



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

6:00 PM

[Goto Meeting](#)

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Council Member Clarice Grabau, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Council Member Jami Reister, and Council Member George Zuccolotto

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: 7 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

1. [21-166](#) Information on How to Provide Public Input and Watch the Meeting During the Pandemic.

PRESENTATIONS

2. [21-167](#) Presentation of 1% for the Arts Annual Report (2020).

Library Director Draper introduced the item and presented the annual report for the 1% for the Arts Program to include a description of artwork completed, obtained or commenced in 2020; a description of the Capital Improvement Projects designated for inclusion of public art by the City Council in 2021 and the funding source; and the budget for the income and expenditures for such Capital Improvement Projects. Draper answered questions from the Council.

3. [21-168](#) National Library Week presentation, April 4-10, 2021.

Library Director Draper introduced the item and presented on National Library Week including outreach; virtual programming; supporting the community; keeping lines of communication open; sharing impact; working together for the community and waiving fines for National Library Week. The Council commented on the presentation and Draper answered questions from the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the consent agenda.

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

Yes: 7 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

4. [21-169](#) Consider Approval of March 2, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes.
5. [21-170](#) Consider approval of March 9, 2021 Work Session Meeting Minutes.
6. [Res. 2021-024](#) Consider Resolution Accepting Gifts Received by the City of Northfield in 2020.
7. [21-171](#) Consideration of Consultant Agreement with FiftyNorth and Age Friendly Northfield Steering Committee Related to Age Friendly Northfield (AFN) initiatives.
8. [21-172](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,193,287.49
9. [Res. 2021-025](#) National Library Week proclamation, April 4-10, 2021.
10. [Res. 2021-026](#) Fine Forgiveness during National Library Week, April 4-10, 2021.
11. [21-173](#) Consider Approving Application for DNR Shade Tree Grant.
12. [21-174](#) Consider Approval of Mayoral Board/Commission Appointment.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

13. [Res. 2021-027](#) Consider Resolution of Support for State General Funds for a Corridor Study of Regional Passenger Rail Service Connecting South Central Minnesota and the Twin Cities on Existing Rail Line Through Northfield.

City Administrator Martig introduced the item.

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve Resolution No. 2021-027 Resolution of Support for State General Funds for a Corridor Study of Regional Passenger Rail Service Connecting South Central Minnesota and the Twin Cities on Existing Rail Line through Northfield. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

14. [21-175](#) Presentation of Strategic Plan (2018-2020) Report.

City Administrator Martig introduced the item highlighting the components of the plan to include the coronavirus pandemic; economic development; affordable housing; infrastructure; diversity, equity and inclusion; operational effectiveness; and climate

change impacts. Martig answered questions from the Council.

15. [21-176](#)

Discussion of American Rescue Plan and COVID-19 Mitigation.

City Administrator Martig introduced the item and presented information from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund including the allocation method, distribution, eligible/non-eligible uses and a timeline for the funding.

The Council discussed the closure of Water Street as in the fall of 2020.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve the closure of Water Street from 4th Street to Bridge Square as in the fall of 2020 adding picnic tables and postponing the placement of porta potties until a study can be completed on options for restrooms in the area with implementation of the closure at the discretion of City staff. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

16. [21-177](#)

City Administrator's Update.

City Administrator Martig gave an update on City operations and developments referencing the State of the City address.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Grabau - HRA meeting.

C. Nakasian - Climate Action Plan Meeting.

C. Zuccolotto - Meeting with Chief Elliott; paired meeting.

C. Reister - LMC Foundation Course; Mayor's Youth Council; Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; paired meeting; Personnel Committee Meeting; State of the City Address.

C. Ness - 911 Center Joint Powers Board Meeting; NAFRS Finance Committee Meeting.

C. Peterson White - none.

Mayor Pownell - Mayor for a Day Contest Winners; Winners referenced in the State of the City Address; thanked staff for work in completing the State of the City address.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto