



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zweifel called the meeting to order at 6:01 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: City Administrator Ben Martig; Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett; Engineering Manager Sean Simonson; Associate City Attorney David Assaf; Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer; Library Director Natalie Draper; and City Clerk Lynette Peterson.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Patrick Tomczik, 1203 Woodland Trail, addressed the Council regarding opposition on the Ice Arena and the Council not letting the citizens vote on the project.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Zweifel noted items in Supplemental Agenda Background Memo No. 1.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to approve the 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

PRESENTATIONS

1. [25-207](#) Presentation of Percent for the Arts Annual Report (2024).

Library Director Natalie Draper introduced Paula Granquist, Chair of Arts and Culture Commission. Commissioners Martha Anderson and Leah Rich were also present. Draper reported on projects that were initiated and/or completed in 2024. Draper also highlighted upcoming projects scheduled for 2025. Chair Granquist thanked the Council and invited the Council to the April 28, 2025 Living Treasure Celebration at 7:30 p.m. at The Grand Event Center honoring Bob Gregory-Bjorkland. Draper answered questions from the Council. The 1% for the Arts will be discussed at the May 13 Council Work Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Beumer, seconded by Council Member Dahlen, 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

2. [25-208](#) Consider Approval of April 1, 2025 City Council Closed Meeting Minutes.
3. [25-209](#) Consider Approval of April 1, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes.
4. [25-210](#) Consider Approval of April 5, 2025 City Council Strategic Plan Retreat Minutes.
5. [25-211](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,504,133.25
6. [25-161](#) Consider Approval of Lease Agreement with Northfield Senior Citizens Inc. d.b.a. FiftyNorth.
7. [Ord. 1075](#) Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance 1075 Designating Central Park (421 4th St. E.) as a Local Heritage Preservation Site.
8. [25-212](#) Consideration of Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 1075 Designating Central Park a Heritage Preservation Site.
9. [25-214](#) Consider Accepting the Agricultural Land Lease for Hauberg Woods
10. [25-215](#) Consider Motion accepting License Number UWAT014061 for Utility to Cross Public Waters.
11. [25-216](#) Consider Motion Approving Permanent and Temporary Easements for the Neighborhood Flooding Issues Improvement Project.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

12. [25-217](#) Reports From the Mayor and Council Members.

Council Member Beumer - Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

Council Member Dahlen - NAFRS Meeting.

Council Member Holmes - No Report.

Council Member Sokup - HRA Meeting; Strategic Planning Retreat, Earth Day Celebration Saturday, April 26.

Council Member Peterson White - Hospital Board Strategic Plan Retreat.

Council Member Ness - Age-Friendly Northfield Meeting Canceled; NAFRS Finance Committee Meeting Canceled.

Mayor Zweifel - HR Meeting regarding City Administrator Performance Review Process; Hospital and Governance Committee Meeting; VFW Meeting; Regional Council of Mayor's Meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA**13. [25-213](#)**

Consider Motion Approving Permanent and Temporary Construction Easements for Spring Creek Road - Mill Towns State Trail Project.

Council Member Kathleen Holmes recused herself from the item discussion disclosing she serves on the Northfield Golf Course Board.

A motion was made by Council Member Sokup, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to approve the Permanent and Temporary Construction Easements for Spring Creek Road - Mill Towns State Trail Project. 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

14. [Res. 2025-041](#)

Consider Rules of Business Amendment Request Recommended by the Mayors Youth Council.

Elizabeth McCormick, Sophomore at Northfield High School and Mayor's Youth Council Member, addressed the Council issuing an official statement against residents being required to state their address when speaking. City Clerk Lynette Peterson and City Administrator Ben Martig answered questions from the Council. McCormick also answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Dahlen, to approve Resolution No. 2025-041 Approving Updated Council Rules of Business Policy. 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

15. [25-219](#)

Consider Approving Professional Service Agreement for the 2026 Spring Street and Fremouw Avenue Railroad Crossing Improvements Project.

Engineering Manager Sean Simonson introduced the item giving background information on the project to include the project location, project scope, proposed improvements, timeline and Northfield Quiet Zone background information. Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett and Simonson answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the Professional Service Agreement for the 2026 Spring Street and Fremouw Avenue Railroad Crossing Improvements Project. 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

16. [Ord. 1076](#)

First Reading of Ordinance No. 1076 Amending Chapter 30 - Health and Sanitation of the City Code Regarding Regulation of Cannabis Businesses, Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailers, and Events.

Associate City Attorney David Assaf introduced the ordinance giving background on Ordinance No. 1076 stating this ordinance would repeal and replace the City's current

edible cannabinoid product ordinance. This ordinance is being updated due to state law changes. Assaf detailed aspects of the ordinance. Assaf answered questions from the Council. City Administrator Ben Martig added additional information and answered questions from the Council. Community Development Director Jake Reilly added additional information.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Dahlen, to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 1076 Amending Chapter 30 - Health and Sanitation of the City Code Regarding Regulation of Cannabis Businesses, Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailers, and Events. 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

17. [25-220](#)

Discussion of Potential State of Minnesota Local Project Capital Bond Requests for 2026.

City Administrator Ben Martig presented on potential State of Minnesota Local Project Capital Bond Requests for 2026. Martig detailed requirements and the timeline for submitting a request. Martig answered questions from the Council.

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

18. [25-221](#)

City Administrator's Update.

City Administrator Ben Martig updated the Council on upcoming City events and operations. Administrator Martig answered questions from the Council.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Holmes, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 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