



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session; After the Special Meeting

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zweifel called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

- Present:** 6 - Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Kathleen Holmes, Council Member Davin Sokup, Council Member Chad Beumer, Council Member Peter Dahlen, and Mayor Erica Zweifel
- Absent:** 1 - Council Member Jessica Peterson White

Also present: City Administrator Ben Martig, City Clerk Lynette Peterson, Library Director Natalie Draper, Budget Analyst Jordan Hansen, Finance Director Brenda Angelstad, Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett, Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer, Assistant City Administrator Risi Karim, Community Development Director Scott Wopata and IT Manager Kurt Wolf.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. [26-381](#) Review of Broadband Franchising Option Related to Modernization of Cable Franchising and City Alternative Revenue Strategic Priority.

City Administrator Ben Martig presented background information on broadband franchising as a potential alternative revenue source. Michael Bradley of Bradley Werner, LLC, provided an overview of broadband franchising and discussed its potential benefits for both the City and its residents.

Bradley and Martig responded to Council questions. IT Manager Kurt Wolf provided additional information regarding the broadband services currently available in Northfield.

Council members discussed the proposal and provided comments and feedback on the broadband franchising option.

2. [26-382](#) Review the proposed 2027 Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Service Budget and Capital Equipment Plan and Related City of Northfield Fire Department 2027 Contribution.

City Administrator Ben Martig introduced Tom Nelson, Fire Chief, to present the proposed 2027 Northfield Area Fire and Rescue Services (NAFRS) budget. Nelson

presented historical data regarding the budget highlighting revenue sources for NAFRS including permitting and inspections. Martig added additional information regarding the NAFRS budget.

3. [26-383](#)

Review Fee Schedule Changes effective January 1, 2027.

City Clerk Lynette Peterson presented the proposed updates to the 2027 fee schedule. Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett and Community Development Director Scott Wopata responded to Council questions regarding the proposed fee increases. The 2027 fee schedule will be presented to the City Council for review and approval at the September 22, 2026 meeting.

RECESS

Council recessed at 7:17 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 7:21 p.m.

4. [26-384](#)

2027-2028 Budget Worksession.

City Administrator Ben Martig introduced the budget discussion and provided an overview of the 2027 budget development process, including the budget calendar and opportunities for public engagement throughout the process. Council discussed the proposed public meeting schedule and methods for receiving public feedback.

City Administrator Martig reviewed previous Council budget direction, including proposed 2027 utility rates; universal modified composting and other composting alternatives; maintaining Meadows Park as currently operated; converting Hauberg Woods from agricultural use to native plantings in 2027; consideration of adding Lincoln Parkway to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) or deferring another project; extending the Riverwall Flood Project into 2027; scheduling East Riverwalk stair repairs for 2028; exploring an alternative location for the compost site in 2027; and completing construction documents for the northwest sewer collector line.

City Administrator Martig also reviewed potential alternative revenue sources, including broadband franchise fees, park dedication fees, police administrative citations, and a local sales tax.

City Administrator Martig presented the proposed 2027 property tax levy, including a preliminary levy increase of 6.8 percent. He reviewed the primary drivers of the proposed levy, noting that the General Fund, Debt Service, Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC), and Communications levies account for approximately 85 percent of the increase. He also discussed the budget assumptions, including non-discretionary costs, discretionary expenditures, and anticipated naturally occurring savings in 2027.

Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett and Police Chief Jeff Schroeffer presented information on proposed staffing requests for future budget consideration, including a Public Works Mechanic, two Streets and Parks Operators, a Police Lieutenant, and one full-time administrative position proposed for 2028.

City Administrator Martig provided an update on the Ice Arena project and reviewed the estimated tax impacts associated with the proposed budget and levy.

Council discussed the proposed budget and provided feedback on budget priorities, capital projects, staffing requests, alternative revenue options, and the proposed property tax levy.

EXTEND THE MEETING

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

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

4. [26-384](#) 2027-2028 Budget Worksession.

Council continued discussion on the proposed budget and provided feedback on budget priorities.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

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