

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
City Council Workshop
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

AGENDA
May 6, 2020
6:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA WEB CONFERENCE.

A. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Randall Gustafson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS X GUSTAFSON X LEEHY X
 MIAZGA X WEHYEE X

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X MARKON X

C. PRESENTATIONS:

D. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Fire Department Audit

- The City adopted a professional service agreement with the City of Roseville on December 11, 2019. One of the requirements of the agreement was that Roseville would conduct and present an audit of the department within 120 days after adoption of the agreement. A more formal review of the audit will take place at a regular meeting.
- Assistant Chief Brosnahan made the presentation, highlighting the transition and overview of the department, noting that first tasks were to establish trust and build up the organization.
- Currently, daytime response is the priority along with recruitment of new members, ideally those who could respond during the daytime. There has been an uptick in applications recently. Assistant Chief Brosnahan noted that 22-25 would be an appropriate number of firefighters, and there are currently 13.
- Second highest need is capital outlay. Face and neck hoods and helmets have been ordered. Radios and turnout gear will also be in need of replacement soon.
- Training is on-going, mostly moved to virtual during pandemic. The system is effective with quizzes, tests, and YouTube videos. A more robust system is available for added cost.
- City Administrator Thongvanh noted that the fire department culture has shifted, and Assistant Chief Brosnahan said that trust is building and moving in a positive direction.

a. Fire Services to the City of Lauderdale

- Any modifications to contract have to be communicated by July 2020.
- Calculation formulas are used for operations and capital.

- Firefighters are able to respond to more calls because of contract with Lauderdale.
- State fire aid flows to fire relief association.

2. Pavement Management Program

- The presentation is a follow-up from a few meetings ago, with the goal of this workshop to have a discussion based on the condition of roads.
- City Engineer Freihammer summarized that the original option included mill and overlay on various sections and a reclaim of Garden Avenue. A new option would add mill and overlay on Pascal and Albert Streets and remove Garden Avenue. This was precipitated by delamination of the seal coating.
- There are other options for improving and paying for Garden Avenue, and pushing back this project would be favorable in light of the pandemic, which is not ideal for neighborhood walk throughs.
- City Engineer Jesse Freihammer noted that the mill and overlay project usually takes two to three weeks per street.
- The street project will take place next spring and summer, with feasibility studies and assessment hearings and bids occurring throughout the remainder of 2020.

3. Advertisement Policy for Newsletter

- Assistant to the City Administrator Nalisha Nandkumar presented the policy at previous workshops. There was previous concern about location of ads in newsletter.
- Council members discussed that it would be appropriate for restaurants to have ads, as long as advertisements did not explicitly promote liquor and tobacco.

4. Community Garden –Interim Ordinance

- Vegetable gardens were not considered when native landscaping ordinance was discussed.
- An interim ordinance would allow up to one year for study to set parameters on gardening on residential lots.
- Staff will develop an interim ordinance for a future meeting.

5. Dino’s Drive-Thru

- The owners of Dino’s approached the city and requested full installation of the drive-through lane. This request is made in light of the loss of business due to the pandemic and the belief that safety measures will not dissipate soon.
- Dino’s representative Doug Oaks noted they are willing to put up sound barriers, fencing, and shrubs to accommodate and be a good neighbor.
- City Administrator Thongvanh noted that this project would necessitate amending city code after a formal application is received and a hearing is held with the Planning Commission.

6. IT Services Update

- Metro-INET provides technology services to 35 agencies.

- With departure of top two administrators, there is a discussion around changing structure with whole program owned/managed by City of Roseville to instead a joint powers agreement.
- Costs associated with IT and level of services are very good.

7. Election Notices

- Project could include a postcard mailed to all residents to provide information about upcoming elections.
- This mailing could be sent as a separate mailing, or the relevant information could be included in the next city newsletter.
- Council member(s) could discuss content and design with staff with other input from Ramsey County.
- Mailing could be sent for municipal and school board elections as well.

8. Proposed Resolution Outlawing Hate Speech-Acts

- Consideration was given to change the resolution to denouncing hate speech and acts.
- Community Engagement Commission will continue reviewing the resolution.


9. Sanctuary City

- Ramsey County Sheriff Office does not automatically coordinate with ICE.
- Minneapolis and St. Paul classify themselves as welcoming cities.
- Could possibly integrate welcoming city language/status into resolution.
- Community Engagement Commission will continue reviewing.

E. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS


- There will be a resolution calling for a conduit bonding public hearing. The public hearing will be at the June 10th meeting, which may take place in person with appropriate social distancing.
- The current local emergency expires at the end of the month. Staff will request that the local emergency be extended without an end date, until the City Council ends it.
- The city is considering cancelling the summer parks programming and how to best open parks and courts.
- The medians on Larpenteur Avenue are in need of maintenance and upkeep and some are unsafe when turning off Larpenteur Avenue. Council members requested an update at a future council meeting with a cost and layout proposal.
- Various first responders and vehicles, including Falcon Heights Fire Department, will take part in a parade of senior buildings in Ramsey County.

F. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.



Randy Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 6th day of May, 2020



Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator