



Northfield City Council MEETING MINUTES RECORD

Meeting: Regular City Council Meeting

Date: March 16, 2010 **Location:** Council Chambers **Start Time:** 7:00 p.m. **Adjourn Time:** 11:08 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Mary Rossing, Council Members Jim Pokorney, Jon Denison, Kris Vohs, Erica Zweifel, Rhonda Pownell and Betsey Buckheit

Members Absent: None

Others present: Jane McWilliams, Steve Engler, Kathryn Summa, Steve Rholl, Leif Knecht, Sheryl Joy, Community Development Director Brian O’Connell, City Engineer Katy Gehler, Finance Director Kathleen McBride, Wastewater Superintendent Glenn Lindroos, Recreation Manager Jason Eisold, Public Works Operations Engineer Brian Erickson, Information Technology Director Melissa Reeder, Assistant to the City Administrator Jennifer Nash, City Administrator Joel Walinski, City Attorney Chris Hood, Northfield News, KYMN and other interested citizens.

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Call to Order	At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Rossing called the meeting to order.	A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was declared.
Approval of Agenda	Disbursements, community gardens, administrator contract and Grace Whittier Fund Committee appointments will be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. An item appointing a representative to the Pearl Street Board will be added to the regular agenda.	A motion was made by C. Denison and seconded by C. Pownell to approve the agenda for March 16, 2010 as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.
Approval of Minutes		A motion was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Pownell to approve the city council meeting minutes for March 2, 2010. All in favor. Motion carried.
Consent Agenda		
Comments on Consent Agenda	None	
Approval of Consent Agenda	City Administrator Walinski introduced the items on the consent agenda.	A motion was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Buckheit to approve the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.
Resolution 2010-018 <i>Gambling Permit – Three Links</i>	Approving exempt gambling permit application for Three Links Care Center to conduct raffles at the Northfield Golf Club, 707 Prairie Street on August 5, 2010	
Ordinance No. 907 <i>Park Board Meetings</i>	First reading of Ordinance No. 907 – Amending Northfield Code Chapter 54, Article II	
Resolution 2010-019 <i>Arbor Day</i>	Proclaiming April 30, 2010 as Arbor Day in Northfield	

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Resolution 2010-028 <i>BCA - eCharging</i>	Authorizing staff to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for eCharging	
Ordinance No. 906 <i>EQC Meetings</i>	Second reading of Ordinance No. 906 – Amending Northfield Code Chapter 22, Article II	
Resolution 2010-020 <i>Labor Contract – LELS</i>	Approving the January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Memorandum of Agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services for the Police Patrol Unit #293	
Resolution 2010-021 <i>Trail Grant</i>	Supporting and authorizing the application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Parks and Trails Legacy Grant funding for the completion of a multi-use trail along the Cannon River	
Resolution 2010-022 <i>Trail Grant</i>	Supporting and authorizing the application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Local Trail Connections Program grant funding for a trail connection from the new East Cannon River Trail to Highway 3	
M2010-0041 <i>Appointment – Human Rights Commission</i>	Confirm the appointment of Ms. Corrine Smith to the Human Rights Commission for a three-year term ending December 31, 2012	
M2010-0042 <i>Appointments – Park Board</i>	Confirm the appointment of Ms. Robyn Peterson and Mr. David Hvistendahl to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board for three-year terms ending December 31, 2012	
Resolution 2010-025 <i>Discharge Permit – All Flex Inc.</i>	Reissuing a permit to All Flex, Inc. for industrial user discharge to the municipal wastewater treatment facilities	
Resolution 2010-027 <i>Google - Fiber</i>	To support a response to the request for information (RFI) by Google, Inc.	
Public Comments		
Open Public Comments	Leif Knecht of Bridgewater Township spoke about payments made from the City of Northfield to Bridgewater Township and the relationship between the Township and the City.	
Regular Agenda		
M2010-0043 <i>Disbursements</i>	<p>C. Denison spoke about payments made to Greene Espel, PLLP and Lampe Law Group relating to court ordered document preparation for the Lansing trial and stated that the City should seek restitution for costs.</p> <p>Kathryn Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave, asked that Council wait until Lansing matters are settled before making decisions.</p> <p>Council spoke about the status of the Lansing trial and whether the City should pursue any action in the future.</p>	<p>A motion (M2010-0043) was made by C. Buckheit and seconded by C. Vohs to REVIEW DISBURSEMENTS TOTALING \$775,251.40. All in favor. Motion carried.</p>

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
M2010-0044 <i>Community Gardens</i>	Administrator Walinski introduced this item. C. Denison asked questions about the process and expressed concern about potential increased liability. Sheryl Joy, 500 Woodley St W, member of a community garden group, spoke in favor of community gardens.	A motion (M2010-0044) was made by C. Zweifel and seconded by C. Denison to APPROVE THE ATTACHED PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING COMMUNITY GARDENS ON CITY OWNED LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD. All in favor. Motion carried.
Presentation		
Legislative Update <i>Representative Bly and Senator Dahle</i>	State Representative David Bly and State Senator Kevin Dahle presented information about work being done at the Capitol. Local projects were cut out of the bonding bill by the Governor by line-item veto, a compromise regarding GAMC is being worked on, budget cuts are being worked on. Bly and Dahle answered questions posed by Council relating to budget projections and budget cuts.	
Regular Agenda		
M2010-0045 <i>Appointment – Grace Whittier Fund Committee</i>	Administrator Walinski introduced this item which was moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda because two appointments were added.	A motion (M2010-0045) was made by C. Denison and seconded by C. Pownell to CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. HELEN PREDDY, MS. ERICA ZWEIFEL, AND MR. KRIS VOHS TO THE GRACE WHITTIER FUND COMMITTEE FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012. All in favor. Motion carried.
Resolution 2010-026 <i>Administrator Contract</i>	C. Zweifel asked a question relating to the length of severance benefits in the contract and HR Director Wheeler answered that it would be equal to six months. Council asked that next year’s evaluation start earlier in the year and a longer period of time for the evaluation discussion be scheduled, and asked about the potential of adding more frequent evaluations. Wheeler and City Attorney Hood responded that it would be possible to have more frequent evaluations but this would require a renegotiation of the agreement. Council decided to add informal goals discussions rather than another formal review.	A motion was made by C. Pokorney and seconded by C. Pownell to PASS RESOLUTION 2010-026 – APPROVING THE MARCH 9, 2010 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2011 EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR. All in favor. Motion carried.
M2010-0046 <i>Appointment – Pearl Street Board</i>	Administrator Walinski introduced this item which was added to the agenda at the meeting.	A motion (M2010-0046) was made by C. Pownell and seconded by C. Vohs to CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER JON DENISON TO THE PEARL STREET JOINT POWERS BOARD FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2010. All in favor. Motion carried.

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<p>Resolution 2010-023 M2010-0047</p> <p><i>4th Street</i></p>	<p>City Engineer Gehler spoke about recent public meetings and introduced the resolution approving plans and specifications for 4th Street Reconstruction.</p> <p>Griff Wigley, 1123 Heritage Dr, stated that he believes trees should be a part of the 4th Street design.</p> <p>Leif Knecht, owner of Knechts Nurseries, stated that there are species of trees that could survive in 4th Street locations.</p> <p>Keith Covey, 611 St. Olaf Ave, urged Council to reconsider the removal of trees from 4th Street.</p> <p>City Engineer Gehler answered questions relating to the possibility of replacing trees on 4th Street and spoke about standards for sidewalk space.</p> <p>Council discussed the possibility of adding trees to the streetscape design.</p>	<p>A motion was made by C. Pownell and seconded by C. Pokorney to RESCIND THE MOTION FROM MARCH 2, 2010 THAT APPROVED OPTION 1 FOR 4TH STREET DESIGN. Pownell and Pokorney withdrew their motion and second.</p> <p>A motion was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Denison to PASS RESOLUTION 2010-023 – APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR 2009 IMPROVEMENT NO. 005 – 4TH STREET INCLUDING ADJACENT BLOCKS OF UNION, COLLEGE, WINONA, AND NEVADA. All in favor. Motion carried.</p> <p>A motion was made by C. Pokorney to DIRECT STAFF TO ADD FAUX BUMPOUTS AND ADD TREES TO THE MID-SECTION OF 4TH STREET. The motion died for lack of second.</p> <p>A motion (M2010-0047) was made by C. Pownell and seconded by C. Pokorney to DIRECT STAFF, GIVING THEM AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISION, TO PUT SOME TREES IN THE SIDEWALK AREA FOR 4TH STREET. All in favor. Motion carried.</p>
<p>M2010-0048</p> <p><i>Northwest Utilities Extension</i></p>	<p>City Engineer Gehler introduced this item and answered questions posed by Council relating to infrastructure placement and potential future funding sources.</p>	<p>A motion (M2010-0048) was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Denison to AUTHORIZE STAFF TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SRF CONSULTING GROUP, INC. FOR THE ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTHWEST UTILITIES EXTENSION. Yes votes by Vohs, Pownell, Pokorney, Zweifel, Denison and Rossing. No vote by Buckheit. Vote is 6-1. Motion carried.</p>

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Resolution 2010-024 <i>2010 Pool Fees</i>	Recreation Manager Eisold introduced the proposed 2010 pool fees and spoke about changes from 2009 fees.	A motion was made by C. Denison and seconded by C. Pokorney to PASS RESOLUTION 2010-024 – ADOPTING 2010 POOL FEES. All in favor. Motion carried.
M2010-0049 <i>Dan Patch Line</i>	Administrator Walinski spoke about a gag order placed on a study of railway corridor lines and the proposed motion which would support removing the gag order.	A motion (M2010-0049) was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Denison to SUPPORT THE REMOVAL OF THE GAG ORDER PLACED ON THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF RAILWAY CORRIDOR LINES CONDUCTED BY THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WHICH INCLUDES THE PROPOSED DAN PATCH CORRIDOR. FURTHERMORE, THE CITY COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT MAYOR ROSSING SEND LETTERS TO REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BLY AND SENATOR KEVIN DAHLE SUPPORTING THEIR EFFORTS TO LIFT THE GAG ORDER IMPOSED BY THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE AND THEIR ONGOING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION IN MINNESOTA. All in favor. Motion carried.
Discussion <i>Budget</i>	Finance Director McBride and Administrator Walinski introduced a discussion of potential 2010 budget cuts. Council discussed the potential of surveying residents to find priorities, if boards and commission or community groups could be consulted, how to present potential service cuts to the public, if some services need to be protected, if additional fees are on the table, if the City could sell some non-essential assets, if a special taskforce should be formed, and how the organization is structured.	Discussion
Discussion <i>2010 Goals</i>	C. Pokorney and C. Buckheit spoke about how they organized the draft of 2010 Council goals. Council discussed the draft and specific points in it. Council will prioritize goals under the three strategic directions and discuss the draft again in April.	Discussion
Reports from Mayor and Council	Council Members reported on the following:	
C. Pownell	- Census forms are here; send them back	
C. Zweifel	- PACE legislation	

Item	Discussion/Conclusions	Action
Adjourn		
Adjourn the meeting	Time: 11:08 p.m.	A motion was made by C. Buckheit and seconded by C. Vohs to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Submitted by: _____
 Jennifer Nash
 Assistant to the City Administrator

Attest: _____
 Mary Rossing
 Mayor

 Deb Little
 City Clerk