

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

AGENDA
May 8, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. ROLL CALL: Vacant___ LEEHY_X_ HARRIS_X_
MIAZGA_X_ GUSTAFSON___
- STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH_X__

Mayor Pro-Tem Leehy

Mayor Gustafson is not here today and is out of town. He communicated to us that he would not be in tonight's meeting.

- C. PRESENTATION
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. April 10, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved 3-0

- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
- F. CONSENT AGENDA:
1. General Disbursements through: 5/03/19 \$240,929.03
Payroll through: 4/30/19 \$36,472.90
 2. Approval of City License(s)
 3. Resignation of Alyssa Schmeling from the Falcon Heights Park and Recreation Commission
 4. Park Program Fund Donation(s)
 5. Pavement Condition Assessment Quote

Council Member Harris

The city license that we are approving is All Season's Tree Services and Snowplowing, Inc. The city received a donation from James Kernick D.D.S. (\$200).

Mayor Pro-Tem Leehy

If you have a tree service contractor who is not license in Falcon Heights, please contact City Hall. They will help you with the process. I want to thank you, Alyssa Schmeling, for her hard work and time in the Park and Recreation Commission.

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Minnesota State Horticultural Society: Garden -In-A-Box Vegetable Garden Kits

City Administrator Thongvanh

The Garden-In-A-Box program was created by the Minnesota State Horticulture Society (MSHS) in 2008. MSHS distributes vegetable gardening kits to community groups and their mission is to teach vegetable gardening to children and families. The program provides opportunities to affordable healthy food, outdoor activity, education, and community building.

The City of Falcon Heights will be collaborating with the MSHS for the Garden-In-A-Box Program. The boxes will be place at Falcon Heights Elementary, City Hall, Larpenteur Manor apartments, and senior apartment complexes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Leehy

Before this meeting, Nalisha and I were at Falcon Heights Town Square and met with the senior residents. They suggested an idea to have raised garden beds and allow them to garden. Nalisha was able to find Garden- In-A-Box and spread the word out. It will help bring in the intergenerational aspect of people from within the community and working together. The Garden-In-A-Box will help students at Falcon Heights Elementary school to transition into the summer programs, and they are thrilled to have it there.

This is an informational announcement for the city and no need for action.

No Action Needed

2. Consider Changes to City Code Regarding Building Height

City Administrator Thongvanh

One of the goals for 2019 is to clean outdated sections of City Code. The sections are building height definition, clarification for the R1 single-family district, and a more straightforward description for accessory buildings (primarily, detached garages). Planning Commission expressed support for changing the definition of building height to be more in line with regulations of nearby cities. This definition would provide a higher height allowance for pitched roofs, as height would be measured from the midpoint of the highest gable. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing during their meeting on April 24, 2019, to consider these changes. Commissioners voted unanimously to recommend these changes.

Council Member Harris

By changing the definition, it allows more space for building within the house. We did not raise the house's height limits but changed the definition, which could allow more building and occupancy. It will also help residents to renovate their homes and align with other surrounding cities.

Council Member Miazga Moved, Approved 3-0

3. Domestic Partner Registry Fees

City Administrator Thongvanh

In 2011, the City Council adopted Ordinance 11-03, which authorized a domestic partnership registry in the city. The fee was never included in the city fee schedule. Recently, the city has been receiving calls about domestic partner registry in Falcon Heights. City staff contacted the City Attorney and those who advocated for the registry in 2011. A domestic partner registration may still be a relevant decision for some couples, and therefore the city should keep the registry.

Council Member Miazga asked if the city received any domestic partner registry in the last two years rather than getting married. City Administrator Thongvanh stated that in the previous 4 years the city never received any domestic partner registry.

Council Member Harris stated that it was adopted in 2011 before the legislature made same-sex marriage legal. People were thrilled when we passed the Domestic Partner Registry and she is surprised to see it relevant again. Mayor Pro-Tem Leehy also added that it would affect people's employers, out of state and federal level, insurance, and hospital visiting. I want to thank City Administrator Thongvanh and city staff for the fast response for our residents.

