

**CITY OF NORTHGLENN
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 26, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Leighty called a regular meeting of the Northglenn City Council to order on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 6:04 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL Present were Mayor Leighty, Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa, Council members Burns, Jaramillo, Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, and Walker.

ABSENT None.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

RESPONSE TO RESIDENT INQUIRY: None.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS: None.

INTERVIEWS:

Celina Martinez Celina “Sally” Martinez came forward to be interviewed for a position on the Citizens’ Affairs Board (CAB). Sally provided information about herself and her interest in serving on the CAB. Sally also addressed questions from Council about residents’ top three priorities and spoke about code enforcement, expired license plates on vehicles, and crime.

Jeremy Dittmer Jeremy Dittmer came forward to be interviewed for a position on the Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board. Jeremy provided information about himself and his interest in serving on the VALE Board. Jeremy addressed questions from Council regarding his familiarity with the proposed Family Justice Center.

PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Mayor Leighty called for any person wishing to address City Council on matters of community interest related to City business not set for public hearing.

Melissa Ryan, Ward 3, spoke to Council about the new fence that was installed between the townhomes and the Don Anema Skate Park. Melissa expressed concern about trash from the skate park blowing into residential areas and individuals camping and using

drugs on the residential side of the fence. She stated the Police Department responded to a call for service, but the individuals returned shortly thereafter. Melissa also expressed concern about the lack of a lefthand turn signal at 117th Avenue and Washington Street. She stated people run the light daily, causing an unsafe area for students walking to school, and asked the City to perform a traffic study at the intersection.

Tom Lampo, 3951 Jackson Way, Thornton, came forward to pray for the City of Northglenn.

Margaret Ahl, 229 Belford Drive, expressed concern regarding a rental property in the neighborhood that she believes has been converted from a single-family home to multi-family housing, potentially resulting in a zoning violation. City Attorney Hoffmann advised that staff will investigate the issue.

PRESENTATIONS:

August Neighborhood
Beautification Awards
& Magnificent Tree
Award

Community Outreach Coordinator Jenna Gragg provided information about the Northglenn Neighborhood Beautification Program and stated the awards being presented were for the Yard of the Month, Water Wise Yard of the Month, and the Magnificent Tree categories. The August 2024 award recipients were: Drew and Myra Wilson, Tino Garcia, Dwayne Farris, Al and Amy Crow, Monte and Mary Mondragon, Louise Taylor and Cheri Roberts, The Brons Family, Joye Devlin, Mark Doyle, Trevor Stevens, Gregg Bessette and Geri Mari, The Morrison Family, and Erica, Jose, and Jason Torrez.

Climate Action and
Resilience Plan Update

Mara Owen, Sustainability Coordinator, in collaboration with the Brendle Group's Lead Sustainability Planner and Project Manager Sarah Kaye, provided an update on the City of Northglenn's first Climate Action and Resilience Plan. The presentation highlighted the planning process, community engagement, existing conditions, greenhouse gas inventory, resilience and adaptive capacity, and future steps of the plan. The presentation concluded with a discussion regarding transportation emissions, the role of EPA grant funding, and wildfire risks. Council expressed support and appreciation for the detailed and strategic approach being taken.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council

Council member Burns acknowledged Women's Equity Day, highlighting the progress made over the years, such as women not being able to start their own businesses or take out loans

independently until the 1970s and 80s. She emphasized the importance of recognizing how far society has come and how much further there is to go. She reported that the Youth Commission will be resuming its activities now that school is back in session. Council member Burns also reported that the Community Co-Production Policing (CCPP) Advisory Board completed the first round of surveys regarding policing issues in Northglenn; anyone interested in more details can reach out to her for information. Lastly, she mentioned that a Special Legislative Session is underway and reported that the Legislative Policy Committee will have a meeting on September 23rd.

Council member Walker expressed gratitude to Tom Lampo for the prayer and thanked everyone that came out for the Ward 1 Neighborhood Nights event.

Council member Jaramillo reported the Outside Agency Funding Committee approved a sponsorship request by Ralston House for the Biers, Brats, and Bluegrass fundraising event at Prost Brewery on September 5th. Council member Jaramillo reported that he also attended the North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) meeting where he expressed support for prioritizing local infrastructure improvements over funding projects like ski trains; he emphasized the importance of fixing streets in Northglenn, Thornton, Commerce City, and Brighton.

