

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

**MINUTES**

October 25, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM  HARRIS  BROWN THUNDER   
FISCHER  GUSTAFSON

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH

C. PRESENTATION

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. October 11, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 10/19/17 \$207,288.42

Payroll through: 10/15/17 \$20,691.69

2. 2017 Pavement Management Project Change Order(s)

3. Grant Application - Como Park Lutheran Trust

4. Grant Application - Local Government Innovation Awards

5. Transfer of Funds for Budget Amendment for Fiber Optic Network

6. Ramsey County Recycling SCORE Grant

Council Member Gustafson Moved, Approved 4-0

G. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Law Enforcement Services with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

City Administrator Thongvanh stated that on July 11, 2017 the City of St. Anthony passed a resolution to terminate the 22-year contract with Falcon Heights after the two cities could not agree on the indemnification clause. St. Anthony believed that Larpenteur Avenue creates a higher risk factor. There were 10 request for interest letters sent out to the surrounding communities and only Ramsey County responded. They provided two options to Falcon Heights: to enter into a contract for services we wish to have them provide or to enter into a contract with the contract cities group that already receives services. The City Council decided to go with the option of entering into the contract cities group due to the cost sharing. The Ramsey County Sheriffs were at a Council Workshop to discuss services provided and answer questions. Ramsey County Sheriff's Office made Falcon Heights a priority and decided to begin their contract on January 1. The contract would go from 2018-2021. There is an additional year in the contract so that the city can line up with the contract cities renewal years. It would then start over as a three-year contract.

Mayor Lindstrom stated that he feels we are entering into an agreement with a good partner. Many of the communities that are currently with Ramsey County have been in contract with them for decades. There are many aspects of the contract that are solid: the data, indemnifications, ownership, communication, and personnel related provisions. We will be watching this carefully and pushing forward the Task Force recommendations. They are open to many of those recommendations. Upon approval, the city would plan to host two open houses to meet Ramsey County Sheriffs and ask questions.

Council Member Fischer is grateful for their generosity to make Falcon Heights a priority.

Council Member Brown Thunder believes this contract is in the best interest of the city.

Council Member Gustafson is looking forward to the partnership and getting to work with the block captains to engage citizens.

Farook Meah- 1597 Hollywood Ct:

What would the response time be from Ramsey County?

Mayor Lindstrom:

The service should be comparable to St. Anthony since they will have 24/7 coverage with one or more squad cars in the city. The response time should be short.

Council Member Gustafson:

The squad cars will be black and white with Ramsey County Sheriff on the side and the cities that they patrol on the back panel.

Melissa Stone- 1656 Garden Ave:

The data piece seemed to be minimal. In addition, what are the processes in place to have continued conversations on the Task Force recommendations?

Mayor Lindstrom:

There are quarterly reports, but they can be generated on a more frequent basis. It won't have the type of narrative that St. Anthony's reports had. Also, with this new contract the city will be meeting monthly with the other contract cities and Sheriffs. At those meetings that is where critical decisions are made on topics such as, what data should be collected and budgetary concerns. The communication piece is much stronger than it's been in the past.

Council Member Fischer:

They utilize a website, [communitycrimemap.com](http://communitycrimemap.com), and that is updated regularly throughout the day. This will serve Falcon Heights with more available data.

Council Member Brown Thunder:

The Sheriff's Office will have a much more formal process for data practices and requests. This data collection software is already in place.

Paula Mielke- 1868 Arona St:

Thank you for moving forward on this. Can you address Ramsey County Sherriff's Office status on body cameras?

Council Member Gustafson:

They are researching body cameras, developing policy and procedures, and looking at the various technology needs. He does not know what the target date for completion is.

Hawa Samatar- 1550 Larpenteur Ave:

Would the data show the stops that are made and who is being stopped? Also, what are the plans to create awareness that the Sheriffs will begin patrol in 2018?

Mayor Lindstrom:

There will be open houses with the Ramsey County Sheriffs, and he would like one of those to be at 1550 Larpenteur. In terms of who is being stopped, the data provided is a high level overview of the stop with the type of citation noted but does not have a specific name attached to it. The information available to the public can be requested from Ramsey County.

Council Member Gustafson:

They collect information on the type of citation, sex, perceived race, whether the person/car was searched, and why it was stopped. In addition, you can see the traffic stops and calls for service by visiting [communitycrimemap.com](http://communitycrimemap.com). Also, in regards to making citizens aware, Ramsey County does offer a Citizens Academy to get an in-depth look of behind the scenes. This will take place in January. If there is enough demand for it, there could be a mini Citizens Academy just for Falcon Heights residents in February.

Council Member Gustafson Abstained, Council Member Fischer Moved, Approved 3-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Weekly Police Reports - Can Now Be Found At:

[http://www.falconheights.org/index.asp?SEC=75B3E8BB-785B-4048-B543-995BAE0716A5&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.falconheights.org/index.asp?SEC=75B3E8BB-785B-4048-B543-995BAE0716A5&Type=B_BASIC)

Council Member Fischer:

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm the Community Engagement Commission will be remembering Human Rights Day by watching the movie SOLD about Human Trafficking. This is becoming a focus with the Super Bowl coming up, and we are trying to line up a speaker.

Council Member Brown Thunder:

He attended the Taste of Northeast NYFS fundraiser. It was well-attended with about 350 people.

Council Member Gustafson:

It's the last weekend of Fright Farm at Ramsey County Fairgrounds. It is from 7-11pm for \$12 per person. Proceeds go to the Ramsey County Sheriff's Foundation. There will be a low-scare event on Sunday from 12-4pm for \$5 per person. Halloween night will be the final performance.


Mayor Lindstrom:

At the last Council Meeting, there were many people in the attendance from Falcon Woods. He promised to bring up the issue to the University of Minnesota. He met with the new UMN Community Liaison staff, and he is well aware of the issue. Although he didn't make promises, he will be a good representative to communicate with.


City Administrator Thongvanh:

The next Council Workshop will be on November 1. At that time, Council will revisit the budget, specifically capital, enterprise, and debt service funds. Additionally, the November 8 Council meeting will be rescheduled to November 15 so they can canvas the election results.

- I. COMMUNITY FORUM:
- J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:37 PM

  
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Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017

  
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Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator