



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Ness, 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. [17-902](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the June 13, 2017 City Council Work Session Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. [17-903](#)

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve the July 11, 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

PRESENTATIONS

3. [17-904](#)

Police Chief Nelson introduced Patrol Officer Scott Carlson. City Clerk Little swore in Patrol Officer Scott Carlson.

4. [17-905](#)

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Presentation

Jennifer Nelson, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) Vice President of Development, provided an update on SMIF lending and business resource activities in Northfield as well investments in early childhood programs, and grants to various agencies in Northfield and throughout Rice County. Ms. Nelson provided information on upcoming events. Jennifer Sawyer, Northfield resident and local board member, noted SMIF's great investment back to community and thanked the City for the donation.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the items on the consent agenda.

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

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

5. [17-907](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$410,379.36
6. [17-906](#) Consider Approval of Updated Joint Powers Agreement with the Cannon River Drug and Violent Offender Task Force
7. [17-908](#) Consideration of Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC) Senior Center Mechanic Systems Funding.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND RELATED ACTION

8. [17-909](#) Public Hearing for Liquor License for The Reunion, LLC - 314 Division Street S.

City Clerk Little introduced this item and answered questions posed by the Council.

Mayor Pownell opened the public hearing at 6:18 pm. A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Ness, to close the public hearing at 6:21 pm. 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

9. [Res. 2017-059](#) Consider Resolution Providing for the Sale of \$970,000 General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2017A, and \$460,000 Taxable General Obligation Tax Increment Refunding Bonds, Series 2017B.

Finance Director Angelstad introduced this item. Nick Anhut, Ehlers & Associates, provided information on the sale of bonds and answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Nakasian, to approve Resolution 2017-059 - Providing for the Sale of \$970,000

General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2017A and \$460,000 Taxable General Obligation Tax Increment Refunding Bonds, Series 2017B. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

10. [17-910](#)

Update of New Phosphorous Limits for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit.

Utilities Manager Wagner introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Mr. Wagner reviewed the new phosphorous limits and plant operations and noted City staff intends to respond that we will not be able to meet the proposed limits at the current flow. The limits would inhibit the City's ability to grow. Public Works Director/City Engineer provided information for this item. Council members suggested educational efforts for our citizens.

11. Ord. 991

Consider Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 82 Utilities related to Wastewater

Utilities Manager Wagner introduced this item, reviewed the proposed changes and answered questions posed by Council. Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett answered questions posed by Council.

A motion was made by Council Member DeLong, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 991 - Amending Chapter 82 Utilities Related to Wastewater. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

12. [17-911](#)

Consideration of Community Solar Subscription Agreement.

City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Finance Director Angelstad presented information related to the companies, qualitative review and answered questions posed by Council.

Mayor Pownell noted there were six eComments received for this item from the following: Carla Hansen 416 E. 6th Str., Naomi Bartley 11155 Kane Trail, Northfield, Michael Mandsager 2101 Taylor Ct, Beth Kallestad 755 Lathrop Dr., Cynthia Carau 1112 Lupine Dr, Susan Sinning 301 W. th St. Unit #1102.

Janet Petri, 209 Manitou Str. and member of the EQC, noted concerns about climate change and stated she is not speaking for the EQC rather her comments reflect her own opinion. Stated the climate is our biggest challenge as citizens and solar provides a way to save money while being greener. Spoke in support of this item.

Al Anderson, 2700 Oaklawn Dr. and member of Citizens Climate Lobby, reported on solar panels installed on his own home and adding more ground mounted panels. Stated he is impressed with how it works. Spoke in support of Council purchasing from Minnesota Community Solar. Spoke in support of moving to cleaner energy.

