

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**COUNTY OF CHISAGO**

**CITY OF NORTH BRANCH**

**CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 017-18-CC**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MN GREENSTEP CITIES PROGRAM**

The GreenStep Cities program aims to provide Minnesota cities a clear pathway to greater efficiency, accountability, responsibility, sustainability and resiliency based upon implementing best practices specific to Minnesota cities of differing sizes and capabilities. Due to the multiple environmental, economic and social dimensions of the best practices, leadership from the city council is needed to oversee their implementation and coordination/integration with other city and community activities and with other governmental jurisdiction (such as surrounding townships) as appropriate.

WHEREAS, steps taken toward sustainable solutions aim to improve community quality of life, building community capital and increasing government efficiency, accountability and transparency; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Session Laws 2008, Chapter 356, Section 13 directed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ( "MPCA ") and Office of Energy Security in the Department of Commerce ( "Office of Energy Security"), in collaboration with Clean Energy Resource Teams ( " CERTs "), to recommend municipal actions and policies that work toward meeting the State' s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program assists in facilitating technical assistance for the implementation of these sustainable development best practices; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program provides cost - effective sustainable development best practices in the following five categories: ( 1) Buildings and Lighting; (2) Transportation; (3) Land Use; ( 4) Environmental Management; and ( 5) Economic and Community Development; and

WHEREAS, Will provide feedback once a year on how well the GreenStep program is serving the city and on city needs from the program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of North Branch does hereby authorize the City of North Branch (the City) to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program that offers a free, voluntary continuous improvement framework. Passage of this participation resolution allows the City to be recognized as a Step One GreenStep City. Be it further resolved that the City:

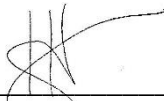
1. Appoints Ragini Varma to serve as the City's GreenStep coordinator for best practice documentation /implementation. The GreenStep Core Group consists of Mayor, Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy, Councilmember Kathy Blomquist, Councilmember Kelly Neider and Deputy City Clerk / IT Coordinator Ragini Varma to oversee the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program for the city. As the program progresses the council can further choose more members not only from council, staff and community but others to be part of the core group interested through voluntary participation ; and
2. Will facilitate the involvement of community members and other units of government as appropriate in the planning, promoting and /or implementing of GreenStep Cities best practices; and
3. Will claim credit for having implemented paperless Agenda & Minutes in August 2017 and will work at its own pace toward implementing any of the GreenStep best practices that will result in responsible accountability, efficiency, transparency, energy use reduction, economic savings, quality of life improvement, reduction in the City's greenhouse gas footprint, and recognition by the League of Minnesota Cities as a Step Two GreenStep City. An ongoing summary of the City's implementation of best practices will be posted by the City on the Minnesota GreenStep Cities web site.


<b>RESULT:</b> ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
<b>MOVER:</b> Kelly Neider, Councilmember
<b>SECONDER:</b> Kathy Blomquist, Councilmember
<b>AYES:</b> Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy, Kathy Blomquist, Kelly Neider, Jim Swenson
<b>ABSENT:</b> Robert Canada

Passed and adopted this 23rd day of January 2018



CITY OF NORTH BRANCH

BY:   
Kirsten Hagen-Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Renae Fry, City Administrator