



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Also present: Streets and Parks Manager Charlie Fredericks, Public Works Director/City Engineer David Bennett; City Administrator Ben Martig; Police Chief Mark Elliott and City Clerk Lynette Peterson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Ness, to approve the agenda. 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

PRESENTATIONS

1. [24-225](#) Presentation of Percent for the Arts Annual Report (2023).

Library Director Natalie Draper presented the 1% for the Arts Annual Report. Draper highlighted current and upcoming art projects.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

2. [24-226](#) Consider Approval of March 12, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Sokup, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

3. [24-227](#) Consider Approval of March 12, 2024 City Council Closed Meeting Minutes.
4. [24-228](#) Consider Approval of March 12, 2024 City Council Work Session Minutes.
5. [24-229](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$2,637,586.52
Enactment No: M2024-047
6. [24-230](#) Consider Approval of Temporary Liquor Licenses for the Defeat of Jesse James Days Committee.
Enactment No: M2024-048
7. [24-231](#) Consider Cannabinoid License for Groundwire Coffee Roasters DBA Little Joy Coffee, at 300 Division Street.
Enactment No: M2024-049
8. [24-232](#) Approve miscellaneous/concessions license for Northfield Youth Baseball Association at Sechler Park.
Enactment No: M2024-050
9. [Res. 2024-032](#) Consider Resolution Accepting \$899,143 in Public Safety Aid and a corresponding Budget Amendments increasing Revenue and Police Salaries in 2023.
10. [Res. 2024-033](#) Consider Resolution Proclaiming the month of April 2024 Fair Housing Month.
11. [Res. 2024-034](#) Consider Resolution Proclaiming April 27, 2024 as Earth Day in Northfield.
12. [Res. 2024-035](#) Consider Resolution Proclaiming Less Mow May in the City of Northfield for 2024.
13. [Res. 2024-036](#) Consider Joint Resolution for Orderly Annexation with Bridgewater Township for property associated with St. Olaf College.
14. [24-233](#) Consider Motion approving Construction Agreement with Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railroad.
Enactment No: M2024-051
15. [Res. 2024-037](#) Consider Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract - Northfield Transit Hub Project.
16. [Res. 2024-038](#) Consider Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract - Lincoln Waterway Box Culvert Improvement Project (STRM2022-K36).

17. [24-234](#) Consider Approving Professional Service Agreement for the 2025 Reclamation and Overlay Project.

Enactment No: M2024-052

18. [Res. 2024-039](#) Consider Resolution Approving Plans and Specifications and Authorizing Advertisement for Bid for Sanitary Sewer Lining Project.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fred Rogers, 12436 100th Street East, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Darlene Cox, 1517 Waters Edge Circle, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Patricia Owusu, 1712 Humphrey Court, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Jo Franklin, 1001 Freedom Court, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Augustus Lehn, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Jenny Hartley, 12436 100th Street East, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Fatin Abu Al Ardat, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Bill McGrath, 420 W. 8th Street, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Maggie Rogers, 12436 100th Street E., addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Angie Erickson, 817 First Street West, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Karine Morales Pined, Carleton College Student, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Tom Bullington, Hastings, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Hala Shabaita, 300 N. College Street, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Barbara Vaile, 217 S. Water Street, #203, addressed the Council in support of a resolution regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Jonathan Hill, 1713 Sunset Drive, addressed the Council in support of a resolution

regarding ceasefire in Gaza.

Gina Washburn, 1910 Roosevelt Drive, #34, addressed the Council regarding the Northcountry Cooperative Foundation proposal.

Brian Nowak, 801 Union Street, Representing Habitat Rice County, addressed the Council regarding Habitat for Humanity as an alternative for the Northcountry Cooperative Foundation in the Southbridge area.

Paul Reiland, 404 Nevada Drive, addressed the Council regarding Habitat for Humanity as an alternative for Northcountry Cooperative Foundation in the Southbridge area.

Vern Koester, 2351 Division Street South, addressed the Council regarding the Northcountry Cooperative Foundation proposal.

REGULAR AGENDA

19. [Res. 2024-040](#) Consider Resolution Approving the Riverside Lions Park Master Plan.

Streets and Parks Manager Charlie Fredericks addressed the Council regarding the final plan for Riverside Lions Park Master Plan. Fredericks introduced Consultant Bruce Jacobsen who presented additional information on the Riverside Lions Park Master Plan. Jacobsen and Fredericks answered questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Holmes, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to approve Resolution No. 2024-040 Approving Riverside Lions Park Master Plan. 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

Recess

Council recessed at 7:38 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.

20. [Res. 2024-041](#) Consider Resolution Accepting a Direct Legislative Appropriation of \$300,000.

Community Development Director Jake Reilly introduced the item explaining this is a direct appropriation from the State for infrastructure for a manufactured home park that is cooperatively owned. Reilly answered questions from the Council.

Gina Washburn, 1910 Roosevelt Drive, #34, addressed the Council regarding the appropriation.

A motion was made by Council Member Sokup, seconded by Council Member Zuccolotto, to approve Resolution No. 2024-041 Accepting a Direct Appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature for Deposit to the City's Capital Reserve Fund. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Ness, C. Reister, C. Zuccolotto, C. Holmes, C. Sokup, and C. Peterson White

No: 1 - Mayor Pownell

21. [24-235](#)

Northcountry Cooperative Foundation (NCF) Update and Request.

Community Development Director Jake Reilly presented background information on the Northcountry Cooperative Foundation project along with an update on the project. The Council discussed the project. Reilly and City Administrator Ben Martig answered questions from the Council.

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE22. [24-236](#)

City Administrator's Update.

City Administrator Ben Martig thanked staff and Council for their work on the State of the City event. Martig indicated federal funding was received for \$2.9 million for the design of the Water Treatment Plant. Martig gave an update on Legislative items and announced the retirement of Police Chief Mark Elliott on September 27, 2024.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Sokup - No report.

C. Peterson White - Friends of Downtown Northfield Meeting.

Extend the Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Peterson White, seconded by Council Member Holmes, to extend the meeting until business is complete. 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

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

C. Holmes - Park Board Meeting.

C. Zuccolotto - Viking Terrace residence association update.

C. Reister - Age-Friendly Northfield; Hospital Board Quality Assurance Meeting; NAFRS Meeting; Hospital Board Meeting.

C. Ness - No report.

Mayor Pownell - Update on Community Events; Hospital Board Meeting; State of the City Event; Park Board Meeting.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Peterson White, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 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