

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue
MINUTES
August 26, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

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

STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X

There was a request to change the order, to move item G3 to the first item of discussion under Policy Items 'G'. There was also a request to add a discussion of an inclusion consultant as a fourth discussion item to 'G.'

Mayor Gustafson Moved, Approved 5-0

C. PRESENTATION

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. August 5, 2020 City Council Workshop Meeting
2. August 12, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Leehy mentioned corrections to the minutes for August 5th regarding Restoration and Unity day to clarify that the City's role in the event will be similar to previous years.

Council Member Andrews Moved, Approved 5-0

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 8/15/20 \$232,189.98
Payroll through: 8/15/20 \$19,938.04
2. Appointment of Ashleigh Walter as Administrative and Communications Coordinator

City Administrator Thongvanh

Ashleigh is being recommended for approval as the City's Administrative and Communications Coordinator, with a start date of tomorrow. Ashleigh is a recent graduate from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs and has previous city work experience, both with the City of Delano and the City of Bloomington. She also worked as a research assistant and teaching assistant during her time at the Humphrey School.

Ashleigh Walter

Thank you. I'm really looking forward to joining with the city and meeting the council and other staff in person soon. Local government is a passion of mine and I'm very excited to begin with the city.

Council Member Wehyee

We'll work closely with the CEC, I'm excited to have you on my team. Welcome.

Council Member Andrews

Welcome, glad to have you on board.

Mayor Gustafson

Welcome, it's great to have a staff member with your qualifications. Looking forward to working together.

Council Member Leehy

Thank you for selecting us as a place of employment to continue your career in local government.

Council Member Miazga

Welcome, I noticed that you worked for CURA at the U of M. They do a lot of great work.

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 5-0.

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Amendment to the Administrative Manual to include Standards Concerning Communication and Enforcement of Immigration Laws

City Administrator Thongvanh

The item was brought up a number of years ago by Mayor Lindstrom, and then it was recently brought up by Council Member Wehyee. We had discussions to determine whether the best course of action was an ordinance, resolution, or administrative policy, and the latter was determined as the best approach. The agenda packet includes language for an amendment to the City's administrative manual. This was drafted by the city attorney with the help of Council Member Wehyee. Staff is now seeking a motion on the approval of the amendment.

Council Member Wehyee Moved.

Council Member Leehy

I like how this is worded, it's positive in how it's presented and shows the equity and inclusivity that we desire in our city. Other Council Members agreed with Council Member Leehy.

Council Member Wehyee

Thank you to the staff for the research that they did on this, also to my council colleagues for their support of this. I'm proud to support this policy that reinforces personal security and allowing everyone to feel welcome in the city.

Approved 5-0.

2. Capital Region Watershed (CRWD) Project- Seminary Pond in the City of Lauderdale

City Engineer Jesse Freihammer

This is a cooperative project between the watershed district, Cities of Falcon Heights and Lauderdale, Ramsey County, and the University of Minnesota. The goal is to address a historic flooding problem and to improve water quality in the area. The timeline would be to award contracts in September and begin work this fall. Falcon Heights' cost would be \$85,005, which would be covered up front by CRWD. The city could then repay this in 3 yearly payments from 2021-2023. The city will gain some storm water volume credits, and the city would be responsible for 40% of the long-term maintenance costs.

The requested action tonight is to approve a resolution for the agreement for Seminary Pond improvements, as well as an action to approve a Memorandum of Agreement related to storm water utility fees from the U of M.

Council Member Leehy

Does one institution receive a bill for the project maintenance costs?

City Administrator Thongvanh

The university would complete the project and then invoice the city for the 4% maintenance cost.

Council Member Wehyee

How much do we have in the Storm and Sewer fund currently?

City Administrator Thongvanh

About \$240,000 within that fund. Part of this project is that we will need to obtain property from a homeowner in Lauderdale as well. The action requested is approval of the Seminary Pond agreement, Memorandum of Agreement, the resolution as sent earlier, and authorization for the mayor and city manager to authorize all necessary documents.

Council Member Andrews Moved, Approved 5-0.

