



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zweifel called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Council Member Peter Dahlen appeared via interactive television technology due to being out of town.

Also present: Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer, Finance Director Brenda Angelstad, City Administrator Ben Martig, City Engineer/Public Works Director David Bennett, Community Development Director Jake Reilly, Library Director Natalie Draper and City Clerk Lynette Peterson.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. [25-442](#) 2026-2027 Budget Worksession.

City Administrator Ben Martig introduced the item presenting on the 2026-2027 Budget including the budget timeline, budget and levy options, alternative revenue options, alternative expense reductions, option of 14.5% total levy, option of 9.9% total levy, and option of 3.0% total levy including examples of cuts in the budget and staffing to achieve these different percentages, levy/spending drivers, staffing analysis review, consulting fee overview, liquor store operations, and Board and Commission changes/elimination of certain boards/commissions.

Martig presented policy questions for council to direct staff on certain items to refine the budget. Martig presented next steps at the September 16 worksession along with setting the preliminary levy at the September 23 meeting.

RECESS

Council recessed at 7:45 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 7:52 p.m.

1. [25-442](#) 2026-2027 Budget Worksession.

Council commented on policy questions to include direction to staff on overall property tax levy options; liquor store operations; terminating the recruitment process of public works mechanic position; notifying fireworks contract termination of 2026; National League of Cities Membership 2025; and 2025 board training and holiday social.

EXTEND THE MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Beumer, seconded by Council Member Holmes, to extend the meeting until business is complete. 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

1. [25-442](#) 2026-2027 Budget Worksession.

Council commented on additional policy questions regarding elections. Council directed staff on additional information to gather that would be helpful in the budget decision process along with direction on the Council taking over HRA duties.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 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