



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Present: 6 - Council Member David DeLong, Council Member Clarice Grabau, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Erica Zweifel, and Mayor Rhonda Pownell

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jessica Peterson White

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [19-1126](#) September 10, 2019 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the September 10, 2019 City Council Work Session Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

2. [19-1127](#) October 1, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve the October 1, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

PRESENTATIONS

3. [19-1128](#) Presentation from the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Lisa Peterson, President of the Northfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, provided an overview of CVB activities, strategic priorities, update on lodging tax received and proposed CVB budget for 2020. Peterson answered questions posed by Council.

4. [19-1129](#) Update from the Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee

Community Development Director Baker provided an update on the activities of the

Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee including the asset/opportunity inventory, work plan and the technical assistance provided by the National Park Service. Baker answered questions posed by Council. Norm Oberto, Committee Co-Chair, spoke regarding activities of the group and thanked Council and staff for their work on this effort.

5. [19-1130](#) Presentation by the Save the Northfield Depot update on project progress.

Alice Thomas, Save the Northfield Depot Secretary, provided an update on the progress of the Depot project. Thomas reviewed the goals for the project, latest progress, a recap of the volunteer efforts, donations made and expertise provided. Noted they will be seeking additional volunteers and donations as they work to complete the project. Thomas answered questions posed by Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

C. Ness noted he would be abstaining from voting on the consent agenda due to a potential conflict of interest related to the health insurance item.

City Administrator Martig introduced the items on the consent agenda.

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

Yes: 5 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

Abstained: 1 - C. Ness

6. [Res. 2019-114](#) Proclaim October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day as part of the “National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month” program.

7. [19-1131](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,462,981.98

Enactment No: M2019-142

8. [19-1132](#) Consider Community Event In-Kind Grant Support.

Enactment No: M2019-143

9. [19-1133](#) Consideration of License Agreement (Deck Encroachment) for 1413 Blue Flag Court.

Enactment No: M2019-144

10. [Res. 2019-115](#) Consider Resolution for Millstream Commons Minor Subdivision.

11. [19-1134](#) Consideration of 2020 Health and Life Benefits Renewal.

Enactment No: M2019-138

12. [Res. 2019-116](#)

Consider proclamation declaring October 20-26, 2019 National Friends of the

Library Week.

13. [19-1135](#) Consider Approval of Memorandums of Agreement for Law Enforcement Labor Services Sergeant Unit Law Enforcement Labor Services Patrol Unit, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 70 General Unit, and International Union of Operating Engineers Local 70 Utility Unit regarding discontinuance of Public Employee Insurance Plan as the employee's health insurance carrier effective January 1, 2020.

Enactment No: M2019-145

14. [19-1136](#) Consider Approval of Mayoral Appointment to the Heritage Preservation Commission.

Enactment No: M2019-146

15. [19-1137](#) Consider Approving BCA Joint Powers Agreement renewal for participation in the Minnesota Anti-Heroin Task Force Program.

Enactment No: M2019-147

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Margit Zsolnay, Library Board, spoke regarding the Library activities and use, importance of the Library, and what a great resource the Library is.

Bonnie Trotman, 1840 Kennedy Ct., thanked Council for approving the proclamation declaring October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day and supporting those that have been directly affected.

REGULAR AGENDA

16. [19-1138](#) Consider Approving Purchasing Policy Amendments.

City Administrator Martig introduced this item.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve the proposed amended purchasing policy with the Public Works Director/City Engineer added as a listed Department Head under the Department Head/Director/Manager Responsibilities section. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

Enactment No: M2019-139

17. [19-1139](#) Review of Draft Climate Action Plan.

Project Coordinator Kallestad introduced this item and noted members of the Climate Action Plan Advisory Board in attendance. Consultant Abby Finis, Great Plains Institute, reviewed the proposed Northfield Climate Action Plan, plan timeline and process, engagement, plan structure and content, goals, targets and plan impact, strategies, priorities, and actions for climate mitigation, and plan implementation. Finis and

Kallestad answered questions posed by Council.

Matt Rohn, 908 W. First Str., spoke regarding the issue of finances. Noted it is a very serious issue and one that the group has discussed. Asked Council to consider the cost of not doing it. Noted plan is short of what the IPCC says is needed not to be damaging should be carbon free by 2030. Noted many of the initiatives cost money upfront, but save money in the long term.

Martin Brice, representing Mayor's Youth Council, noted the MYC is developing a survey to gauge NHS students opinions and get responses from them regarding the Climate Action Plan. Reviewed the questions and noted activities that are taking place to make students aware of the plan. Brice stated they hope to present the results to the Council on November 5.

Robert Franklin, 301 7th Str. W., noted Village on the Cannon has its own committee on carbon reduction and will take information from City plan and try to institute these initiatives in their own building. Spoke regarding issues that may be a problem such effect on businesses that may make them reluctant to participate although it may save them in the long term. Asked Council to also consider earth source heat pumps.

Brian Nowak, EQC member, thanked the Council for the initiatives they have taken already. Noted this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Noted many in the community are excited about several parts of the plan.

Mary Ann Polley, 1012 Maple Str., excited about plan and the example Northfield is setting. Noted the church she attends has started a composting program and has reduced landfill bound waste by approximately 90%. This is made possible by the composting program Northfield has.

