

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

AGENDA
December 11, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

B. ROLL CALL: Vacant ___ LEEHY_X_ HARRIS_X_
MIAZGA_X_ GUSTAFSON_X_

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH_X_

C. PRESENTATION

1. Appointment of Yakasah Wehyee to the Vacant City Council Seat and Oath of Office Ceremony

City Administrator Thongvanh

On March 6, 2019, Mayor Peter Lindstrom submitted a letter of resignation due to his appointment by Governor Tim Walz to the Metropolitan Council. On March 27th, 2019, the City Council voted to appoint Council Member Randy Gustafson as the Mayor to complete Peter Lindstrom's term. In addition, the City Council decided to delay the appointment of the open seat until after the November 2019 election and appoint the candidate that received the most votes. Yakasah Wehyee received the most votes and will be appointed today.

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 4-0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. November 13, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved 5-0

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. 2020 Truth in Taxation and Budget Presentation

City Administrator Thongvanh

City Administrator Thongvanh presented the factors that go into the taxes: Changes in the tax levy (or spending decision) made by the city, county, school, or special taxing authority, changes in the market value or your property, legislative changes, and new taxes approved by referendum are applied to market value (not tax capacity).

Taxable market value is what is used to calculate each property's taxes. The median value home in Falcon Heights is \$281,100 for 2019 and increased to \$303,450 for 2020. It is an 8% change. The 2020 property tax allocation goes towards county (37.4%), school district (36.3%), the City (24.3%), and the special district (2.0%). The Ramsey County Tax Rates in 2019 was 37.27% and the proposed tax rate for 2020 is 36.457%. There is a decrease of 1% tax rate.

Overall levy has increased by \$1,263,186 since 2004 with a \$329,150 increase for 2018, a \$395,529 increase for 2019, and a \$156,606 increase for 2020. The increase was due to the increase in police service costs and increases to the debt levy portion for street projects. In addition, there has not been any transfer from Reserve to General Fund since 2014. However, in 2017 there was a \$150,000.00 transfer to lower the debt levy for 2018. Since 2014 to 2017, the average city portion tax increase on a median value home was \$22 per year. However, for 2018, the increase on a median value home was \$177, for 2019 the increase was \$198, and the increase for 2020 is \$67; primarily due to increased costs of police services and debt service levy increase due to street projects.

The Property Tax Impacts for 2020 is \$1,070 and it is a \$67 increase from 2019's taxes. In addition, the 2020, proposed budget the Police Service budget increased by \$15,327. The renewal rate estimated for health insurance through PEIP is 4.2%. The TIES building (Buhl Investors) will be turned to an apartment complex and will bring in more revenue to the city in terms of building permit fees. There will be no transfer of Reserve for General Operating Budget. The LGA receipts from the State of MN increased \$75,732. The Fiscal Disparities increased \$85,091. Overall, general fund expenditures and revenues are \$2,857,675, or 7.1%, higher than the 2019 operating budget.

Rice' Davis (California Ave)

What percentage of people take advantage of the senior citizen tax deferral program and the disabled veteran program?

City Administrator Thongvanh unfortunately does not have the report in front of him and residents can obtain the percentage numbers at Ramsey County.

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 5-0

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 12/04/19 \$206,634.23
Payroll through 11/30/19 \$38,560.11
2. Approval of City License(s)
3. Appointment of Prosecuting Attorney
4. Appointment of City Attorney
5. Appointment of City Engineer
6. Appointment of City Auditor
7. Designation of Official Newspaper
8. 2020 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)
9. Statutory Tort Limits Liability Coverage for the City in 2020
10. Appointment of Jim Bykowski to the Board of Water Commissioners for Saint Paul Regional Water Services
11. Close Fund 427 GO Street Improvement Capital Fund to Debt Service Fund 316 GO

- Improvement Bonds Series 2017A
12. Approve DEED Grant Resolution
13. Budget Amendment(s)
14. Donation for Human Rights Day

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 5-0

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Approve Quote for Sanitary Sewer Main Repair

Jesse Freihammer, City Engineer

The City of Falcon Heights will be doing a project in conjunction with City of Roseville next year. This process involves essentially installing a new resin pipe inside the original clay tile sewer main without digging up City streets, which results in minimal disruption to residents during construction. The city's budget for 2020 sanitary sewer lining project is \$200,000; therefore, we decided to go with M&B Services. The proposed cost of the repair will be \$17,485.00, and sewer lining bids came in at \$169,000, for a total of \$186,485. The location of the sewer repairs is on Larpenteur Ave and West of Snelling Ave. The project is anticipated to be completed before the Minnesota State Fair.

Council Member Miazga Moved, Approved 5-0

2. MnDOT Lighting for Snelling and Roselawn

Jesse Freihammer, City Engineer

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has been working on the design for the replacement of signal systems and associated work at the intersection of Snelling Avenue (TH 51) and Roselawn Avenue. The project is set to accept bids next spring for construction next year. The project will replace the existing signal. The signal system will be upgraded with Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and updated curb ramps. The signal will be updated to include flashing yellow arrows for the east - west legs of the intersection.

According to the Agreement, the City of Falcon Heights is responsible for 25% of the cost of the signal at Roselawn Avenue. The cost split is determined by the amount of signal legs in the intersection. Falcon Heights will be responsible for the ongoing electrical costs and lighting costs on the Roselawn signal system. The overall energy costs should be lower as all of the new signal indications as well as all new lighting will use LED technology.

The total estimated cost to the City, including an 8% add on for contract administration and inspection costs for the City elements, is \$95,487.67. City staff recommends using Municipal State Aid funds to cover this cost, which we are allowed to spend on Trunk Highway projects.

City Administrator Thongvanh

Resolution attached is 19-47 not 19-37.

Council Member Harris

What is the purpose of the flashing yellow arrow and what should be done by them?

Jesse Freihammer has stated the flashing yellow arrow replaces the left turn yield on a green light during certain hours of the day. The flashing yellow arrow will prevent cars from turning during peak hours but during off-peak hours the green light will replace the flashing yellow arrow which enables flexibility for turning.

Council Member Weyhee

How long will it take to complete the project?

Jesse Freihammer stated MnDOT plans to bid this project in February. Ordering the steel for the traffic signals is backlogged as there is only one manufacturer. The project will take 6-8 weeks to complete which will include the curb work associated with upgrading the sidewalk and pedestrian ramps to ADA compliance. Installation of signals will happen quickly. MnDOT does not plan to have any detours. The project will be similar to the project that occurred earlier at Hoyt Ave.

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 5-0

3. Professional Service Agreement for Fire Service Administrative Direction and Command Services from the City of Roseville

City Administrator Thongvanh

The City of Falcon Heights has explored and pursued different service models to continue to provide fire services for our City and the City of Lauderdale. With the termination of our Fire Chief, the City pursued internal and external candidates without success. All of the individuals that were interested in becoming our Interim Fire Chief reluctantly declined at a later date. During this process we also had individual meetings with each Firefighter and the common theme from almost all the Firefighters was the need to have a Fire Chief. We also received feedback to explore contract services with the City of St. Paul and Roseville.

After multiple discussions with the Roseville Fire Department, it was very clear that Roseville wanted to assist the City of Falcon Heights maintain the current local paid on call department model. The hope for the next year is to have Roseville Fire help with the day to day operations, while at the same time assist the City to find its next Fire Chief.

Roseville will also conduct an Audit of the Department that will include, but not limited to training (which will now be conducted by Roseville Fire), leadership structure, right people in the right place, meetings & trainings, dispatch work, internal communications, reports & report writing, uniform, gear, helmets assessments, annual performance checks & inspections, annual medical examinations, SOP/SOG, personnel assessments, officer development and inspections.

Budget impact has been allocated in the 2020 budget. Staff recommends approving the Professional Service Agreement for Administrative Direction and Command Services for Fire

Service from the City of Roseville and eliminate the position of Assistant Fire Chief and Training Officer as a result would terminate the employment of Anton Fehrenbach and Bryan Sullivan effective December 11, 2019.