3. Capital Region Watershed (CRWD) Project – Fowell/Fulham Outfall Improvements

City Engineer Freihammer

This is a secondary project to the Seminary Pond project. Currently, drainage from the Grove neighborhood outlets into Seminary Pond near Folwell/Fulham and the outlet is badly eroded and needs repair. The project scope is to extend the outlet pipe which should reduce erosion, removal of trees and grading. The cost to the city is estimated at \$100,000, and would be paid upfront by the CRWD and repaid over 3 years from 2021-2023. The requested action is to approve a resolution to approve the Folwell/Fullham Outfall Cooperative Agreement.

Council Member Wehyee

Why is the city paying 100 percent of the cost of this project given that Seminary Pond is used by both Lauderdale and Falcon Heights?

City Engineer Freihammer

This outfall into Seminary Pond only collects Falcon Heights' drainage area, so that is why the city is responsible.

Council Member Leehy

In contracting the work, how is a decision made on who actually executes these agreements? How can the city ensure quality work is being done?

City Engineer Freihammer

CRWD is the contracting authority and they would be the lead agency on the project. Once the city enters into the agreement, they will coordinate with the contractor and Falcon Heights will just be invoiced. Regarding work quality, CRWD has specifications and requirements and their engineering firm follows those.

Council Member Wehyee

How soon would the project be done?

City Engineer Freihammer

Bids come in early September, if awarded, work would begin in October and November. Most work would be done this year, maybe some restoration work finished next spring.

City Engineer Thongvanh

Once the project date is set, we'll notify residents that will be impacted.

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 5-0.

4. Discussion of Inclusion Consultant (Item added by council motion earlier in the meeting)

City Administrator Thongvanh

The city met with two consultants following the Philando Castile killing in 2016. There was a request since the George Floyd murder that the city consider holding conversations. The

mediation center was recommended by one of the consultants, and could assist with facilitating and organizing these conversations in the future, but rather than the conversations in 2016, this iteration of the conversations would require more involvement from staff, council, and commissions. Once council approves some funding for this, we'll proceed with meeting with members of the CEC and start setting some expectations for the process. The requested action is authorization of funding up to \$20,000 for work as it would relate to this proposal.

Council Member Wehyee Moved, Approved 5-0.

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Andrews

The survey for the community garden ordinance is done today or tomorrow.

Council Member Leehy

Nalisha submitted the community park garden survey, and this has been sent out for the public to complete.

Council Member Wehyee

I'm excited that the inclusion subcommittee is making progress on establishing the conversations. We're going to start in the next few weeks with more concrete steps.

Council Member Miazga

I recently read our contract with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office and there is a clause that stipulates that if the contract is not terminated 9 months before the end of 2021, the county will continue as the law enforcement agency for the City. Question for Sack Thongvanh: Are we planning to request proposals for law enforcement services?

City Administrator Thongvanh

This will be something we discuss at an upcoming workshop.

Council Member Miazga

I think this is more urgent, I hope we don't delay too long. The USPS has shut down mail sorters, including some in Minnesota which makes voting more difficult. You can vote in person, vote absentee and send in the ballot 2 weeks early, or early vote in person at the Ramsey County Elections Office starting on September 18th.

Mayor Gustafson

The planning commission reviewed the beekeeping ordinance at the last meeting. We're going to see the ordinance at an upcoming workshop, and an eventual hearing and vote on the ordinance. Thank you to everyone that participated in the garden survey. Work continues on research to address community gardens. Welcome to our new staff member, and thank you to the staff for keeping things running smoothly in the absence of a person filling the Administrative and Communications Coordinator position.

Council Member Leehy

I received information about housing resources from Ramsey County for residents struggling with housing costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Administrator Thongvanh

We've begun work on the medians on Larpenteur to make landscaping more low-maintenance and drought-tolerant. We continue to work on the 100 year anniversary of Curtiss Field. Our biannual mail newsletter is in the works and will be sent out in the next few weeks. We're beginning work on transitioning to winter work in public works. The mayor and I will continue to have conversations about public safety as brought up by Council Member Miazga.

Council Member Wehyee

Question for Sack Thongvanh: Could you give the council an update on your conversations with Ramsey County Sheriff?

City Administrator Thongvanh

I received a call from the Sheriff requesting a date to present to council but I have been unable to reach him to set a date. The department wanted to present an annual report to the council, and we're considering including Sheriff Fletcher in the conversations on community policing.


I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 5-0.


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 26th day of August, 2020


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator