



# City of Northfield

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

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Tuesday, November 21, 2017

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.*

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

**Absent:** 1 - Council Member Greg Colby

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [17-1121](#)

**A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve the November 14, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

### CONSENT AGENDA

*City Administrator Martig introduced the consent agenda items.*

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

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

2. [17-1122](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$322,686.51

3. [17-1123](#) Consider Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments to the Council City Employment Committee.

4. [17-1124](#) Consider Motion to authorize the purchase of 2017 John Deere front-end loader

## OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., spoke regarding taxes going up 14%, mentioned county assessments and strategy of the Council. Noted taxpayers can provide feedback now and invited people to attend the meeting on December 5 to let the decision makers know what they think of the tax increase.*

*Neina Abudlai and Teagan Watkins, youth representatives on the Library Board and juniors at Northfield High School, spoke about Library Board outreach. Have met with TORCH representatives and will be meeting Senior Center representatives.*

*Karna Hauck, Arts and Culture Commission and Northfield Arts cohort. Spoke about Arts Midwest and how they could be a resource for the community, spoke regarding the application to Arts Lab and the team representing Northfield reflecting a wide variety of community leaders and stakeholders. Northfield is 1 of 12 communities participating in the year-long experience. There are four retreats and the group is working toward a strategic plan.*

*Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., spoke regarding the property tax map included in the packet. Stated he is confused that the highest rate shown in red indicates an increase over 10%. Stated many buildings in the downtown historic district will have a 60-70% increase. Noted the Rice County assessor increased the valuation of his building from \$584,000 to \$735,000. Noted every dollar is important to downtown buildings. Stated the City doesn't need the EDA and HRA levies and asked Council to vote against them.*

*Greg Kneser, 1008 St. Olaf Ave., also serves on the Northfield Historical Society board. Encouraged Council to consider grant to reflect services provided by NHS to the greater community. Asked Council to consider material set forth in the initial request for \$45,000. Noted enhanced tourism as the museum is one of the key pull factors in downtown. Understand goal is to arrange business contracts for the City. Asked Council to help NHS sustain critical functions.*

## PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION

5. [17-1125](#) Public Hearing to certify 2017 Delinquent bills.

*Mayor Pownell opened the public hearing at 6:23 pm.*

*Finance Director Angelstad introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Ness, to close the Public Hearing at 6:25 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

6. [Res. 2017-105](#) Consider certifying delinquent charges to taxes payable 2018

**A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve Resolution 2017-105 - Certifying Delinquent Charges to Taxes**

**Payable 2018. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**REGULAR AGENDA****7. [17-1126](#) Discussion and Review of City Identification Ordinance and Program**

*City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. City Clerk Little answered questions posed by Council.*

*Olivia Frey, 401 Highland Ave., spoke regarding need for Municipal ID, noted story of elderly person without ID as well as her experience related to losing her drivers license for two weeks. Noted the Municipal ID gives the card holder greater confidence, security and dignity.*

*Kiera Cooney, youth representative on the Human Rights Commission, spoke regarding international students at the colleges and not needing to carry their passports if they had a Municipal ID, noted this is a step forward for LGBT community in being able to choose their gender, and helpful for youth that do not have a drivers license. Noted support in the High School.*

*Siri Hoff, youth representative to the Human Rights Commission, noted support at high school, great tool to make community stronger and inclusive for all.*

*Mar Valdecantos, 6 Fareway Drive, member of the Human Rights Commission and Neighbors United. Thanked Council for taking on the program. Noted this connects with the strategic plan. Stated people of color will feel more connected and it will help unite the community. Stated the Human Rights Commission understands the privacy issue and this won't put people at risk. Asked that there not be an age restriction on the card.*

*Teresa Stanley, 1101 Elm Str., spoke on behalf of the Link Center. Noted the Link Center helps people connect with area resources and is staffed with bilingual Spanish speaking volunteers. Hears a lot of support for Municipal ID. Offered the Link Center in some form of capacity for intake of applications or ID processing. Noted central location.*

*Caroline Pritchard, 825 Heywood Rd. and member of the Mayors Youth Council. Thanked City Administrator Martig & Mayor Pownell for participating in the informational meeting on Municipal ID at the High School on November 14. Over 100 students attended. Overall there was very little opposition, and most spoke in favor of the Council moving forward with Municipal ID. Noted value in linking to other uses/benefits.*

*Catherine Rosata, 1208 Lia Dr., thanked Council for considering program. Noted she has been a member of the community for 10 years and it can take a while to earn townie status in the community. Spoke as a representative of Isaiah and community of faith, noting that Municipal ID has a practical purpose and contracts the division seen in many communities.*

*Dimitri Beeby, 608 St. Olaf Ave. and Youth Peoples Action Coalition, confident Municipal ID would be a benefit to wide variety of people in Northfield. Noted there are many students without a drivers license and the Municipal ID would contain more information than is included on a student ID.*

*Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., noted spent 4 years making documentary films and*

videos on sexual harassment, sexual assault and desegragating high schools. Asked Council to be cautious. Stated he is unsure Northfield is the proper repository for these types of records. Concerned about Northfield being a repository for something they cannot handle well. Concerned about undocumented and if the Federal Government comes to town and requests records.

Mar Valdecantos, 6 Fareway Drive, member of the Human Rights Commission and Neighbors United. Spoke regarding New York City dumping data and noted it was related to members of City Council wanting to access the data. Stated this is why they don't keep records anymore.

Lucy Gonzales Miron, Human Rights Commission and member of the immigrant community. Stated the need for ID in her community for things such as children in Headstart as they are asked for ID when getting children. ID is also necessary at the hospital, clinic or emergency room. Noted wanting to have an ID card for her community.

## Recess

The Council took a five minute break at 7:27 pm. The meeting resumed at 7:34 pm.

8. [Res. 2017-106](#) Consider Resolution Ordering the Improvement for the 2018 Division & Seventh Street Reconstruction and Washington Street Overlay.

Engineering Manager Simonson introduced this item, noted revised resolution in supplemental memo and answered questions posed by Council. Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett provided additional information on the intersection of Division & 7th Street and answered questions posed by Council.

Dan Christophersen, NAPA owner, noted investment NAPA made in downtown over 20 years ago, noted property taxes paid and business sales, and spoke regarding landscaping added. Stated his #1 concern is parking and the effect on businesses. Would like to lose 10 or less parking spots as part of the project. Noted new businesses opening in area. Noted accident with school bus in bumpout area last Friday. Asked Council to keep downtown safe, keep businesses in mind, and to get the infrastructure work done.

Will Schroeer, 206 Winona Str., spoke regarding community input session where 143 people were in attendance and asking for things to be done differently. Thanked those for looking at other areas in town with him. Noted 37 complete streets projects around the country resulting in less accidents, lessened severity and cost.

Chris Kennelly, 205 Water Str., thanked Council and staff for looking at adding more parking back. Stated losing 19 stalls is too much. Would like angled parking on both sides of 7th Street. Discussed continuity to the rest of downtown. Feels traffic calming can be accomplished in other ways. Stated assessments will be over \$30,000 for the project for his building, that combined with a 27% tax increase and losing parking is hard to justify.

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., asked about raised intersection not meeting the standards. Understands it would have be done with an elongated intersection. Interested in lack of discussion about the 7th/Water Str. intersection. Noted examples of raised intersections aren't comparable or relevant to our situation.

Mike Witt, co-owner of Witt Brothers 701 Division, stated he is in the transportation

*business and would like parking increased. Noted he is concerned about his sign in the boulevard, and concerned about the raised intersection and drainage. Asked why there are not raised intersections included on Washington Street.*

*Marcea Frazier, 702 Washington Str., would like to be able to continue to use driveway as before. Noted they cannot park their vehicle in the garage as it is too tall. It is an inconvenience to not park in driveway. Noted this would also result in the loss of parking spots.*

*eComments were received from:*

*William Schroeer, 206 Winona Str., in support of the City's recommended plan with attachment containing questions and answers about the recommended streets improvement plan.*

*Dan Christophersen, 108 7th Str. E., in opposition of the proposed plan with attachment addressing concerns regarding the project.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve Resolution 2017-106 - Ordering Improvement 2017STRT-A38 2018 Division Street and Seventh Street Reconstruction, Project, and Washington Street Overlay and Miscellaneous City Parking Lot Rehabilitations Alternative Option 1A.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member DeLong, to amend the motion by adding in two diagonal spaces at the southeast corner of 7th/Division on 7th Street between NAPA & Witt Bros. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 2 - C. Nakasian and C. Ness.**

**No: 4 - C. DeLong, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel and Mayor Pownell.**

**At approximately 8:59 pm, a motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to extend the meeting by 20 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes: 5 – C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell**

**No: 1 – C. DeLong**

**At approximately 9:10 pm, Council Member DeLong called for a point of order related to Council Member Peterson White's statements. Mayor Pownell noted that she is OK with Council Member Peterson White's comments and asked her to direct them to the Chair and allowed her to continue.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to postpone this item to December 5, 2017. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**9. [17-1127](#)**

**Consider Approval of Northfield Historical Society Contract.**

*City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council.*

*eComments received from:*

*Lisa Peterson, 613 Hayes Dr., in support of the Historical Society contract proposal B.*

*David Bly, 211 Lincoln Str. N., in support of the Historical Society contract.*

*Barbara Evans, 205 Lincoln Str. S., in support of the Historical Society contract.*

*Teri Knight, 319 Plum Str. S., in support of the Historical Society contract proposal B.*

*Tom Lamb, Gould Library, 1 North College Str., in support of the Historical Society contract.*

*Christian Hakala, 1210 Maple Str., in support of the Historical Society contract.*

*Earl Weinmann, 409 Woodley Str., in support of the Historical Society contract proposal B.*

**A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve a three-year contract with the Northfield Historical Society with alternative proposal A for \$29,000/year.**

**A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to postpone this item to December 5, 2017.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**10. [17-1128](#)**

Update on pending lease amendment review with St. Olaf regarding senior housing project adjacent to Northfield Hospital and Clinics.

*City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Jerry Ehn, Northfield Hospital & Clinics, provided information on the senior housing project and answered questions posed by Council.*

**During the discussion of this item, a motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to extend the meeting time not certain.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**No:** 1 - C. DeLong

**11. [17-1129](#)**

Update on Northfield Area Fire & Rescue Services (NAFRS) fire station expansion project.

*City Administrator Martig introduced this item and provided an update on the fire station expansion project.*

**12. [17-1130](#)**

Review of 2018 Budget and Levy Presentation for December 5th Public Hearing

*City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Martig discussed doing EDA & HRA levies separately this year and then including those levies in the general levy resolution. Martig noted that carryover projects for items not completed are not included in numbers. An example would be the City Hall AV remodel project is expected to be completed in early 2018. Martig addressed questions on tax statements and noted they would illustrate additional scenarios. Asked that additional questions be sent to Finance Director Angelstad. Martig noted that specific valuation concerns is a spring issue for the assessors to handle.*

## ADJOURN

**A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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