

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 4, 2005 – 7:00 P.M. – CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Lee Lansing, Council Members Arnie Nelson, Jim Pokorney, Galen Malecha, Dixon Bond, Scott Davis and Kris Vohs

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Summa, Don Tarr, Ron Linde, Paul Niemisto, Rebecca Bazan, Joan Behr, Keith Covey, Jeanne Massey, Jim Blaha, Mike Thorsteinson, Police Chief Gary Smith, Accounting Manager Brian Grimm, Operations Manager Joel Walinski, Director Brian O’Connell, Director Public Works Heidi Hamilton, City Administrator Susan Hoyt, Finance Director/City Clerk Karl Huber, Recording Secretary Mary Grant, Northfield News, KYMN and other interested citizens.

Call To Order

At 7:00 p.m. Mayor Lansing called the meeting to order.

A roll call was taken of members present and a quorum was declared.

Open Public Comments:

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., questioned if the garbage enclosure being built would be city funded.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by C. Davis and seconded by C. Bond to approve the agenda for April 4, 2005 as amended. a) Add Item #5a Proclaiming Saturday, April 30, 2005 as the 9th Annual Northfield Community Day of Service. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by C. Bond and seconded by C. Vohs to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2005. All in favor. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by C. Davis and seconded by C. Vohs to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1) MOTION (M2005-0027) – APPROVE DISBURSEMENTS AND LICENSES

Presentation

- 2) Don Tarr, Northfield Area Foundation, gave a presentation on the Northfield Area Foundation, which was created in 1993 to receive and manage endowment funds and provide grants for the benefit of the greater Northfield community.
- 3) Police Chief Gary Smith recognized Dr. Ron Linde for his many years of service with the Northfield Human Rights Commission and for receiving the 2004 Northfield Human Rights Commission Award.

Dr. Ron Linde thanked the Human Rights Commission for the recognition and the City of Northfield for having the Human Rights Commission board to help educate the public and prevent discrimination.

A motion (M2005-0028) was made by C. Malecha and seconded by C. Bond to RECOGNIZE DR. RON LINDE FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE NORTHFIELD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND FOR RECEIVING THE 2004 NORTHFIELD HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AWARD. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 4) C. Bond recognized Dr. Paul Niemisto for his contribution to the Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra (CVRO).

Rebecca Bazan, Northfield Arts Guild expressed appreciation to Paul Niemisto for his 25 years of service to the CVRO and the Northfield Arts Guild and to Ron Linde and Don Tarr for their hard work and efforts in the community.

Dr. Paul Niemisto talked about the arts as being an important part of this community and thanked all of the players and other hard workers of the orchestra and the audiences. Niemisto mentioned that the orchestra would be performing on Sunday April 17, 2005 at 7:00 pm at the Northfield Middle School Auditorium.

Orchestra member Joan Behr talked about all the time and energy that Dr. Niemisto has put into the orchestra and thanked him on behalf of the orchestra.

A motion (M2005-0029) was made by C. Bond and seconded by C. Vohs RECOGNIZING THE CANNON VALLEY REGIONAL ORCHESTRA (CRVO) AND DR. PAUL NIEMISTO FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORCHESTRA, AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dr. Niemisto mentioned a festival/conference with guests from Austria being planned for July 26 – 31, 2006.

- 5) City Administrator Susan Hoyt announced that the City of Northfield has received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for excellence in Financial Reporting for the city's 2003 annual financial report and recognized Finance Director Karl Huber and Accounting Manager Brian Grimm for their work in preparing the annual report so that the City could receive this award.

Finance Director Karl Huber and Accounting Manager Brian Grimm stated that this is truly a great honor for the City and thanked Council and Staff for their support.

Mayor Lee Lansing presented Certificate of Achievements to Dr. Ron Linde, Paul Niemisto, Karl Huber and Brian Grimm.

- 5a) C. Davis introduced Motion (M2005-0030) Proclaiming Saturday, April 30, 2005 as the 9th Annual Northfield Community Day of Service.

Keith Covey talked about the sponsors of this annual event and how to become a volunteer. He thanked the Council for their support.

{C. Bond stepped down from the table.}

A motion was made by C. Vohs and seconded by C. Davis to PASS MOTION (M2005-0030) PROCLAIMING SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2005 AS THE 9TH ANNUAL NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY DAY OF SERVICE. All in favor. Motion carried.

{C. Bond stepped up to the table.}

Regular Agenda

- 6) City Administrator Susan Hoyt introduced a motion to consider approving new leases for the tenants of the Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC) and provided some background information.

Jeanne Massey, Ehlers provided a brief summary of the process.

A motion was made by C. Pokorney and seconded by C. Vohs to PASS MOTION (M2005-0031) APPROVE LEASE AGREEMENTS DATED APRIL 2, 2005 FOR THE NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 659, THE COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER OF NORTHFIELD, THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY ACTION INC., THE NORTHFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS INC., THE NORTHFIELD AREA UNITED WAY, THE RICE COUNTY MEDIATION SERVICES, THE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE, PROJECT SITE AND LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES AS TENANTS IN THE NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (NCRC), A CITY OWNED AND MANAGED FACILITY. (Minor corrections permitted.)

Victor Summa, 812 St. Olaf Ave., questioned if the tenants were paying rent or paying a share of the operating costs and how the costs went down.

City Administrator Hoyt responded that the tenants are paying rent.

Jeanne Massey, Ehlers responded that actual costs rather than projected costs are being used.

Northfield Community Resource Center (NCRC) tenants Jim Blaha, Community Action Center and Mike Thorsteinson, Three Rivers Community Action spoke in favor of the agreements and the process that was used.

A question and answer period ensued.

Vote on motion to approve lease agreements. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion (M2005-0032) was made by C. Nelson and seconded by C. Bond to APPROVE THE CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD AND THE NORTHFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 659. All in favor. Motion carried.

- 7) A motion (M2005-0033) was made by C. Bond and seconded by C. Malecha that AUTHORIZES THE TRANSFER OF \$6,000 FROM THE 2005 GARBAGE FUND RESERVE FUND TO THE GARBAGE FUND, TO ALLOW FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ROUTINE BRUSH BURNING AT THE COMPOST SITE. Operations Manager Joel Walinski gave the staff report and answered questions from Council. All in favor. Motion carried.

Reports From The Mayor and Councilmembers:

C. Malecha noted that an Economic Development Authority meeting has been scheduled for 7:30 am on Tuesday, April 5, 2005.

C. Vohs reported on a special Housing and Redevelopment Authority meeting to review plans on the Maple Hills construction.

C. Davis reported on the Hospital Board meeting of March 31, 2005 and gave an update on plans for the City Web Site.

C. Bond reported on the following:

- Hospital Restructuring discussions
- League of Women Voters host a hospital discussion on April 5, 2005
- Rice County Board meeting update
- Attend Mill Towns Trail Open House on March 24, 2005
- League of Minnesota Cities Capital Day on March 31, 2005
- Rethinking Minnesota Taxes at the NCRC on April 5, 2005

Administrator Update:

City Administrator Susan Hoyt reported on the following:

- Meeting with Friends of the Outdoor Pool
- Dundas Meeting on Stoneridge
- Joint Planning efforts with Dundas and Townships
- Wastewater Evaluation
- Citizen Survey and Retreat Notes for review

Community Development Director Brian O’Connell gave an update on the Riverfront Redevelopment.

Public Works Director Heidi Hamilton gave a Highway 3 update.

Adjourn

A motion was made by C. Davis and seconded by C. Malecha to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Time: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Grant
Recording Secretary

Karl Huber, Jr.
Finance Director/City Clerk