



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

6:00 PM

Gotomeeting

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

Mayor Pownell noted the items in Supplemental Agenda Background Memo No. 1 including the removal of Item Number 9 "20-566 Consideration of 2021-2022 Intended Budget and Levy" from the agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Grabau, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the agenda as amended removing item number 9 from the agenda. 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

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Council Member Grabau, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the consent agenda. 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

1. [20-560](#) Consider approval of October 13, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Grabau, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

2. [20-561](#) Consider Approval of October 20, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes.
3. [20-562](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$3,554,490.59

Enactment No: M2020-131

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

eComments were received related to the proposed Franchise Fees.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION

4. [20-563](#) Public Hearing on Ordinances Implementing Franchise Fees.

Mayor Pownell declared the public hearing open at 6:08 p.m. City Administrator Martig presented information on Franchise Fees including background on exploration of Franchise fees and comparison to other cities; special assessment revenue replacement use; climate action plan use of funds and cost impact of franchise fee refund program. Martig answered questions from Council.

eComments were received on this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to close the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m. 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

REGULAR AGENDA

5. [20-564](#) Review Resolution Establishing Franchise Fee Rebate Program.

City Administrator Martig introduced the item. The Supplemental Memo included clarifying revisions to the Option A Utility Franchise Fee Program. Martig and Doug Green, Director of Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, answered questions from the Council.

Recess

Council recessed at 7:22 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 7:28 p.m.

6. [Ord. 1017](#) Consider Ordinance Implementing Gas Service Franchise Fee.

City Administrator Martig and City Attorney Chris Hood answered questions from the Council regarding the proposed ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 1017-Implementing a Gas Service Franchise Fee on Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, D/B/A Xcel Energy, its Successors and Assigns, for Providing Gas Service within the City of Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Zweifel

No: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Ness, and Mayor Pownell

7. [Ord. 1018](#) Consider Ordinance Implementing Electric Service Franchise Fee.

City Attorney Hood answered questions regarding the Ordinance.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve the first reading the Ordinance 1018-Implementing an Electric Service Franchise Fee on Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, D/B/A Xcel Energy, its Successors and Assigns, for Providing Electric Service within the City of Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, and C. Zweifel

No: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Ness, and Mayor Pownell

8. [Res. 2020-107](#) Consider Resolution Authorizing CARES Act Expenditures Community Funding.

City Administrator Martig presented information on the Cares Act Expenditures Community Funding. Martig answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Grabau, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve Resolution Number 2020-107-Authorizing CARES Act Expenditures Community Funding. 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

10. [Res. 2020-105](#) Consider Resolution Updating the City of Northfield Acceptable Tree & Shrub List.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett introduced item and answered questions.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve Resolution No. 2020-105-Updating the City of Northfield Acceptable Tree & Shrub List with the addition of "with attachment Number 5" in Number 2 of the Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved portion of the Resolution. 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

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

11. [20-567](#) City Administrator's Update.

Police Chief Elliott provided an update on the Governor's Orders that were released today beginning Friday, November 13 at 10 p.m. He reported Northfield Public Schools will be transitioning to total distance learning in the next week.

City Administrator Martig updated the Council regarding elections and reminded them of the Special Council Meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. for canvassing the results. He thanked City Clerk Little and the election judges for their work.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Ness - thanked C. DeLong for his service as a veteran.

C. Grabau - no report.

C. DeLong - reported on Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting.

C. Nakasian - no report.

C. Zweifel - reported on EQC meeting and HRA meeting.

C. Peterson White - reported on Economic Development Authority meeting; Hospital Board meeting and Strategic Planning meeting for Hospital Board.

Mayor Pownell - no report.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. 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