

**CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**  
Regular Meeting of the City Council  
City Hall  
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

**MINUTES**

March 14, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM X LEEHY X BROWN THUNDER \_\_\_  
MIAZGA X GUSTAFSON X

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X

- C. PRESENTATIONS:

- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
1. February 28, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved

- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

- F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 3/07/18 \$28,828.17  
Payroll through: 2/28/18 \$18,370.95
2. Accept the Resignation of Ian McCready from the FH Fire Department - He is moving out of state. If anyone know of a candidate for his replacement, the Fire Department is always looking for good people.
3. Designate City Signors for City Funds, Investments and Transfers.

Council Member Gustafson, Approved 4-0

- G: POLICY ITEMS:  
1. Sanitary Sewer Credit for Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative (CTC)

City Administrator Thongvanh:

In December, they discovered a water main break. It took a while for them to observe it just because there was frost and it took a while to get to the surface. That is why you see a spike in those months. We have done this in the past before, and my theory is as long as the MetCouncil does not charge us, we do not charge the resident or the company or business.

The issue here is companies or entities, like Common Wealth Terrance, are billed for sanitary sewer based on the water usage. Therefore, their water usage is unbalanced, since it is coming out of a broken pipe and never actually made it to the sanity sewer, so they should not be billed for sanitary sewer.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

Correct. They are requesting, and the staff is recommending, the approved credit of \$5,307, which will be coming out of the Sanitary Sewer fee to Common Wealth Terrace Co-op. I have confirmed that this credit is legitimate in terms that they pay that back toward St. Paul Water, and St. Paul Water has paid us.

Council Member Leehy, Approved 4-0

## 2. Citizen of the Year Award

### Mayor Lindstrom:

Sack or Melanie do either of you want to take a first crack at this.

### City Administrator Thongvanh:

I can start off. In 2016 the idea of the Citizen of the Year Award was introduced by the Communication Commission chair, at that time, which was Council Member Leahy. In 2017, as a resident, Council Member Leehy presented the idea to the council, and I believe at time the council directed resident Leehy to take it back to CC for recommendations and modifications. Then on March 7, 2018, the city council reviewed the modifications of the original submittal with recommendations of approval process and who would be involved. The intent of the award is to identify an honor and reinforce activities of exceptional, carrying citizens whose service or performance in the spirit of giving back to the community and fellow Falcon Heights residents is the goal of the CC for this award. Not only publicly recognizing volunteer efforts of a deserving citizen, but also inspiring others to step up and continue the tradition of Falcon Heights' residents volunteering and giving back to the community. The budgetary impact of this would be a very minimal, the giving of a plaque and putting the winners name on the plaque and then also doing a presentation at the Ice Cream Social, as an event, to recognize this individual. What you have in front of you are the guidelines and the application form. There are two things to look into in terms of the request, either decide to approve the recognize award and approve the guidelines and the application or the second one would be to the CC to defer the recommendation to the CC again. That concludes my staff report.

### Council Member Leehy:

I am looking forward to a citizen award of this nature to build camaraderie and to acknowledge hard workers in our city. I think we have a lot of people with generous hearts. Even the criteria speaks to that within the application "The nominee must have possess and demonstrate a generous community spirit and must have contributed quality service to the community of Falcon Heights through various activities, business, government, education, professional, civic, religious or other organizations or activities, and they must possess a record of noteworthy service that contributes to the quality of life here in Falcon Heights are seen as a role model in the community and thereby raises the standard of social responsibility." Our desire to see more community engagement, I believe this lends to towards this as well. People that have already shown enormous community spirit, but others that might say this is an opportunity for me to think about the part I play in the city does make a difference with the whole. With people submitting a nomination, we are looking at having three letters for that individual, and that can be easily done with one person initiating it and know a couple other people that want to go along with nominating the one individual. It does not have to be a lengthy letter, but still by submitting it before May 30 of the given year that award can be granted in enough time as we go through the applications.

Mayor Lindstrom - And your hoping this year. Even this year would be great to start it. Will get the ball rolling. We have a little time before May, but we will get the word out. As you said we have a lot of great people out there, and they deserve to be recognized and for me, I think one of the greatest nights is the "Kwong Award", where we have young people that we recognize for their work that they do in our city, and this really builds on that. I know that you have looked at what other cities do for recognizing their residents, and have modeled our award off a few other cities. It looks great, I am fired up. I am ready to go.

Mayor Lindstrom: I am too. Nice work on it Melanie, putting it all together and getting folks together on this through the years to try to tweak it, and make it work.

Council Member Leehy: And our previous staff person contributed a lot to it as well. Katie O'Connor did contribute quite a bit.

