

**CITY OF NORTHGLENN
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 17, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Leighty called a special meeting of the Northglenn City Council to order on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:02 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL Present were Mayor Leighty, Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Council members Burns, Jaramillo, Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, and Walker.

ABSENT None.

STAFF PRESENT City Manager Geyer, Deputy City Manager Loveland, City Attorney Hoffmann, and City Clerk Small.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

PRESENTATION:

Crisis Response Unit Update

Crisis Response Unit (CRU) Program Manager Jessica Hulse presented an update on the CRU’s activities for Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 2025. Program Manager Hulse reported on referrals, crisis and homelessness intervention, targeted violence prevention, case studies, the program’s financial impact, and program funding.

Council thanked Program Manager Hulse and the CRU team for their leadership, strong partnerships, and compassionate service, describing the program as a regional model. Council also discussed coordination with the new Aurora Regional Navigation Campus and expressed interest in touring the facility.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Potential Public Facilities Standards Amendment

Mayor Leighty opened the public hearing on a potential amendment to the Public Facilities Standards.

City staff, including Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture Amanda Peterson, City Manager Heather Geyer, Police Chief James May, and CRU Program Manager Jessica Hulse, provided a presentation on the Public Facilities Standards, as amended by Council Resolution No. 25-54. Information presented included: the purpose of the Public Facilities Standards, the public’s concerns about E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park and the use of the park, the City’s response to people experiencing homelessness and

encampments, park improvements, public safety calls for service, and impacts of organized lunch ministries for people experiencing homelessness held in E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park on a recurring basis.

Staff addressed questions from Council regarding the Public Facilities Standards, specifically the definitions of “outdoor space” and “group use”; some causes and vulnerabilities associated with homelessness, to include mental health, family conflict, and substance use and their impacts on other park users; funding and responsibility for encampment cleanup; the identity and role of the park lunch ministry hosts, to include any church affiliations; and details about the location and availability of the Adams County Human Services facility as an alternative site for hosting the lunch ministries.

Mayor Leighty called for anyone wishing to speak either “for” or “against” the Public Facilities Standards.

Jeanne Nelson, 11701 Grant Street, spoke about the lunches served in E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park, emphasizing that volunteers do not invite participants, do not restrict access, and move locations when pavilions are reserved. Jeanne said many lunch participants consider the park their neighborhood and are not able to travel to the Adams County Human Services facility at 118th Avenue and Huron Street. Jeanne stated the gatherings include a mix of community members, not only unhoused individuals, and that volunteers aim to offer friendship and support.

Madison Hughes, Ward 3, shared that she frequently uses E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park while nannying and enjoys the park’s amenities. Madison expressed concern about large gatherings of unhoused individuals at lunchtime, stating that occupied picnic areas, trash, and occasional police activity related to substance use make the space feel unsafe for her and the children in her care. She stated that, while she supports feeding people in need, she believes it should occur in a way that does not reduce accessibility or safety for other park users. She encouraged those hosting lunch ministries to collaborate with the Crisis Response Unit to provide services in a more appropriate location so the park remains comfortable and welcoming for all residents.

Logan Mackintosh, 14236 Glencoe Street, spoke in opposition to characterizing park lunch participants as a safety threat. He shared that he grew up spending time at E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park with his father, Pastor Dustin Mackintosh. He stated that increased public safety calls for service reflect community fear, not actual increases in dangerous incidents, and argued that the examples presented by

the City conflate correlation with causation. Logan expressed concern that the narrative creates fear and discrimination toward people who look different. He urged the City not to use policy to push unhoused individuals out of public spaces.

Melissa Ryan, Ward 3, described ongoing personal safety concerns regarding E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park over the past several years, including aggressive behavior, drug use, overdoses, public indecency, trash, and encampments near her home. She noted frequent calls to police and the burden placed on nearby residents to clean up hazardous debris. Melissa emphasized that, while she actively volunteers to support unhoused families and believes in helping vulnerable people, she feels the park lunch gatherings create unsafe conditions and draw individuals from outside Northglenn. She urged churches to provide meals on their own property or in alternative locations. As an alternative, she suggested the City require permits, charge fees, enforce cleanup responsibilities, and provide police presence if large lunch gatherings continue. She expressed support for maintaining the Public Facilities Standards but proposed limiting group size to no more than eight if changes are considered.