Council member Nowicki expressed excitement about the progress of the new City Hall facility, which will be an invaluable asset to the community. He thanked residents and police, especially Lieutenant Shelley, for their participation in National Night Out. He also reported on his attendance at a meeting with the Northglenn Senior Organization, noting that they discussed upcoming fall activities and expressed excitement about a new senior van, which will address mobility issues and enable them to participate in group trips more easily. Council member Nowicki expressed support for Representative Yadira Caraveo, who publicly shared that she is seeking treatment for depression; he commended Representative Caraveo for her courage in efforts to reduce the stigma around mental health and encouraged others to seek support if needed.

Council member Kondo reported he attended a seminar regarding chronic school absenteeism and shared that Adams County Five Star Schools aims to reduce the absenteeism rate from 38% to 17% over the next five years. Council member Kondo discussed the ongoing Special Legislative Session called by Governor Polis which focuses on Propositions 50 and 108. He urged residents to pay attention to these issues, as they could significantly impact property tax revenues which are crucial for funding fire and paramedic services.

He emphasized the importance of balancing tax burdens with maintaining essential services. He expressed enthusiasm for the reopening of the Kiwanis Pool and the hiring of Jim Sharp to lead the Fusion Swim Team; over 40 people have already signed up for the program, showing strong community interest. Lastly, he expressed gratitude for a brainstorming meeting with Council member Jaramillo and City Attorney Hoffmann and stated he also enjoyed a game of horseshoes with other Council members at American Legion Post 22.

Council member Goff reminded everyone that the Recreation Center is closed for cleaning and maintenance this week but noted that Kiwanis Pool remains open. She reported on her attendance at the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA) Board meeting on August 16th where the topic was potential policy actions related to the Special Legislative Session and the 2024 General Election outcomes. On August 21st, Council member Goff had lunch with City staff members nominated for Hidden Gem employee awards; she expressed her admiration for their dedication and professionalism. Lastly, she and members of the Diversity, Inclusivity and Social Equity (DISE) Board enjoyed the People's Powwow on August 24th.

Council member Roper provided an update from the Utility Box Art Design Committee meeting which focused on choosing significant landmarks and describing themes that should be reflected in the artwork. She reported that she also attended the Water 101 session which highlighted the work done by the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities to ensure high-quality water in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa provided an update from the Northglenn Urban Renewal Authority (NURA) meeting, mentioning that they are considering a \$1 million funding request for the redevelopment of the Washington Center, primarily for exterior improvements, including facade, signage, parking lot, and landscaping. She reported that the Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Board is accepting applications for funding to assist victims of crime, with a deadline of August 31st. She encouraged nonprofit organizations that assist victims to apply. The VALE Board is also reviewing its bylaws to potentially expand their ability to help victims beyond the traditional grant process. Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa thanked Council members Burns and Kondo for their updates on the Special Legislative Session and noted that the Legislative Policy Committee would meet soon to discuss the outcomes. Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa discussed the potential for using autonomous vehicles to issue speeding tickets in safety-sensitive zones, following new legislation that eliminates the requirement for these vehicles to be operated by a crew member.

She suggested exploring this option further, particularly in areas like Melody Drive, which has had issues with speeding.

City Manager Geyer reported the Police Department is currently evaluating this initiative and will bring information to Council in December as part of the Safety Sensitive Zone program evaluation.

Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa reminded everyone about the upcoming "Biers, Brats, and Bluegrass" event supporting Ralston House, encouraging people to buy tickets to support the cause.

Mayor Leighty reported that she attended the Mile High Flood District Board meeting, noting that while there was a lot of information shared, none of it directly applied to Northglenn at this time. She also expressed gratitude to Council for allowing her to take some time off for a family vacation.

Staff

City Manager Geyer reported that invitations were sent out for the last Council meeting in the existing Council Chambers on September 9th and the first meeting in the new chambers on September 16th. She encouraged RSVPs using the QR code provided on the invitations.

City Manager Geyer addressed resident concerns expressed earlier in the meeting. Staff will investigate occupancy concerns raised by Margaret Ahl. Work has already begun on traffic signaling at 117th Avenue and Washington Street, so a new study may not be needed. Deputy City Manager Jason Loveland will verify and follow up. Staff will also follow up on the request for signage on the Village Greens fence.

City Manager Geyer reported that the Recreation Center will reopen on September 3rd after the annual closure for cleaning and maintenance. The Ninja Cross installation is ongoing. A grand opening of the course is planned for September 7th at 1:30 p.m.

City Manager Geyer reported that the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department needs letters of support for three projects proposed for Adams County Open Space Grant funding:

- Danahy Park for replacement of playground, park amenities, and pavilion;
- Jaycee Park for renovation of the restroom and scorekeeper's booth; and
- Civic Center Campus for installation of new electric bicycle charging stations.

Recreation Project Manager Jesse Mestrovic can be reached at (303) 450-8838 for more information regarding letters of support.

CONSENT AGENDA
MOTION TO PASS

Council member Kondo **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - None.

The following item was approved on the consent agenda:

- August 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTIONS:

CR-136 – Private
Activity Bonds 2024
Assignment to CHFA

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Kondo to approve CR-136.

Director of Planning and Development Brook Svoboda provided a summary of CR-136.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - None.

CR-137 – Civic Center
Plan Contract

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Goff to approve CR-137.

Director of Planning and Development Brook Svoboda provided a summary of CR-137.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - None.

CR-138 – Addendum #7
to Professional Services
Agreement with Cumming
Management Group

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Mayor Pro Tem Lukeman-Hiromasa **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Kondo to approve CR-138.

Director of Planning and Development Brook Svoboda provided a summary of CR-138.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - None.

CR-139 – Intent to
Withdraw from the Rocky
Flats Stewardship Council

City Clerk Small read the title.

MOTION TO PASS

Council member Kondo **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Goff to approve CR-139.

Director of Public Works Sarah Borgers provided a summary of CR-139.

MOTION PASSED

There was discussion and the motion **PASSED**.

IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.

OPPOSED - None.

ABSENT - None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Revised Access Northglenn
Response Standard

City Manager Geyer led a discussion regarding the City's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, which allows residents to submit complaints and requests, such as reporting abandoned shopping carts or vehicles. The main issues addressed included response times, department director oversight, response consistency and accountability, system integration challenges, resident concerns regarding the tone of staff responses when addressing complaints, and future improvements to the system. The overall discussion highlighted the City's commitment to improving customer service but also pointed out the complexities involved in managing different systems and ensuring consistent and fair treatment of residents. Council expressed general support for CRM system improvement strategies outlined by City Manager Geyer related to improving

customer service and acknowledged the need for ongoing system adjustments and better data integration.

**PUBLIC INVITED
TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Leighty called for any person wishing to speak on items previously addressed by Council. There was no response.

Executive Session
MOTION TO PASS

Council member Kondo **MOVED** and it was **SECONDED** by Council member Nowicki to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Section 4.5(d) of the City of Northglenn Home Rule Charter for legal consultation and advice and Section 4.5(g) for negotiations concerning the purchase, sale, lease, or other acquisition of real or personal property, or interests therein, or concerning any contracts except those required to be the subject of competitive bidding all relating to municipal ownership of the Standley Lake Division of the Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company mutual ditch company shares, properties and infrastructure and the continued ownership, operation and governance thereof; and 2) pursuant to Section 4.5(d) of the City of Northglenn Home Rule Charter for legal consultation and advice regarding collective bargaining.

Due to the late hour of the meeting and to allow for adequate time for the topics, the following Executive Session was postponed to a later date: 3) pursuant to Section 4.5(d) of the City of Northglenn Home Rule Charter for legal consultation and advice regarding the City's obligations relating to gender identity and gender expression.

MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion and the motion **PASSED**.
IN FAVOR - Leighty, Lukeman-Hiromasa, Burns, Jaramillo,
Kondo, Roper, Goff, Nowicki, Walker.
OPPOSED - None.
ABSENT - None.

ADJOURNMENT

The City Council meeting adjourned to the Executive Session at 8:59 p.m.

JOHANNA SMALL, MMC
City Clerk

MEREDITH LEIGHTY
Mayor