



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, January 7, 2020

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

5:00 PM - CLOSED SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

- Present:** 6 - Council Member David DeLong, Council Member Clarice Grabau, Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Council Member Erica Zweifel, and Mayor Rhonda Pownell
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Suzie Nakasian

Also Present:

City Administrator Ben Martig, Community Development Director Mitzi Baker, City Clerk Deb Little, City Attorney Chris Hood, Police Chief Monte Nelson, Public Works Director/City Engineer Dave Bennett.

1. [20-001](#) Consideration of Closed Meeting - 5:00 pm Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 13D.05, subd. 3 (c) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase of real property located at 700 Hwy 3 North, Lot 1 Block 1 Sheldahl Industrial Park (PID 2231226003), and 440 Water St N.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to close the meeting at 5:03 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Ness, to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Yes:** 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

- Present:** 7 - Council Member David DeLong, Council Member Clarice Grabau, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Council Member Erica Zweifel, and Mayor Rhonda Pownell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A request was made to move item #14 from the consent agenda to the regular agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve the agenda as amended by moving item #14 to the regular agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

Not Present: 1 - C. Nakasian

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. [20-002](#) December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the December 3, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

PRESENTATIONS

3. [20-003](#) Presentation on January 11, 2020 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Northfield as part of National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.

Northfield Rotary Members Emily Fulton-Foley and Todd Thompson introduced this item and shared statistics and information related to Human Trafficking. Shared responses to a Northfield youth survey, Hope Center statistics and spoke regarding Safe Harbor Laws.

C. Nakasian arrived at 6:13 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the consent agenda.

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

Yes: 7 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

4. [Ord. 1008](#) Consider Ordinance Vacating Sanitary Sewer Easement in Lots 3 and 4, Block 48 of Original Town.
5. [20-004](#) Consider Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 1008 Vacating Sanitary Sewer Easement in Lots 3 and 4, Block 48, Original Town.
6. [20-005](#) Consider Designation of Official Newspaper.
7. [20-006](#) Consider Designation of Official Depository for the City of Northfield.

8. [20-007](#) Consider Approval of Mayoral Board/Commission and Council Appointments.
9. [Res. 2020-001](#) Proclaim January 11, 2020 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Northfield as part of National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.
10. [20-008](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$5,051,742.89.
11. [Res. 2020-002](#) Consider Resolution of Support for Minnesota Investment Fund Application.
12. [Res. 2020-003](#) Consider Resolution for the Lot Consolidation of 501 Washington Street and 503 Washington Street.
13. [20-009](#) Consider Approving Costs for Mayor Pownell to attend the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington DC.
15. [20-010](#) Consider Approval of Liquor Licenses for Manawa, LLC at 212 Division Str. S.
16. [20-011](#) Consider Approving Costs for Councilor Nakasian to attend the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington DC.
17. [Res. 2020-005](#) Consider Retaining Statutory Tort Limits

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REGULAR AGENDA

14. [Res. 2020-004](#) Community Development Block Grant - Consider Adopting Resolution in Support of Fiscal Year 2020 Allotment of Program Funds.

Housing Coordinator Atchison introduced this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve Resolution 2020-004 - Approving the Application for Fiscal Year 2020 Dakota County Community Development Block Grant Funding. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

No: 1 - C. DeLong

18. [20-012](#) Consideration of Election of President Pro Tem.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member DeLong, approving the appointment of Council Member Grabau as President (Mayor) Pro Tem for 2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

19. [Ord. 1009](#)

Consider Ordinance Amending Northfield City Code, Chapter 30 - Health Care and Sanitation, Article II. - Tobacco (Tobacco 21 Ordinance)

City Administrator Martig introduced this item. Katie Reed, Northfield Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention (NASAP), provided information on why NASAP advocated for the T21 changes. Dr. Matt Hillman, Superintendent Northfield Schools, provided information on the vaping epidemic in children across the US. Noted a massive change when the technology changed in terms of vaping devices and saw a substantial increase in use among youth. Hillman reviewed steps that Northfield Public Schools have taken including public education, as well as education in the classrooms starting in 6th grade. Spoke regarding discipline in the schools and noted they know that there are more students using than are getting caught. Stated that the schools have been dealing with this epidemic for a long time. Greg Gelineau, Middle School Principal, spoke regarding what Middle School students and staff are facing, key initiatives and other tools being used. Noted Northfield Hospital and Clinics are helping in vaping education. Hillman noted raising the age to 21 for purchase puts a gap in the oldest students and those that are able to purchase. Stated he is in support of the proposed changes.

Police Chief Nelson answered questions posed by Council.

Tracy Ackman-Shaw, Rice County, and Liz Heimer, American Lung Association, provided information on use in handouts and thanked Council for their work. Provided information about Tobacco 25 and noted raising the age to 21 has the biggest impact. Spoke regarding flavors and a possible ban or restrict to areas where youth are not seeing advertising by restricting by location or distance from youth oriented facilities, and noted there should not be exemptions for mint or menthol. Spoke about federal restriction of T21 and flavor restriction policy discussed by the President on January 7, 2020. Liz Heimer, spoke regarding tobacco being the leading cause of death.

Meghan Shea, Coalition of Neighborhood Retailers Association, noted a majority of retailers in town are association members. Stated effective December 20th federal law increased the purchase age for tobacco to 21. Noted most retailers have already implemented. Noted 21 is across the country now and this helps to implement equally. Noted there is a diminishing return after age 21 to age 25. Asked Council to allow 21 to go into effect. Spoke regarding work by the FDA in front prohibition of most of vapor sales. Noted the Jewel pods are the most appealing to youth and these products are already coming off the shelves. Noted the association would like to be part of the conversation if the City considers moving forward with flavor restrictions and asked that restrictions beyond what are proposed be further researched before consideration.

Audrey Pagel, Mayors Youth Council, noted MYC tabling efforts throughout the last few weeks and signatures gathered supporting T21. MYC representatives held discussions with participants and noted support for adoption of T21.

Celine Falcon-Geist, noted she was a 17 year High School student and has never used products. However, 18 year olds in the United States are qualified as adults, can vote, and fight for our country. Feels they should be able to decide for themselves if they are going to use tobacco products. Stated addicted youth will still find the products and not all youth are for Tobacco 21.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member

Zweifel, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 1009 - Amending Northfield City Code, Chapter 30 - Health Care and Sanitation, Article II.-Tobacco (Tobacco 21 Ordinance). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

Recess

Council took a short recess at 7:45 pm. The meeting resumed at 7:52 pm.

20. [Res. 2020-006](#) Consider Ordering the Improvement for the 2020 Mill and Overlay Project.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett introduced this item. Due to technical difficulties, this item was paused and moved to follow item #22.

21. [Res. 2020-007](#) Consider Resolution Calling for Public Hearing on the Intention to Issue General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bonds and the Proposal to Adopt a 5-year Street Reconstruction Plan therefore.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2020-007 - Calling for a Public Hearing on the Adoption of a Street Reconstruction Plan and the Issuance of Street Reconstruction Bonds Thereunder. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

22. [20-013](#) Update of Resolution for Request for Local Sales Tax Authorization from the State of Minnesota.

City Administrator Martig provided an update on the process for request for a Local Sales Tax Authorization from the State of Minnesota. Martig noted the short survey soliciting public input that was sent to residents seeking perceptions and opinions related to parks and recreation in Northfield. Martig noted there will be a longer discussion at the January 14th work session leaving an opportunity for Council to act before the end of January at their January 21st meeting. Martig answered questions posed by Council.

20. [Res. 2020-006](#) Consider Ordering the Improvement for the 2020 Mill and Overlay Project.

This item continued at 8:03 pm. Bennett reviewed the project area, decisions made, process and next steps. Bennett answered questions posed by Council.

Will Schroeer, 206 Winona Str., spoke regarding being pleased that documents are being updated, the scope and noted project scope ends at the edge of the project. Asked Council to look at improvements in the whole area, not just to the edge of the project. Hopes it will be part of the analysis.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve Resolution 2020-006 - Ordering Improvement 2020STRT-A45 2020 Mill and Overlay Project and Preparation of Plans and Specifications. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

No: 1 - C. DeLong

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

23. [20-014](#) City Administrator's Update.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Nakasian - Reported on rail initiative meeting hosted by Mayor of Savage with 40 participants representing 8 different cities in the metro area. Spoke to the Rosemount City Council and noted Rosemount is wanting to launch a similar initiative.

C. DeLong - Provided an Age Friendly update and noted Governor Walz signed a proclamation making Minnesota an Age Friendly State. Noted Age Friendly Northfield was well represented at the event. Other communities are reaching out to Northfield to see how we did things.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell