



City of Northfield

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

Meeting Minutes - Final City Council

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

Special/Closed Meeting

5:00 PM - SPECIAL/CLOSED MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pownell called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

City representatives and consultants present: Finance Director Brenda Angelstad, Police Chief Mark Elliott, City Clerk Lynette Peterson, Communications and Human Resources Director Michelle Mahowald, and City's Retained Legal Counsel with Flaherty and Hood Christina Petsoulis.

Mayor Pownell stated the following:

The agenda item for this closed special City Council meeting is to discuss legal strategy regarding pending litigation in the matter of City of Northfield v. Andrew Wierson.

This meeting of the City Council of the City of Northfield will be closed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3 (b) under the attorney/client privileged exception for Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

The grounds for closing it are as follows:

The City's need for absolute confidentiality outweighs the purposes served by the open-meeting law in this case based on the following:

- Absolute confidentiality is necessary so that the City Council and legal counsel can have a candid and open discussion to determine the available legal options to handle the litigation, including response strategy and possible areas of reconciliation.*
- The purpose of the closed meeting is not to make a decision behind closed-doors, but instead the purpose of the meeting is to determine the legal options for handling the litigation.*
- The only business to be discussed is the pending litigation.*
- An open session would be detrimental because it may take place in the presence of individuals involved in the litigation.*
- A closed session would benefit the public because the ultimate outcome of the litigation may impact the finances of the city.*

Council Member Zuccolotto joined the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Present: 6 - Council Member Sean Allen, Council Member Brad Ness, Council Member Jessica Peterson White, Mayor Rhonda Pownell, Council Member Jami Reister, and Council Member George Zuccolotto

Absent: 1 - Council Member Clarice Grabau

1. [22-597](#) Pending Litigation in the matter of City of Northfield v. Andrew Wierson.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Reister, to close the meeting at 5:05 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Allen, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto

ADJOURN

Mayor Pownell opened the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Ness, seconded by Council Member Allen, to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - C. Allen, C. Ness, C. Peterson White, Mayor Pownell, C. Reister, and C. Zuccolotto