



CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2,
2025

6:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call

The Special meeting of the City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Spooner at 6:00 pm. Councilors in attendance included Mandy Barnes, John Rowan, Peter van Sluis, Chuck Thiele. Councilor Adama Doumbouya was absent. Also in attendance were City Administrator Jessica Kinser, City Clerk Heather Slechta, Police Chief John Sherwin, Library Services Director Delane James, Communications Manager Brad Phenow, Human Resources Director Kevin Bushard and City Attorney Scott Riggs.

Items for Discussion

Hearing on the Removal of Travis Kath from the Housing and Redevelopment Board

City Administrator Jessica Kinser explained that she received a complaint regarding Travis Kath's behavior at recent and past HRA board meetings. To substantiate the complaints, she interviewed Dave Wanberg, Community and Economic Development Director, Tom Furman, HRA Executive Director, and Allyson Brunette, a consultant hired by the HRA for strategic planning. Based on these interviews, she substantiated the following from the initial complaint:

- At an HRA strategic planning work session held on Saturday, November 15th:
- Mr. Kath frequently brought up matters not pertinent to the HRA and strategic planning in the public session which were not items related to the agenda;
- Mr. Kath referenced needing to smoke marijuana to be present at the meeting;
- Mr. Kath left the session before it was complete in what was interpreted as dissatisfaction with the consultant and another HRA Board member.

Mr. Kath was previously counseled by City staff on his behavior at HRA Board meetings following an outburst in a public meeting in May 2024 where Mr. Kath slammed his head on the table and left the meeting while still in progress. Mr. Kath decided not to resign at that time.

Kinser explained that the bylaws of the City of Faribault Housing and Redevelopment Authority state that "an HRA Board member may be removed by the Mayor and the City Council for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.010, as amended."

Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.010, which governs the removal of Housing and Redevelopment Authorities, states the following:

"For inefficiency or neglect of duty, or misconduct in office, a commissioner may be removed by the governing body of the municipality. The commissioner must be given a copy of the charges at least ten days prior to a hearing at which the commissioner has an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. When charges in writing have been preferred against a commissioner, pending final action thereon the governing body may temporarily suspend the commissioner. If it is found that those charges have not been substantiated, the commissioner shall immediately be reinstated in office. When any commissioner is removed, a record of the proceedings, together with the charges and findings thereon, shall be filed in the office of the clerk."

Kinser provided a definition of “inefficiency” as failure to make the best use of time and resources, stating that Kath’s comments not related to HRA items and then leaving the session abruptly led to the HRA not completing their strategic planning process, which is resulting in additional costs and/or staff time to bring the process to completion. Kinser also defined “neglect of duty” as failure to perform a duty or responsibility required of the position. Identified ways in which Mr. Kath has neglected his duty as a member of the HRA board include not adhering to rules of decorum for a public meeting, making disruptive comments, failure to adhere to group rules agreed upon to stay on track, willingness to leave a planning session because of disagreement or dislike of rules, and impeding the progress of remaining board members.

Motion by Thiele, seconded by van Sluis to approve Resolution 2025-329 Approve Removal of Travis Kath as a Member of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board. The motion carried unanimously.


Adjournment

Motion by Rowan, seconded by Ross to adjourn the City Council meeting and carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Signed by:


Heather Slechta
City Clerk