Mayor Lindstrom: We have great staff here, just another example of that.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

There were a couple amendments to the description and the process too. Provision that if we do not get any nominations, it gives the council the authority to award the award to someone. It also includes the makeup of the committee that it includes at least two members of the city council as determined. Then it could possibly be a member of each commission as well.

Council Member Leehy, Approved 4-0

### 3. SolSmart - Solar Installation Checklist

City Administrator Thongvanh:

What you have before you is the permanent Checklist. The cities part of the SolSmart is the national recognition and there is no cost for the technical assistance program, which the council approved last year to be a part of. What they do is take a look at our codes, they review it. The purpose is to reduce barriers to implement Solar within the community. This is focused on our one residential homestead properties. We have a building permit process that lays out a checklist for the resident to look at, I need A, B, and C, and also what assistance can I get. What can the City provide me? At least it provides them an outline of the expectations from the City's perspective, and also to promote solar technology in the City there is also a flat fee. Regardless, if it is on a small garage or on the whole roof of your home, there is flat fee of \$200. Makes it a little bit easier and simpler for the residents to understand. Otherwise, based on our fees, it is based on valuation, and if it is a small project it would be less, and a larger project, just like anything, it would be based on our fee schedule. I have contacted the city of Locan. Locan is the city that provides building official services and building inspection services to us and I did communicate with the city manager and he has agreed with the \$200 flat fee and so has the building commissioner. So everyone is kind of on board with it and it as nice to hear from them both, and it was, whatever Falcon Heights needs.

Mayor Lindstrom: That is always a good answer.

City Administrator Thongvanh: What I am looking for from the Council is to have a motion to approve the \$200 flat fee and to add that new fee to our City fee schedule.

Council Member Gustafson, Approved 4-0

## H. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Council Member Leehy

- I just want to first respond to the Kettering Foundation trip that a few of us went to. I was gone at the last council meeting when I would have had the first opportunity to share on that. It was a great opportunity to meet the people around the country who are looking at community and safety, from those who are elected officials, staff, and there were also several police chiefs there. Just the overall sense of the caring hearts of the people in the room. One take away that warmed my heart was an individual from California talking about a culture of humility. Having a definition of cultural humility, and how we are honoring one another's culture and learning from one another and being able to embrace that. And here in Falcon Heights, walking in humility, as we continue to learn from each other and strive to strengthen our core connectedness.
- Today, at Falcon Heights Elementary, and I also believe at the other schools in the Roseville school district there was a 17 minute acknowledge of the tragedy in Florida. I was not able to be present, but I spoke to one of the staff and there were approximately 160 students as well as parents present at that time. They had a good system set up where the students had to have parent's permission to participate, and the teachers honored that system and they had age appropriate opportunities to participate. I was glad to see that.
- Lastly, I just want to mention that Park and Recreation Commission, which I serve on as a liaison, is still looking for commissioners. Therefore, whether yourself are interested in that commission or know of other people who are looking for an opportunity to serve with the city, you can go into the city's website and fill out the application. 'Rec on the Go' is in motion and to put that together, the staff will be meeting with a few other cities to find out how they have been successful. Therefore, we are not doing this blindly, but have some background as far as how that is put together.

### Council Member Brown Thunder:

- NYSF is having their leadership luncheon on Wednesday, May 2 from 11:30-1:00 pm at the Midland Hills Country Club. They will be having a speaker, John Noldner, who is the founder of "A Peace of Mind". It is a project built around, 'What does peace mean to you'. They always have fantastic speakers that come and talk to the group, so I thank this going to be another great opportunity, and it is also a fund raiser for the organization.
- I did get an opportunity to attend the Falcon Heights 'National Gun Violence Walk Out'. Honesty, it has been a while since I have been inspired. Today, I actually was inspired by seeing these young people lead these conversations, and lead the walk out and talk about what they want. Just hearing their voices made

me definitely reflect as a leader on what these young people are saying. What they're saying is 'this has to end'. I think as adults and leaders, both our local as well as state and national - we need to listen because what they are saying is very important. So today, was a very good day and a very good event for these young people to let their voices be heard?

Mayor Lindstrom:

- Thank you for representing the city at that critical event. I could not agree more about what you just said

Council Member Gustafson:

- The Community Engagement Commission will be meeting next Monday night, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at City Hall we are taking on task force recommendations, event planning, and outreach strategies. We want everybody to mark their calendars for Saturday May 12, from 11:00 - 2:00 pm the 'Spring Together Event' will be hosted at Curtis Field. We want everyone to get out and get together on this one. The Engagement Commission is working a lot outreach and engagement type focused activities. What we are really going to need is people to volunteer to participate in that process. To get involved somehow with how we can connect as a community with each other. If you would like to participate and volunteer, please contact City Hall. Tim has offered some services to help tracking for the CDC, volunteers that get involved with helping us to utilize the task force recommendation implementation and better ways that we can communicate as a city. Getting that interconnected and getting that conversation is critical to fulfilling our part as a community that gets along together.
- A long that line, then on Thursday, March 29, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm will be a 'Coffee with a Cop' event with Ramsey County Sheriff's deputies. There are not any speeches or agendas or anything like that. It is just a chance to get together over a coffee or tea to talk about local concerns. Therefore, that will be happening at the Town Square Apartments in the community room, 1550 Larpenteur Avenue W., there at Snelling. A nice low-key event to just chat about stuff that is going on in the neighborhood. That is the update of the community engagement.

Mayor Lindstrom:

- Speaking of community events, I will be at 1666 Kaufman along with Sheriff Shirear to talk to the residents about where we are at with policing, and an opportunity to get to know the sheriff department. Therefore, that will be a good event on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Also coming in April, we have a 'Sustainability Fair' that the environment mission has been planning. Time and date forthcoming. There will be six different workshops like planting trees and LED light distribution.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

- Community Development Coordinator, Paul Moretto and myself met with a representative for the 2020 census. We met with her just to get a game plan started for the city. So the residents and the city will see that upcoming during the spring and summer. We are also looking at developing a census page on our city website, just so people will know the information, and what they need to know. What the census is doing differently is they are going to try and collect as much as possible through technology: phones cell phones, and social media.



Where in the past you would see a lot of people door knocking. Now they are going to try to use the advancement of technology. Then the people that they do not reach through mailings or technology, they will be out door knocking. They are looking at boots on the ground door knocking in July through August. Just so, the community is aware that they are there for the census. They are allowed to be out there to do this. Just so, the people are aware that they are not scammers or someone out there to take advantage of them. The residents will be getting mailing, e-mails, e-news, so they will get a lot of information, so they will know when it will be gearing up and starting. In addition, not that it is related to the city, but Mayor Lindstrom was a part of a solar event here that Sert's presented here. It always surprises me how many people show up to these events, but not only how many people show up at these type of events, but the communities that show up for these events. Because these are large communities well over 20 - 40 thousand people and they are coming to the city of Falcon Heights to see what we are doing, and I am surprised about that. It does show, not only for the council's perspective, but also from the city's perspective that in terms of per capita we probably do a lot compared to other communities, of the initiatives here in terms of energy or sustainability. We are a community of 5,000 but we are green step for the community. There are communities of 20,000 - 30,000 that are a step one. To display that for the city is just great.

Mayor Lindstrom:

- My day job, Clean Energy Resources, is leading a bulk purchasing effort for local governments and schools and we had our kick off today. The city of Falcon Heights was kind enough to open their doors to about 50 local government officials to learn more about it. After the event, we had an optional tour of our solar panels on the roof. There was a representative of a city of about 30,000 people or so, and she was just drooling, looking at all our solar panels, as if oh man I am so jealous - we should be doing this. In addition, we have been doing it since 2011. Therefore, it was good morning

City Administrator Thongvanh:

- I would echo what Council Member Leehy said about that Kettering Foundation. What you have in front of you, and I have already passed this out to most of the Council member already. What you have in front of you is a book titled "Ecology of Democracy". I started reading it and it is a very good book. Very well written. It is written by David Matthews, and he is non-partisan independent, but he served as a cabinet officer in the Ford Administration, but he was also the president of the University of Alabama where he taught history there. What he talks about here is the power of the people. I think Falcon Heights is a great example of that. What he mentions in this book is that institutions, governments do not have all the answers. The people out there are very dedicated, very passionate. They might not have all the solutions, but if we come together as one entity trying to resolve within their community, everyone wins. I think that is what we have been doing as a community we have acted in a rational way of approaching, just how we are going to approach certain situations. And to see that actual approach in some one's writing, and to see that in person uses that approach that we actually are using is uplifting in terms of that dedication. Therefore, I have given the book to the entire council member, but the Kettering Foundation has also given me enough copies that will be


distributed all the member of the \_\_\_ commission. The reason why we will be doing that is because of all the work that they have been doing or will be doing and starting here in terms of implementing the task force recommendations.


- Reminder that the Council Retreat is March 24 from 9am to 1pm. I will be putting out an agenda for the Council this week in terms of things we will be discussing for purposes to set goals and look at the future of the community.
- On March 21, there will be a joint meeting with the Pine Commission, and WSB will be there to present the results of some of the findings for comprehensive planning; and to talk about deadlines and where we go from here. So that completes my updates.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:30 P.M.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018

  
Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator

  
Peter Lindstrom, Mayor