stepped forward with a \$7,000 matching grant for this project.

Todd Bornhauser, Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce, noted Love Always Santa premiere is tentatively scheduled for November 23 at the Northfield Middle School. There is a second film in the process of being filmed here. Noted Northfield is an economically viable location with a great downtown that fits many different movie genres making it a desirable place to film movies.

Margaret Huber, Northfield Promise Reading Team Coordinator, spoke in support of purchase and staffing of Northfield Bookmobile. Provide information Northfield Promise goals on variables affecting reading.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION

6. [16-459](#) Public Hearing Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 908 College Street South.

Mayor Graham opened the public hearing at 7:39 pm.

City Attorney Hood provided information on process for the hearings and general introduction.

Building Official Kessler reviewed the issues of blight and nuisance conditions at 908 College Street South. Kessler noted the property has received yearly notices since 2013 and the property is currently vacant.

Britt Ackerman, attorney representing Peter Lee owner of property, asked Council to not approve the resolution. Stated she feels the resolution is not appropriate, redundant, inefficient and unnecessary. Provided information on the current conditions of the property. Ackerman reviewed the criminal process and noted a not guilty plea was entered in June regarding this property and the next hearing is set for December 28, 2016. Stated client is working towards remediation focused on the December deadline.

City Attorney Hood responded to the statements made. Noted property ownership of

record is the Kenknights not Mr. Lee. No ability to enforce against Mr. Lee on a property that he does not own. Action is against the Kenknights. There is no official record of contract of deed. If it exists, it must be recorded.

Wade Canedy, 910 College Street, spoke regarding the condition of the property and the electrical that is not compliant. Noted he does not want to give the property owner problems, but would like something done with the property. Spoke about dead trees on the property and the inability to get a hold of the owner of the property. Spoke about junk being moved between the properties.

Kathy Peshek, 910 College Street, noted issue has been addressed for past few years, but has been going on for 8 years. Several cars on the property get pushed so marks on tires are moved so it appears that they are being moved. Noted garbage all around the house and the weeds are allowed to grow to hide the garbage. Asked Council to help get property cleaned up.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Pownell, to close the Public Hearing at 8:05 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

7. [Res. 2016-105](#) Consider Resolution Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 908 College Street South.

City Attorney Hood answered questions posed by the Council. Noted action would be taken against the owner of record. Spoke regarding the criminal and civil processes. Building Official Kessler and City Administrator Martig answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Pownell, to approve the Resolution 2016-105 - Findings, Conclusions and order of Abatement of Northfield City Council Regarding Blight and Nuisance Conditions at 908 College Street South.

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Pownell to amend the Resolution under Conclusions and Order 4a. by adding "If the owners shall fail to remedy the nuisance conditions on or before December 28, 2016," leaving the remainder of 4a as is.

The amendment carried by the following vote:

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

Resolution 2016-105 as amended carried by the following vote:

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

8. [16-460](#) Public Hearing Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 315 8th Street West.

Mayor Graham opened the public hearing at 8:30 pm.

Building Official Kessler reviewed information on this property. Notices regarding blight started in 2006, with consistent notices issued from 2009-2016.

Britt Ackerman, attorney representing Mr. Peter Lee, requested that council amend the resolution to reflect the deadline on the criminal prosecution of December 28, 2016. Also requested acknowledgement that he has made efforts towards remediation.

Shawn Madson, 409 8th Str. W, neighbor to property for 21 years. Stated property gets a little better when City pursues and then it gets worse again. Noted that the owner hides things and moves them from one property to another and questions whether he has any intent on cleaning up the property. Noted it is a safety issue and suggested the City go into homes to ensure they are safe and livable.

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to close the Public Hearing at 8:36 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

9. [Res. 2016-106](#) Consider Resolution Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 315 8th Street West.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve Resolution 2016-106 - Findings, Conclusions and Order of Abatement of Northfield City Council Regarding Blight and Nuisance Conditions at 315 8th Street West including the amendment to the Resolution under Conclusions and Order 4a. by adding "If the owners shall fail to remedy the nuisance conditions on or before December 28, 2016," leaving the remainder of 4a as is. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

10. [16-461](#) Public Hearing Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 504 4th Street East

Mayor Graham opened public hearing at 8:37 pm.

Building Official Kessler reviewed the items related to this property. Provided a review of the history and photos of the property.

Property co-owner Audrey Ebert, Lisa Ebert's mother, noted that Lisa has tried to finish the home but has had some physical issues during this time. Stated there are plans to remove items within the next 10 days. Asked Council to give them time to remedy the situation the way the neighbors would like.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to close the Public Hearing at 8:43 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11. [Res. 2016-107](#) Consideration of Resolution Regarding Order to Abate Nuisance at 504 4th Street East.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve Resolution 2016-107 - Findings, Conclusions and Order of Abatement of Northfield City Council Regarding Blight and Nuisance Conditions at 504 4th Street East including the amendment to the Resolution under Conclusions and Order 4a. by adding "If the owners shall fail to remedy the

nuisance conditions on or before December 28, 2016," leaving the remainder of 4a as is. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Recess

The Council took a five minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:51 pm.

REGULAR AGENDA

12. [16-462](#) Consider approval of Link Center Contract for 2017-2019.

City Administrator Martig introduced this item and provided an overview of the Link Center.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the LINK Center contract for 2017-2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: M2016-143

13. [16-463](#) Consider Southwest Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Funding Request for 2017.

City Administrator Martig introduced this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve funding for Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for 2017 in the amount of \$5,000 and determines that the contribution promotes the health, safety, and welfare of the city, and the gift does not have as its primary objective the benefit of a private interest. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: M2016-144

14. [Res. 2016-108](#) Consider Adoption of Utility Rates for 2017.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-108 - Adopting Utility Fee Schedule for 2017.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Mayor Graham, to amend the resolution under Refuse Collection Rates to \$10.60/month for 14 gallon containers. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The amended resolution carried by the following vote:

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

15. [16-464](#)

Consideration to Authorize 2016 Ordering and 2017 CEP-Funded Purchasing of 2017 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, authorizing the purchase of a 2017 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper with 2016 ordering of the sweeper and 2017 CEP-funded payment of the sweeper from the Storm Water Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Enactment No: M2016-145

16. [Res. 2016-109](#)

Consider acceptance for the Minneapolis Foundation funding for a Library Bookmobile, funding for a Bookmobile collection and funding for a part-time Outreach Coordinator Librarian position.

Director of Library and IT Services Jensen introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. City Administrator Martig answered questions posed by Council.

Councilor Pownell called for a point of order at 9:57 pm noting only three minutes left in the meeting and asked for time management. Mayor Graham stated that it was not a valid point of order.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-106 - Approval of Acceptance of Gift Funds from the Minneapolis Foundation.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to amend the resolution by removing #4 in the Now Therefore Be It Resolved to deal with this separately. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes votes: 1 - C. DeLong

No votes: 5 - C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Graham.

The motion to approve the resolution carried by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - C. DeLong

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.