Ryan Easterling-Babin, 11625 Community Center Drive, stated that he does not believe the Public Facilities Standards intend to restrict religious freedom but rather address safety concerns at E.B. Rains, Jr. Memorial Park. Ryan suggested that the policy is ineffective because people have relocated elsewhere in Northglenn, such as near his apartment where he regularly finds trash. Ryan stated the policy has created unintended consequences, restricting normal park activities, such as Pokémon Go gatherings, and does not address root causes of homelessness. He urged Council to consider more effective approaches, such as addressing panhandling in the area and creating a permit or exception process that would allow churches or groups to gather responsibly, requiring coordination with the Police Department, ensuring cleanup, and enhancing safety at the park.

Rebekah Robinson-Eudis, Ward 2, stated she believes the most recent version of the Public Facilities Standards should be repealed, arguing that the updated definitions of “group use” and “recurrent” are overly broad, arbitrary, and being selectively enforced in a way that criminalizes charitable activity and disproportionately harms unhoused residents. She expressed concern that the ordinance infringes on freedom of assembly and religious expression, treats ordinary community interactions as violations, and addresses symptoms rather than the root causes of homelessness. She asked Council not to use the actions of a few individuals to justify collective punishment and urged them to repeal the Public Facilities Standards, as amended, to restore the ability of faith-based groups

to serve the unhoused.

Dustin Mackintosh, 14236 Glencoe Street and pastor of Next Step Church, stated that he and the ministries serving lunches in the park believe the Public Facilities Standards violate their First Amendment rights. He noted that they have filed a federal lawsuit challenging the rule and offered copies of the complaint to Council. He concluded by thanking City Council and expressing well-wishes for the community.

Trevor Hosterman, Ward 2, urged Council to repeal the Public Facilities Standards, as amended. He argued that the amended standards are overly vague and enable selective enforcement. He stated the rules could technically apply to ordinary, harmless community activities such as family picnics, weekly parent meetups, or pickup soccer games, undermining community values and punishing normal fellowship rather than addressing actual safety concerns.

Mayor Leighty called for anyone else wishing to speak either “for” or “against” the Public Facilities Standards. As there was no response, Mayor Leighty closed the public hearing.

DISCUSSION ITEM:
Managing Public Spaces

City Manager Geyer reviewed Council considerations outlined by staff and asked the City Attorney to elaborate on the lawsuit.

City Attorney Hoffmann clarified that the City has not yet been formally served with notice of the lawsuit referenced during public comment and would need an opportunity to review it once received. He noted that the City has also received 51 written public submissions on the issue, in addition to the testimony heard during the meeting. Given the volume of information and the upcoming transition to a new Council on December 8th, he recommended postponing any decision on the Public Facilities Standards until a mid-December meeting so the incoming Council members can fully participate. City Attorney Hoffmann also advised that the City Prosecutor has already continued the pending citations issued under the current Public Facility Standards and can continue to do so until Council reaches a final determination in the matter.

There was discussion regarding the enforcement of Public Facility Standards with regard to other groups such as pickleball leagues, personal trainers, and recurring gatherings; definition clarity, such as how “group,” “recurrent use,” and “impeding access” apply to families, jogging groups, and casual meetups to play Pokémon Go; the legal process regarding the announced lawsuit, service requirements, and timing; whether the Parks & Recreation Advisory

Board will make a recommendation; and the availability of additional safety data from the Police Department.

Council members thanked the public for their extensive input, both in-person testimony and more than 50 written submissions. Council members also emphasized the need for additional time to review the large volume of information, especially with a new Council being seated on December 8th.

Mayor Leighty concluded the meeting by noting Council will need time to thoroughly evaluate all information and consult with legal counsel before determining next steps.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

JOHANNA SMALL, MMC
City Clerk

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor