

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue
MINUTES
April 28, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00PM
- B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS GUSTAFSON LEEHY
MIAZGA WEHYEE
STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH
- C. PRESENTATION
1. Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) Annual Report

Tara Jebens-Singh, Executive Director

NYFS is a community-based, trauma-informed, nonprofit mental health and human services agency. We partner with 15 municipalities and 3 school districts. We support low-income, under and uninsured youth, families, and adults and we have been serving the northern suburbs for 45 years. We offer mental health clinics in Shoreview and White Bear Lake, we offer telehealth services and school-based mental health services in three different school districts. Our community-based human services include our diversion program, senior chore program. Our community advocate is our newest program and connects community health agencies with local law enforcement agencies to allow them to refer residents for these services.

The City of Falcon Heights contract for services was \$10,038, and the cost of services provided was \$11,423. We had 4 individuals utilize our mental health services, 2 seniors who received senior chore services, and we had 1 youth who received services through the NETS program.

Looking ahead, we are anticipating a return to in-home senior services, greater return to in-person mental health counseling, with telehealth remaining as an option. We are looking to grow our community connections program, expand our online presence, and culturally responsive care.

Council Member Wehyee

What impact has COVID-19 had on demand for services?

Tara Jebens-Singh

Initially our capacity to provide resources was decreased, but after we shifted many services to online platforms, we did a lot of work to train people on how to access services in this way. Our numbers are now back up, most of our practitioners have full case-loads. Both the pandemic and the death of George Floyd have amplified issues that were already in existing. We've also seen an increase in the number of individuals with financial needs.

We had a very bold ask for our contract fees in 2021 and it was pretty universally accepted and supported throughout our municipalities, so we appreciate that. The other thing that is helpful is that to make our services more visible. Promotion of our services is always appreciated.

Council Member Andrews

Our City newsletter would be a great way to promote this work, either through regular content or occasional information.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. April 7, 2021 City Council Workshop Minutes
2. April 14, 2021 City Council Regular Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes by Council Member Wehyee;
Approved 3-0.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 4/22/21 \$64,601.41
Payroll through: N/A
2. Approval of City License(s)
3. Department of Employment and Economic Development Grant Extension Request #2 for the Amber Union Project
4. 2021 Pavement Management Project (PMP) Construction Materials Testing Quote
5. Surplus City Property

Motion to approve the consent agenda by Council Member Andrews;
Approved, 3-0.

G. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Amendment to Section 105-25 and 105-26 of the Building Code in the City Code

Administrator Thongvanh

The City adopted the MN Building Code by reference. The building code is updated periodically, and in 2020 a new version was updated and published. These changes include language updates in our permits and fees section, and it updates requirements for R-1 and R-2 fire protection. There is updates to the flood proofing and grading. The building official Steve Westerhaus sent a memo advising the city to adopt the new provisions to remain current with standards.

Motion to approve the Amendment to Section 105-25 and 105-26 of the Building Code in the City Code by
Council Member Wehyee;
Approved, 3-0.

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Wehyee

The Environment Commission met Thursday, April 15. Topics included projects and seeking potential funding opportunities. We discussed CARES funding uses, and I did advise the commission to wait until Council has a better sense of what those funds will be used for.

Council Member Andrews

The Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on Monday. Just a reminder that we are accepting registration for parks programming.

Mayor Gustafson

The Community Engagement Commission met last week and discussed a number of possible events for the City. We're hopeful that the ice cream social will happen in July.

Administrator Thongvanh

I am working on a number of items regarding Amber Union, including an encroachment agreement on the east side of the building. The tax increment financing has been completed and notices have been sent out. Staff and I continue to explore options for the park building renovation or construction.

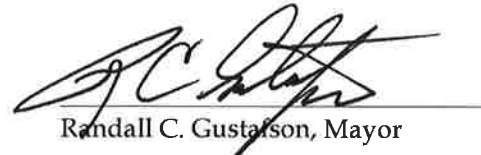
I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

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.

Sharon Castle


I live on Pascal Street and I'm a member of the Landscape Committee for the Philando Castile Peace Garden, which is located near the North entrance to the State Fair grounds on Larpenteur Avenue. It's going to be a nice addition to that spot. It will have permanent structures that allow for the display of artwork as well as plants and a bench. Construction will tentatively begin in the next month. This year will be the 5 year anniversary of Philando's death.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:46PM



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 28th day of April, 2021



Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator