



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Work Session

6:00 PM - CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council Member Brad Ness, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Council Member Jami Reister, Council Member George Zuccolotto, Council Member Kathleen Holmes, Council Member Davin Sokup, and Council Member Jessica Peterson White

Also in attendance: City Administrator Ben Martig, Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett, Finance Director Brenda Angelstad, Police Chief Mark Elliott, Library Director Natalie Draper, Community Development Director Jake Reilly, Utilities Manager Justin Wagner, Streets & Parks Manager Charlie Fredericks, and Deputy City Clerk/Executive Administrative Assistant Sara Hoffman.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. [24-460](#) Update/Discussion Mill Towns State Trail (Woodley Street to Waterford Bridge).

Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett introduced the item. Bennett discussed costs, state bonding received for the project, and detailed specific areas of the project.

Scott Haugen from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Kyle Renneke from ISG Group were also in attendance for the presentation.

Bennett, Haugen, and Renneke answered questions from the Council.

2. [24-461](#) Streets and Parks Division Organization Assessment.

Streets and Parks Manager Charlie Fredericks introduced the item. Elliott Hallett and Isaac Bales from Baker Tilly detailed the objectives of the analysis, the approaches they took, their initial observations, recommendations from their analysis, and compared the current and proposed organizational chart.

City Administrator Ben Martig, Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett, Fredericks, Hallett, and Bales answered questions from the Council.

RECESS

Council recessed at 7:01 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 7:10 p.m.

3. [24-462](#) 2025-2026 Budget Worksession.

City Administrator Ben Martig introduced the item and detailed the budget timeline. Utilities Manager Justin Wagner discussed the water treatment plant project costs, funding requests and provided an update on the wastewater treatment plant improvements. Wagner detailed benefits to a new water treatment plant, the project timeline, more detailed costs, and comparison costs to other cities.

Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett discussed stormwater flood improvements and possible garbage rate increases.

Wagner discussed recent staffing additions and expected personnel additions with the new water treatment plant.

Martig, Bennett, and Wagner answered questions from the Council.

Martig introduced the second part of the presentation. Finance Director Brenda Angelstad discussed tax base changes. Martig discussed the City's plan to increase the tax base, projects being considered, and high level budget topics to be discussed in more detail at later Council work sessions.

Martig and Bennett answered questions from the Council.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Reister, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Ness, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, C. Zuccolotto, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, and C. Peterson White