

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue
MINUTES
November 18, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.
- B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS X GUSTAFSON X LEEHY X
MIAZGA X WEHYEE X

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X

C. PRESENTATION

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. October 28, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting
2. November 4, 2020 City Council Workshop Meeting

Council Member Leehy motioned to approve the minutes.
Approved, 5-0.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 11/13/20 \$329,786.47
Payroll through: 11/13/20 \$34,932.09
2. City License(s)
3. Appointment of Jill Bartyzal to the Planning Commission
4. Appointment of Kevin Neff to the Falcon Heights Fire Department
5. 18-month Performance Evaluation - Nalisha Nandkumar
6. ~~Request Bids for Fire Services~~

Council Member Wehyee requested to move item F6 to the Policy items as G1.

Approved, 5-0.

G. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Request Bids for Fire Services

Mayor Gustafson

This is a request of bids for fire services to determine whether or not to seek fire services from other area fire departments. During the September 23 City Council meeting, the Council directed the Administrator to solicit bids from three entities including Roseville, St. Paul, and Falcon Heights.

The action requested tonight is for authorization of the City Administrator to request bids from the City of Roseville and the City of Saint Paul. The Falcon Heights fire department budget has already been determined.

Council Member Wehyee

Is there a deadline for our request for bids from the different agencies? I would like to see a separate opportunity for public input before the Council makes a decision.

City Administrator Thongvanh

I will wait to receive authorization from the Council tonight, and then I'm hoping to receive bids by Thanksgiving. We would then make a decision before the Truth and Taxation hearing on December 9 to allow us to modify our budget as needed for 2021. Residents have the opportunity to speak during the Council workshop if Council decides to allow individuals to speak.

Council Member Leehy

I would support using the Workshop as an opportunity for public input before the December 9 meeting.

City Administrator Thongvanh

Public hearings are required by State Statute for items like ordinance changes, Truth and Taxation, land use planning. As the department is part of the City, the Council makes a decision on what they deem as appropriate for the department to function within the City and State Statute does not require a hearing.

Council Member Miazga

Will we receive a proposal from the Falcon Heights Fire Department so that we can compare it to the other agencies?

Mayor Gustafson

We have set our 2021 budget based on the Fire Department needs.

Council Member Miazga

I would like to see a proposal from the Falcon Heights department that includes other information about the department. This would allow us to fairly compare them to the other agencies.

City Administrator Thongvanh

It is strange to request a department of the City to submit a proposal on providing services within the City. In most cases, the City should already know this information.

Council Member Andrews

I agree that it should not be a matter of just the budget, but we need answers to questions around daytime response, department leadership, etc. in addition to proposals from Roseville and St. Paul. I think we should look at all of those as part of our workshop on December 2. If people are here tonight and want to speak, I would be ok with letting them do so.

City Administrator Thongvanh

What I am hearing is that the Council would like to request bids from St. Paul and Roseville, and would like to request proposals from all three. The proposals would address daytime rescue, leadership, liability, recruiting, etc.

The \$427,000 in the Fire Department budget is based on \$50,000 for daytime rescue, about \$100,000 is a fixed cost for debt services. If the Council decides to contract out, that would be an asset we could sell and generate revenue. The \$75,000 is for capital costs of equipment and gear. It's irresponsible to operate the City based on the assumption that you will receive a grant.

Motion to authorize request of bids for fire services and discuss the bids on December 2 at the workshop and make a final decision on December 9 by Council Member Andrews.

Approved, 5-0.

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Wehyee

The Community Engagement Commission met on Monday to talk about Human Rights Day.

Council Member Leehy

The first of three Community Conversation will be on December 3. Watch for more details coming soon on that.

Council Member Andrews

The Environment Commission will not meet until January unless necessary. They established some priorities including electric vehicles policy.

Mayor Gustafson

The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday November 24. Dino's Gyros has approached the City about a possible drive-up window at their current location, so the commission will be looking into possible ordinance changes to allow for this.

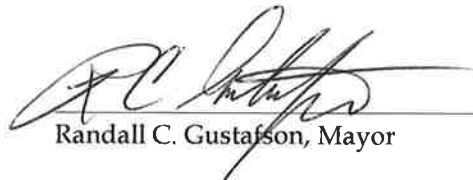
City Administrator Thongvanh

We will not have a warming house at Curtiss Field this year due to COVID-19, but the City will install benches at the rink. We will also create a pleasure rink at the Community Park. We are in the process of rotating council member liaisons among the City's commissions, so please let the mayor or me know if you would like to rotate to another commission next year.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person. Items brought before the Council will be referred for consideration. Council may ask questions for clarification, but no council action or discussion will be held on these items.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:37 p.m.


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 18th day of November, 2020


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator