



NORTH BRANCH

—Minnesota—

Kevin Schieber
Mayor

Robert Canada
Councilmember/Acting Mayor

Travis Miles
Councilmember

Kelly Neider
Councilmember

Peter Schaps
Councilmember

**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR AGENDA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024 @ 6:15 PM
CITY HALL, 6408 ELM STREET, NORTH
BRANCH, MN 55056**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The North Branch City Council met in Worksession and Mayor Kevin Schieber called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Schieber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Kevin Schieber, Councilmember Robert Canada, Councilmember Travis Miles, and Councilmember Peter Schaps

Absent:

Remote: Councilmember Kelly Neider was present in an observer capacity only due to not providing a three-day notice for remote participation.

Others Present: Interim City Administrator Ziemer, Police Chief Meyer, Fire Chief Heinen, City Clerk/IT Director Varma, Finance Director Wright, Publicworks Director Williams and GIS Specialist/Parks Director Sondrol along with members of the public.

Notes: Interim City Administrator Ziemer took the roll call.

4. WORKSESSION ITEMS

- a. Local Primary Elections

INFO

Interim City Administrator Ziemer led the topic of holding a local primary election as laid out in the memo. Councilmember Schaps discussed the idea of holding a local primary election to enhance the quality of candidates and provide citizens with better choices for voting. It was also mentioned that the open primaries could benefit the City by removing party affiliations, allowing voters more freedom in their selection process. Councilmember Schaps and Neider were in favor of holding, while Mayor, Councilmember Miles and Canada were not due to costs, population size and burden on staff time, which were the main topics of discussion around holding a local primary election. Council decided to bring this topic back to the March 12th, 2024 worksession meeting for discussion, since the Council must decide whether to go ahead with a local primary or not before the deadline, which is April 15, 2024, via an ordinance if the City was to hold a local primary election during the even years.

b. MN Public Safety Aid

INFO

Finance Director Wright led the discussion on the receipt of MN Public Safety Aid Funds at the end of December 2023 in the amount of \$486396, which was not anticipated during the regular budget planning due to its restrictions and specific use for public safety. The funds are strategically allocated, which is a significant change in plans from purchasing radios to joining a County shared services agreement and various equipment for the Police & Fire Department, such as computers, a speed trailer and others as laid out in the memo. Additional civil defense sirens are also being considered to improve emergency communications along with others. After these considerations, \$132,000 remains un-allocated, with options still being evaluated. The Interim City Administrator Ziemer, Fire Chief, and Police Chief took turns in addressing the Council on the use of the funds and their needs. Mr. Ziemer stated that the item would be brought to the next regular meeting for voting.

c. Discuss Joint Council-Commission Meeting

INFO

Mayor Schieber stated that he has been getting various communications from different Commissioners to hold a joint meeting as a listening session on roles, responsibilities and objectives and looking at February 29, 2024, to do that if all the logistics work for everyone or else on another day. The council was in consensus for such a meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schieber made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6.59 pm and was seconded by Miles. Motion carried.

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Kevin Schieber

SECONDER: Travis Miles

AYES: Kevin Schieber, Robert Canada, Travis Miles, Peter Schaps

ABSENT:

NOTES: Councilmember Kelly Neider was present in an observer capacity only due to not providing a three-day notice for remote participation.

APPROVED: Heidi Schieber ATTEST: Ragini Varma