Council Member Harris

Is this a contract where Roseville comes in and acts as the Chief Administrator other than Sack, audits are not the only thing they will do, correct?

City Administrator Thongvanh

City Administrator Thongvanh responded by stating that there are a number of things that will be provided such as Roseville acting as the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief to the department and will also provide incident command services to the City. They will also respond to calls during the gap hours during the day in reference to the incident that occurred on HWY 280 during the State Fair.

Mayor Gustafson

The intent and hope for the direction is to be able to make a sustainable local community based paid on-call fire department model. We found this summer that we didn't have the training in place to take charge to provide leadership to the department. There has not been succession planning in the past and part of this is to make sure that we can have a fire department that can meet the needs of the city and an effective community based model. That is our intent. This will be the best approach for the long term survival of our fire department.

City Administrator Thongvanh

This will bring needs of the Fire Department in terms of Capital needs. Past expenditures have been brought into question on what was the priority of the department. One example, under Sack's allocation has been on detoxification unit under \$5,000. In turn the need for helmets was brought up and this should have been prioritized over detoxification unit. The term of the agreement will be December 11, 2019 until December 11, 2020.

Council Member Weyhee

With respect to the compensation for the services can there be further detail on how the figure was determined?

City Administrator Thongvanh responds by stating the City of Roseville looked at our call volume (over 100) and our administrative services that would be proficient enough for the operation of our department which came to about \$80 an hour (500 hours). Heavy coverage initially and coverage will be minimized as the departments get use to one another.

Bryan Sullivan (former firefighter)

Why did he receive letter about eliminating his position (letter states he is a training officer)? Where in the contract does it state there is the need to eliminate positions? How does this fix daytime response?

Mayor Gustafson

The two positions have been eliminated for the betterment of the department. City of Roseville will be filling the roles that were eliminated. These eliminations were not a response of discipline.

Denny Larson (Hamline Ave)

Why don't we have a backup instead of getting rid of our fire department?

City Administrator Thongvanh

Roseville will provide administrative services and we will continue to operate the way we are. Mutual aid cities will provide services. Closest unit response will be dispatched first depending on location of incident.

Rice' Davis (California Ave)

How many fire stations does Roseville have?

Who does Lauderdale use? Are they part of the restructuring?

Will Roseville Fire Dept. reconsider the changes after their audit has been completed?

Mayor Gustafson

Roseville has consolidated their fire stations to their one new facility. Fire protection services have been provided to Lauderdale for a number of years. Lauderdale is included under the agreement with Roseville.

City Administrator Thongvanh

Roseville might provide a recommendation but it is up to the Council for a final determination.

Mayor Gustafson Moved, Approved 5-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Miazga

- Northeast Youth and Family services have an Executive Committee meeting on December 12. They are planning a strategic planning and need a new board member that works in the area.
- Environment commission met Monday night. Kay Andrews will be the liaison in 2020.

Council Member Wehyee

Council Member Leehy

Council Member Harris

Mayor Gustafson

- Community Engagement will hold a meeting on Monday. Human Rights Day was cancelled but may be rescheduled.
- Sheriff's office is offering a citizen's academy Wednesdays in January and February for 8 weeks. The academy will provide an in depth view of what goes on in the Sheriff's office.

City Administrator Thongvanh

- Contracted with Huelife for Strategic Planning.
- Snow shoveling has been good this year.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

Esha Seth- (1231 Ray Pl)

- Native Landscaping from Environment commission is available online for community feedback.
- Ramsey County is considering food scrap collection from homes and is conducting a survey.

Rice' Davis (California Ave)

- Positive feedback on snow plowing and street sweeping.

Chuck Long (1717 Albert St)

- Shared letter with Council about working with Pam Harris.

Denny Larson (Hamline Ave)

- Homestead credit is taking a long time.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:15 P.M.

Randy Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 11th day of December, 2019

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator