



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Council Member Suzie Nakasian appeared via interactive television technology due to out of town travel.

Present: 6 - Council Member Clarice Grabau, Council Member Suzie Nakasian, Council Member Brad Ness, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Council Member Jami Reister, and Council Member George Zuccolotto

Absent: 1 - Council Member Jessica Peterson White

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pownell noted information included in Supplemental Agenda Background Memorandums No. 1 and No. 2.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve the agenda removing under Presentations Item 4. 22-045 Presentation from Economic Development Authority. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

PRESENTATIONS

1. [22-042](#) Oath of Office Ceremony for Northfield Police Department Officers.

Police Chief Mark Elliott introduced Officers Nicole Malecha and Dominic Milne. City Clerk Peterson administered the Oath of Office to Officers Malecha and Milne and the families of both officers pinned their badges. The Council took a photo with Officers Malecha and Milne, welcomed and congratulated them.

2. [22-043](#) Climate Emergency Declaration Presentation.

Bruce Anderson, Northfield Environmental Quality Commission, introduced the item giving background information on the Climate Emergency declaration. Anderson asked the Council for support of the Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution that is on the consent agenda for tonight's meeting. Anderson answered questions from the Council.

3. [22-044](#) Presentation of Forest Bridgewater Sewer District and the development activity along I-35 and in Bridgewater.

Bridgewater Township Vice Chair Glen Castore and Forest Township Supervisor and Rice County P & Z Commissioner Charlie Peters introduced the item giving background information on the Forest Bridgewater Sewer District and development activity along I-35 and in Bridgewater. Rice County has been coordinating capital investment planning with

townships for this prospective development concept. A representative of the joint powers group had expressed some interest in municipal sewer connections for the project including Faribault, Lonsdale and Northfield. Currently there are no active requests. Castor and Peters answered questions from the Council.

5. [22-046](#) Presentation Update on Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Housing Coordinator Melissa Hanson introduced the item presenting an update on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) giving background information on the HRA including 2021 accomplishments, a 2022 budget overview and 2022 goals. Hanson answered questions from the Council. The Council thanked Hanson for her work with the HRA.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Administrator Martig introduced the Consent Agenda.

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

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

6. [22-047](#) Consider Approval of January 4, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.

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

7. [Ord. 1029](#) Consideration of Second Reading of Ordinance Amending Northfield City Code, Chapter 50 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provision, Section 50-57 - Climbing On or Jumping Off Bridges Prohibited.

8. [Res. 2022-008](#) Consider Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract - Fifth Street Bridge Maintenance Project.

9. [Res. 2022-009](#) Climate Emergency Declaration Resolution.

10. [22-048](#) Consideration of Authorization to Initiate a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project - WSTR2022-J32.

11. [22-049](#) Consider Approving Disbursements totaling \$1,249,656.08.

12. [22-050](#) Consider Summary Publication of Ordinance No. 1029 Amending Northfield City Code, Chapter 50 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provision, Section 50-57 - Climbing On or Jumping Off Bridges Prohibited.

13. [Res. 2022-010](#) Adopt Changes to Fees and Charges.

14. [22-051](#) Consider Approval of a Temporary Liquor License for St. Dominic School for March 26, 2022.
15. [22-052](#) Approve Reimbursement of Costs for Councilor Suzie Nakasian attending the National League of Cities (NLC) Congressional Conference.
16. [22-053](#) Redistricting Process, Timeline and Principles.
17. [22-054](#) Consider Motion to Approve Lease Agreement with Rice County at the Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC).

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Schuurman, 509 Ivanhoe Avenue, speaking on behalf of Northfield SHED, addressed the Council regarding affordable housing expressing support of the Local Housing Trust Fund agenda item.

Mar Valdecantos, 6 Fareway Drive, Rice County Neighbors United, addressed the Council in support of affordable housing.

Linda Perkins, 819 Mayflower Court, addressed the Council in opposition of the mask mandate.

Dayna Norvold, 27744 Denmark Avenue, Director of Habitat for Humanity, addressed the Council in support of the Local Housing Trust Fund.

Wade Canedy, 310 North Spring Street, addressed the Council regarding opposition to the proposed sidewalk that is going to be put on his property in the 2022 Northwest Overlay project and snow removal on the sidewalk.

Ben Dorr, 2009 Hidden Valley Road, addressed the Council in opposition of the mask mandate.

Rich Graves, 1202 Festler Court, addressed the Council regarding the livestream video for meetings not working correctly.

REGULAR AGENDA

18. [Res. 2022-011](#) Consider Resolution to Join the Membership in the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC).

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve Resolution No. 2022-011 Resolution to Join the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - C. Grabau, and C. Ness

No: 4 - C. Nakasian, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

19. [22-055](#) Presentation on Potential Local Housing Trust Fund including State Matching Grant Opportunity.

Housing Coordinator Melissa Hanson introduced the item giving an overview of what the Local Housing Trust Fund is. City Administrator Martig added additional clarification on the item. The Council indicated support in pursuing an ordinance and staff bringing more background information to a future meeting for consideration.

Recess

Council recessed at 8:11 p.m. Council meeting resumed at 8:24 p.m.

20. [Ord. 1030](#) Consideration of Emergency Ordinance Requiring Face Coverings in Indoor Spaces of Public Accommodation.

Police Chief Mark Elliott and City Administrator Ben Martig introduced the item giving background information on current rates of COVID at this time and cities implementing and/or considering mask mandates.

Lorraine Rovig, 1005 Washington Street, addressed the Council in support of the mask mandate.

Elliott and Martig answered questions from the Council.

Extend the Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Reister, to extend the meeting and finish discussion of the consideration of Emergency Ordinance Requiring Face Coverings in Indoor Spaces of Public Accommodation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

20. [Ord. 1030](#) Consideration of Emergency Ordinance Requiring Face Coverings in Indoor Spaces of Public Accommodation.

A motion was made by Council Member Reister, seconded by Council Member Grabau, to approve Ordinance No. 1030 Emergency Ordinance Requiring Face Coverings in Indoor Spaces of Public Accommodation. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

No: 2 - C. Ness, and Mayor Pownell

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

21. [22-056](#) City Administrator's Update.

City Administrator Martig reminded the Council that there will be no meeting on February 1st due to the Caucuses.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Due to time constraints, no reports were given.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Reister, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Grabau, C. Nakasian, C. Ness, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto