



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

7:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: 7 - Mayor Dana Graham, Council Member David DeLong, Council Member David Ludescher, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Council Member Rhonda Pownell, and Council Member Erica Zweifel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Pownell, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

Not Present: 1 - C. Nakasian

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [16-416](#) September 6, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to approve the September 6, 2016 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

Not Present: 1 - C. Nakasian

PRESENTATIONS

2. [16-417](#) Presentation - Update on Human Rights Commission

Richard DeBeau, Human Rights Commission Chair, provided an update on the activities of the Human Rights Commission. Noted issues of concern that they address and activities that they participate in such as Martin Luther King Day, Northfield Reads, and International Day of Peace. Noted that Mayor Graham intends to keep slots open to minority members and there are currently two English as a second language members. Spoke regarding program developed on harassment in the schools. Spoke about outreach efforts at the Link Center. HRC members will be present once a month to talk with clients about any human rights issues they may have.

C. Nakasian arrived at 7:07 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the items on the consent agenda and answered questions posed by the Council.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., spoke regarding the disbursement to the NDDC. Stated that they are without a leader and feels it is inappropriate for the City to grant them the second half payment.

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

Yes: 7 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

3. [16-418](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,444,709.63

Enactment No: M2016-123

4. [16-419](#) Consideration to Approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Boiler Replacement Project Change Order.

Enactment No: M2016-124

5. [Res. 2016-096](#) Consideration to Accept Bids and Award Project - Well House No. 6

6. [16-420](#) Consideration of grant application process for Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) Grant for Sidewalk Poetry, 2017 by the Arts and Culture Commission.

Enactment No: M2016-125

7. [16-421](#) Consider Grant Application process for 2017 SEMAC Grant by the Northfield Public Library

Enactment No: M2016-126

8. [Res. 2016-097](#) Authorizing execution of the 2017 Rice County Toward Zero Deaths Enforcement Grant

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bonnie Jean Flom, 1009 Greenleaf Court, introduced Stephen Koplowitz, the artist bringing the Northfield Experience in May 2018. The project is being done in collaboration with St. Olaf College, Carleton College and Arts & Culture Commission. Stephen Koplowitz, stated he enjoys bringing art into public spaces. Noted this project came about from a desire of St. Olaf College and Carleton College to collaborate on something. Stated he wants to partner with stakeholders to collaborate on creating the event. He will be back in February 2017 to provide details.

Paula Granquist, member of the Arts & Culture Commission, thanked Council for support. Noted her enthusiasm for the project. Encouraged Council to support the project.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., asked about action of approval of disbursements and stated the Council should reconsider the NDDC payment. Suggested holding up the payment until the Council has had an opportunity to speak to the NDDC Board.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. [Res. 2016-098](#) Consideration of Resolution Adopting a Proposed 2016 Tax Levy Payable in 2017.

Finance Director Lammers introduced the item and answered questions posed by Council.

Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., spoke regarding the property tax levy history. Noted that the NCRC bond payment will go away next year. Spoke regarding holding the budget steady and using the extra dollars from the NCRC bond payment.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., noted budget and levy discussions are confusing. Feels process is unclear. Stated he thinks it is important for the city to tax and is more than willing to pay. However, he is concerned with how funds are spent.

C. Peterson White called for a point of order at 7:41 pm for C. Ludescher's characterization of Council motives. Mayor Graham asked C. Ludescher to stick to the discussion of this current item.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to approve Resolution 2016-098 – Adopting a Proposed 2016 Tax Levy Payable in 2017 with a 1% levy increase. The motion failed on the following vote:

Yes votes: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Ludescher and Mayor Graham

No votes: 4 - C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, C. Zweifel

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Ludescher, to approve Resolution 2016-098 – Adopting a Proposed 2016 Tax Levy Payable in 2017 with a 2% levy increase. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

No: 1 - C. DeLong

10. [Res. 2016-099](#) Consideration of a Preliminary General Fund Budget and Establishing a Date and Time for the Public Hearing.

Finance Director Lammers introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. City Administrator Martig answered questions posed by Council.

Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., spoke regarding increase in police budget and also on the General Fund transfer out. Asked where the money went.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., spoke about the public hearing in December. Hopes someone will ask about excessses and why they keep occurring. Noted that this is confusing.

At 8:14 pm, C. Peterson White called for a point of order related to the discussion of the NDDC and noted it is not on the agenda. Mayor Graham allowed C. Ludescher to continue speaking and noted the NDDC is part of the budget.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-099 - Adopting a Proposed 2017 General Fund Budget and Setting the Date and Time for the Public Hearing - 2% Levy.

A motion was made by Council Member Ludescher, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to amend the motion to remove the money currently in the budget for the NDDC in the amount of \$35,000. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Ludescher and Mayor Graham

No: 4 - C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, C. Zweifel

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Mayor Graham, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

No: 1 - C. DeLong

11. [Ord. 984](#) Consideration of Ordinance Amending 2017 and 2018 Mayor and City Council Compensation.

City Administrator Martig 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 the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 984 - Amending Section 2-26 of City Code Relating to Council Compensation. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 3 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, and C. Ludescher

Recess

Council took a 5 minutes recess at 8:29 pm.

12. [Res. 2016-100](#) Consideration of Resolution Approving the Grant and Conveyance of Certain Tax Forfeited Lands in Northfield, Minnesota to the State of Minnesota (containing Part of Outlot D, Fargaze Meadows).

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

Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., asked who is asking for the land to be converted to housing. Stated he isn't aware of any overriding reason to do it now. Asked Council to leave as parkland and do something later.

City Administrator Martig answered questions posed by Council. Noted City Attorney Hood's opinion about process.

Community Planning & Development Director Heineman answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution 2016-100 - Approving the Grant and Conveyance of Certain Tax Forfeited Lands in Northfield to the State of Minnesota. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

No: 4 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, and C. Nakasian

13. [16-422](#) Discussion of Mill Towns Trail current alignment and alternate alignment.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Pownell, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to direct the Planning Commission to review the potential realignment of the Mill Towns State Trail and direct staff to bring back to Council information regarding:

- 1. Route realignment approval (Planning Commission and City Council); and**
- 2. Route realignment feasibility and cost estimation; and**
- 3. Carleton Arboretum alignment determination and impacts along with cost to develop the trail segment.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Mayor Graham, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel

No: 2 - C. DeLong, and C. Ludescher

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

City Administrator Martig noted the press release today on heavy rain forecast and flood information. Noted the upcoming NAFRS taxing district meeting. Noted NAFRS is working with a consultant looking at governance and how administrative duties are handled. Working on options for financing construction of a Fire facility and the legality of property ownership. Noted the compensation consultant was in last week meeting with employees. Noted discussions on strategic work plan items to include operational items such as governance as well as discussions with staff on board/commission responsibilities and liaisons. The Finance Policy Subcommittee met and will be bringing items forward. The group discussed how to communicate what is going on as well as a recommendation on defining roles & responsibilities of the group. Tax information has been received from Rice County. Staff will be bringing information to the October work session.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ludescher, seconded by Mayor Graham, to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mayor Graham, C. DeLong, C. Ludescher, C. Nakasian, C. Peterson White, C. Pownell, and C. Zweifel