Philip Spensley, 505 Lincoln Str. N., noted he feels privileged to be part of the process and has received positive feedback from members of the community. Implementing the plan will cost money, but also creates an opportunity for economic growth. Spoke regarding the economic opportunity to develop a composting site in Northfield and look at recycling and reuse to save money and make money.

Steve Ostenkamp, 305 Division Str., is supportive of changes the City is looking for. However, noted concern with lack of financials associated with plan and the affect on senior citizens on a fixed income. Asked Council to not lose sight of the affect on those on a fixed income. Also concerned how costs will affect businesses. Asked Council to consider cost benefit ratios of trails versus reforestation. Balance of how as stewards we improve the town environmentally while using the dollars thoughtfully. Stated there is not the depth of analysis done that is needed for committing millions of dollars.

Martha Larson, 910 Union Str., member of CAPAB and Manager of Energy and Sustainability at Carleton College. Commended Council for their efforts. Spoke regarding the Climate Strike event. Spoke regarding importance of moving to the implementation phase. Noted plan is not perfect and financial impacts will need to be addressed. Noted at Carleton each project is analyzed with its own cost model, design effort, and rationale. Noted the rationale is mostly financial and also societal and climate based. It is cost prohibitive to complete that level of analysis for a conceptual development plan. Noted Council will have the opportunity to vet financial impacts on a project by project basis. Noted there will also be the opportunity for course correction along the way.

Alan Anderson, co-chair of CAPAB with Alex Miller, thanked council for developing the strategic plan. Noted scientific information coming out reminds us that this is urgent. Noted the National US Chamber of Commerce climate statement which ends with "inaction is not an option." Stated this recognizes the urgency of the challenges.

Ellie Hall-Holt, thanked Council for addressing climate issues. Noted it is very important to students at the High School. A plan in Northfield helps relieve anxiety about what will happen in the future. Seeing things in the community provides hope for the students.

Recess

The Council took at break at 8:06 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:15 pm.

18. [19-1140](#)

City Council discussion on the 2020 Mill and Overlay Project (Bikeway Concepts and Sidewalks) for the Third Street, Fourth Street and College Street segments.

Engineering Manager Simonson introduced this item. Brad Fisher, Bolton & Menk, reviewed options for the three corridors of the 2020 Mill & Overlay project and various options for each. Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett, Simonson, and Fisher answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to extend the meeting until the discussion is finished. Following the vote, Mayor Pownell declared the motion failed.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to extend the meeting to 9:30 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: 5 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel and Mayor Pownell
No: 1 - C. DeLong

Bob Will, Third Str., spoke regarding guidelines that were sent to residents that contained three criteria that should be followed related to the project. They are feasibility, cost effective, and is it necessary. Will noted all the options are feasible, only option 5 is cost effective in contrast to the other options, and he does not feel it is necessary. Spoke regarding Laura Baker School sidewalk connections that currently exist and the pedestrian traffic issues that could be created if changes are made to the sidewalk. Spoke about extra lot that could be sold in the future and the topography of the area.

Susan Hudson, 303 Elm Str. Noted four lots that are directly impacted by this project. Noted there was a neighborhood meeting on Saturday with 13-15 people in attendance and the consensus was no sidewalks. Strongly object to sidewalk on the southside of Third Str. between Maple and Oak. Noted she sees no walkers to school at Laura Baker School. Noted a neighborhood survey was taken and sent to the Council. Comments on the survey included that this is a low density area with little foot traffic that is accommodated by sidewalk on north side, tree impacts, carbon footprint, and noted areas with no sidewalks or sidewalks on only one side of the street.

Teresa Jensen, 302 Maple Str., urged Council to vote for Option #5.

Will Schroeer, 206 Winona, spoke regarding safety impacts and use impacts. Spoke regarding Bike & Ped Plan and other city plans with the goals of improving the safety and use. Noted there is a lot of information on how options 2 & 3 would improve safety and

use. Schroeder provided information from studies related to safety and usability.
Schroeder noted Options 2 & 3 provide better usability and improve safety for everyone.

A motion was made Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to extend the meeting 15 minutes to 9:45 pm. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Zweifel and Mayor Pownell

No: 2 - C. DeLong, C. Ness

TMP-5576

Third Street Sidewalk - 2020 Mill and Overlay Project

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve Option #5 for Third Street from Maple Street to Oak Street Sidewalk Extension (no sidewalk with this Mill and Overlay Project). The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - C. DeLong, C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, and C. Zweifel

No: 1 - Mayor Pownell

Enactment No: M2019-140

TMP-5577

Fourth Street Bikeway - 2020 Mill and Overlay Project

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Zweifel, to approve Option #1 - On-Street Cycle Track for Fourth Street from Nevada Street to Prairie Street. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

No: 1 - C. DeLong

Enactment No: M2019-141

TMP-5578

College Street Bikeway - 2020 Mill and Overlay Project

A motion was made by Council Member Zweifel, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve Option #2 - On-Street Cycle Track for College Street from First Street to Third Street. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. Grabau, C. Zweifel, and Mayor Pownell

No: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Nakasian, and C. Ness

Extend the meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to extend the meeting five minutes. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - C. Grabau, C. Ness, and Mayor Pownell

No: 3 - C. DeLong, C. Nakasian, and C. Zweifel

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.