Mary Jo Cristofaro, Board Chair for Northfield Area Community Solar, noted Northfield Area Community Solar vetted companies to partner with. Minnesota Community Solar has Minnesota roots and local values. The Northfield Area Community Solar Board passed a resolution that any commission received would be given back to local community projects. They have been in contact with the Community Action Center regarding subscriptions for low income residents. Noted the Kilowatt hours that would

be provided of clean energy by the City subscribing to community solar. Spoke in support of this item and thanked the Council.

Don McGee, 710 Highland Ave., supported everything that was said but thinks the risks need to be addressed. Noted 25 years in today's economy is forever. Wants to make sure Council looks at the risk. Concerned that developers are insisting on 25 years. Encourages Council to go forward with eyes open.

Brian Nowak, 515 Nevada Court, noted time is of the essence. Noted greatest risk posed to us is climate change to our future generations. Noted nothing is risk free including dealing with big businesses such as Xcel. Noted solar has proven to be reliable and is getting better. Supported Council moving forward.

A motion was made by Council Member Nakasian, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve a subscription, pending legal review, with Minnesota Community Solar garden for 1.5 MW flat rate option as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

13. [17-912](#)

Discussion and further development of Strategic Plan (2018-2020).

City Administrator Martig introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council. Craig Rapp provided a final review of the one-page Strategic Plan Summary, the draft action plans and answered questions posed by Council.

Council members discussed items not specifically listed on the one-page summary such as Train quiet zones. City Administrator Martig and Craig Rapp noted that Train Quiet Zones could be done as an initiative or on a work plan. City Administrator Martig noted if there is an interest, this could be added to infrastructure or another category.

Council members were asked if they want to include additional items, they should identify those items and let staff sort out and come back. Council noted that the one page summary is an accurate representation of process to-date. The Train Quiet Zones and other items were discussed during the process, but they weren't included on the lists as the group worked through the process. These items can be included in work plans with other things such as the arts. Rapp clarified he would like Council to be in agreement with the high level plan so staff can start working on the details.

Craig Rapp reviewed the draft action plans. City Administrator Martig noted the questions he has received related to how we accomplish all of these items. Craig Rapp suggested using the 18 outcomes as the highest priorities and that the Council use this when bringing up new ideas. Council and staff need to evaluate how new initiatives fit within the priorities, does something need to be delayed or not done at all to incorporate something new, not do something. The plan may change as it is dynamic. Council needs to be mindful of that and incorporate the document into the discussions about new initiatives. Rapp also recommended a regular reporting system to look at on one page summary to see how we are doing meeting priorities.

Rapp noted level of service and daily operations still need to be accomplished. Those things may create ripples to strategic plan.

Rapp asked if Council is satisfied with one page summary. City Administrator Martig noted that vote is intended to take place on August 8. Noted staff will be continuing to work on further developing action plans and that Council, boards/commissions, and

public can all provide input.

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

City Administrator Martig provided updates on the Night to Unite event. Noted the Police Department will be working on communications for the event and will be providing some suggestions on how Council can participate. Intergovernmental meeting is tomorrow. Budgeting and Strategic Planning are taking huge amounts of staff time and effort.

Public Works Director/City Engineer Bennett provided an update on 2017 Street Improvement Project and reviewed the 2018 Street projects. Noted public meetings in early August with followup meetings later in August. Provided an update on the Ice Arena group related to options for remodeling or building a new arena. The group is looking at economic impacts and continues to work with St. Olaf.

14. [17-913](#)

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Ness - Reported on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board retreat. Attended the Ice Arena Task Force meeting.

C. Peterson White - None.

C. Nakasian - None.

C. DeLong - Reported on the Age Friendly Committee. Noted the group received a donation from an anonymous donor for the survey postage. Surveys will be coming out soon.

C. Zweifel - Noted the EQC met last week and they are excited about working on their portion of the Strategic Plan. Thanked Kurt Wolf & Deb Little for assisting with remote attendance.

Mayor Pownell - Reported on Human Rights Commission meeting. The group discussed Municipal ID. Noted upcoming appointed anticipated for August 8 for Human Rights Commission and Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.