

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

AGENDA
September 25, 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

Mayor Gustafson

I would like to amend tonight's agenda. We have a presentation from the University of Minnesota President Joan T.A. Gabel.

1. University of Minnesota President Joan T.A. Gabel - Introduction

Joan T.A. Gabel

We love being your neighbor and resident in Falcon Heights. I spent the last few weeks doing thematic engagement at the university where it highlighted food, engagement, and community service. On behalf of the entire community, we appreciate how the U of M and Falcon Heights work together in safety, infrastructure, and creating a positive impact on the community and students. Thank you for having me here, and I look forward to working together.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. September 11, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Leehy asked about a fire term and City Administrator Thongvanh clarified it.

Approved 4-0

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 9/18/19 \$64,459.74
Payroll through: 9/15/19 \$20,780.91
2. Website Redesign Proposal
3. Designation of Polling Places for 2020 Elections

Council Member Leehy

We are excited to have the city's new website redesign. It will come from the Inclusion Fund, because we see this as a value for inclusivity in our city, make it ADA compliant, and easier navigation for our residents and guests.

Councilmember Harris stated that it would be easier to read and find city events and resources.

Council Member Leehy 1st Moved
Council Member Miazga 2nd Moved
Approved 4-0

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Adoption and Certification of the 2020 Proposed Preliminary Levy

City Administrator Thongvanh

Each year the city is required to adopt a premiere levy by the end of September. The final adoption will be in December. The City Council must set a maximum levy, and it cannot go above the limit. They can reduce it but cannot increase the levy limit for the city. In terms of Local Government Aid (LGA) that the city receives from the state, the percentage of the budget revenue was over 50%. The increase from 2019 to 2020 was \$75,732, which shows a good year for the city. The LGA will increase from \$603,532 to \$679,264 in 2020.

Fiscal Disparities is based on the needs of the community. From 2017 - 2018, the city had a 24% increase, then another 24% increase in 2019. The distribution dollars for 2020 increased by \$85,091 over the 2019 level. My goal is to reduce the levy to single digits and right now, we are sitting at a 7.9% increase this year.

In 2019, the median value homes had a tax allotment from the city of \$1,003, and the proposal for 2020 is \$1,068. It is a \$65 increase, which means a \$5.42 per month increase. The budget hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th, 2019, at 7pm at Falcon Heights City Hall.

Council Member Miazga

There is an error on page 31. It states 2018 when it should be 2020.

City Administrator Thongvanh will correct before the city council signs the resolution.

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 4-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Miazga

- NYFS "A Taste of Northeast" event is on Thursday, October 10, at 5:30 pm.
- I have been serving on the Improving Service Delivery Committee for the League of Minnesota Cities. We are ready to make our recommendations, and they should be delivered in November.

Council Member Leehy

- Falcon Heights Youth Commissioners have openings in Parks and Recreation, Community Engagement, and Environment Commission. It is open to Falcon Heights high school students.
- Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is on Monday, October 7 at 6:30pm. We will meet at the Community Park Building on Roselawn Avenue and Cleveland Avenue.

- Falcon Heights Fire Department Open House is on Saturday, October 5. They will have fire demos, activities and more. I encourage everyone to attend the event.

Council Member Harris

- Planning Commission met on Tuesday, and we had a presentation from the Environment Commission about native landscaping and changes to some ordinances.
- The Planning Commission discussed having a vacant property ordinance where you can register a vacant house if you own one. We asked city staff to do more research on it. We will follow up at the next meeting.

Mayor Gustafson

- Community Engagement Commission met last week and are still in the process of finding a theme for Human Rights Day. The next meeting is on Monday, October 21 at 7pm.
- November 18, is the third Cultivating a Caring Community event. The theme is Gray Area Thinking by Elli Krug. The event starts at 6pm-8:30pm. I encourage everyone to attend the event.
- Wednesday, October 2, is National Coffee with a Cop day. Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will host the event at Caribou Coffee, 3673 Lexington Avenue North, Arden Hills
- Falcon Heights Fire Department Open House is on Saturday, October 5. All are welcome to attend. It will be a fun event.

City Administrator Thongvanh

- Strategic Planning is on December 6th and 7th, from 9am-3:30pm.
- The Basketball Court is delayed again due to the rain. We hope to have it installed this fall.
- We cannot apply for the Minnesota DNR grant for the Community Park building because we do not own the land that hosts our Community Park. Nalisha will continue to look at other grant options for the park.
- Larpenteur street construction should be finishing soon. We sent a request to the county for an end date and have not heard back.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:01 P.M.

Randy Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 25th day of September, 2019

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator