



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zweifel called the meeting to order at 6:00 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: Library Director Natalie Draper; Streets & Parks Manager Andrew Tussing; Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett; Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer; City Administrator Ben Martig and City Clerk Lynette Peterson.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Zweifel addressed community concerns with a statement regarding recent federal immigration enforcement actions, acknowledging fear and disruption felt by residents and reaffirming Northfield's values as an open, safe, and welcoming community while noting the City does not control federal enforcement. She emphasized support for constitutional rights, local public safety professionalism, community partners, and called for transparency, de-escalation, and respect for due process, dignity, and public safety.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Zweifel noted 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. [26-043](#) Oath of Office Ceremony for Northfield Police Department Officer Fernando Sanchez-Elioza.

Police Chief Jeff Schroepfer introduced Officer Fernando Sanchez-Elioza. City Clerk Lynette Peterson administered the Oath of Office. Officer Sanchez-Elioza's wife pinned his badge. The Council took a photo with him, welcomed and congratulated him.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Sokup, seconded by Council Member Ness, 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. [26-044](#) Consider Approval of January 6, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

3. [26-045](#) Consider Approval of January 13, 2026 City Council Work Session Minutes.

4. [26-046](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$4,024,870.88

Enactment No: M2026-017

5. [Res. 2026-013](#) Consider Adopting Amended Schedule for 2026 City Council Meetings.

6. [26-047](#) Consider Approval of Mayoral Board and Commission Appointments.

Enactment No: M2026-018

7. [26-048](#) Consider Approval of Amended 2025-2027 Annual Service Contract for Northfield Historical Society.

Enactment No: M2026-019

8. [Res. 2026-014](#) Approve application for premises permit for the Waterford Warriors Snowmobile Club at Applebee's.

9. [26-049](#) Consideration of a Capital Membership Agreement with the City of Lakeville for Use of the FIRST Center Public Safety Training Facility

Enactment No: M2026-020

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

10. [26-050](#) Reports From the Mayor and Council Members.

Council Member Ness - No report.

Council Member Peterson White - No report.

Council Member Sokup - Mayor's Youth Council Meeting.

Council Member Beumer - Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting.

Council Member Dahlen - No report.

Council Member Holmes - Community Meeting for Jefferson Parkway and Mills Town Trail Project; Planning Commission Meeting; MLK Jr. Celebration; 2nd Congressional District Know Your Rights Meeting.

Mayor Zweifel - MLK Jr. Celebration.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 11. [26-051](#) Consider Motion Approving the Plans and Specifications for the Dresden Hill Park Playground Improvements and Authorize Bids.

Streets and Parks Manager Andrew Tussing introduced Landscape Architect Bruce Jacobson. Jacobson presented information on the Dresden Hill Playground Improvements plan and highlighted the project implementation plan. Jacobson answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Dahlen, to approve the plans and specifications for the Dresden Hill Park Playground Improvements and authorize bids. 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

Enactment No: M2026-021

- 12. [26-052](#) Consider Approving the Plans and Specifications for the Central Park Playground Improvement Site Improvements and Authorize Bids.

Landscape Architect Bruce Jacobson highlighted the Central Park Playground Improvement Site Improvements plan and the timeline for the project.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the plans and specifications for the Central Park Playground Improvement Site improvements and authorize bids. 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

Enactment No: M2026-022

- 13. [Res. 2026-015](#) Consider Resolution Supporting the Authority to Impose a Local Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefit, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by the Sales Tax Revenue.

City Administrator Ben Martig introduced the item giving background on the local option sales tax highlighting Riverfront Parks projects; NCRC project and the Library project including estimated project costs, estimated revenue along with the timeline and process. Martig answered questions from the Council. Mayor Zweifel noted one comment received via email regarding this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Beumer, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution No. 2026-015 Supporting the Authority to Impose a Local Sales Tax to Fund Specific Capital Improvements Providing Regional Benefit, to Establish the Duration of the Tax and the Revenue to be Raised by the Tax, and to Authorize the City to Issue Bonds Supported by Sales Tax Revenue. 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

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

14. [26-053](#) City Administrator's Update.

City Administrator Ben Martig updated the Council on upcoming City meetings and City operations.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Beumer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 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