Council Member Harris Moved, Approved 3-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Cultivating a Caring Community Speakers
 - i. Ron Rabinovitz "Letters from Jackie" - Baseball Hall of Fame Jackie Robinson
May 23 at 7:00 pm at City Hall
 - ii. Panelists - "Healing and Understanding" July 6 from 6:30pm to 8:00 pm at City Hall
 - 1. Valerie Castile - Mother of Philando Castile and Activist
 - 2. John Thompson - Nonprofit Director
 - 3. Hawa Samatar - Active Resident, Community Volunteer and Falcon Heights Planning Commissioner

Council Member Miazga

- I will be traveling for work from May 15 - 22 and will be back in time for the May 23 event. I will not make it to the July 6 event because I will be out of town. If it is acceptable, I want to make a donation for food and beverages.
- City Administrator Thongvanh and I continue to work on the bonding application. We do have a resolution of support. I hope that it will be in the next city council meeting agenda. We are also working with the U of M to write a resolution support.
- Environment Commission is going great. We are looking at grant money, and Jim Wassenberg has been attending other Environment Commission's meetings to get ideas for our city.
- NYFS annual gala went very well. I am sad to announce that President Jerry Hromatka will be stepping down in the next 13 months.
- The Hendrickson project is looking great and getting bigger.
- I ordered 20 copies of The Mueller Report. I think it is vital for our citizens to know about the facts. If you are interested in wanting a free copy, please give me a call or send an email.

Council Member Harris

- No report tonight.

City Administrator Thongvanh

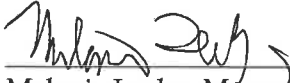
- Planning Commission is holding a PUD public hearing with Buhl Investors for the TIES Building (1667 Larpenteur Ave). Buhl Investors officially owns the building and are looking at 106 affordable housing units. In the next two weeks, Buhl Investors will be at the city council meeting and present a resolution in support of bonding for them. They also applied for state bonding and a Met Council grant.
- The mural at Falcon Heights Elementary is complete. CTV would like to do a recording with the school board and city council. I will reach out to everyone for his or her availability for a ribbon cut.
- I will meet with Mike Bradbury from the Parks and Recreation Commission and discuss the basketball court in Curtiss Field. The court is not up yet because the ground is not dry enough.
- In the last couple of years, I have had my Community Development Coordinator work on a Code Corner that consists of informational items. The Environment Commission has been working on their corner. This week's E-news will have a publication of an Environment Corner.
- Public Works will be doing street sweeping again and clean up the streets. We try to notify residents as much as possible so residents can move their vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tem Leahy

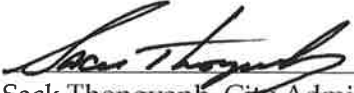
- I encourage residents to sign up on our Listserv to get information from the city. The city will send email regarding what is happening in your neighborhood, newsletters, crime alerts, and announcement from the City Administrator.
- Ron Rabinovitz "Letters from Jackie" - Baseball Hall of Fame Jackie Robinson will be on May 23 at 7:00 pm at City Hall
- "Healing and Understanding" will be on July 6 from 6:30pm to 8:00 pm at City Hall. The speakers are Valerie Castile - Mother of Philando Castile and activist, John Thompson a nonprofit director and friend of Philando Castile, and Hawa Samatar, a community volunteer and Falcon Heights Planning Commissioner. July 6 is also the second annual Restoration Day.
- In order to increase CTV's communication strategies, the city added a CTV section on the website and residents could have access to city council meetings, events, and announcements. In regards to the mural, CTV will also be there to broadcast the grand opening. The city wants to thank Melodee Strong for her hard work and dedication to get it completed.
- Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is on Monday, June 3, at 6:30pm. We have some very active commissioners who are coming up with ideas to engage with the community.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:40 P.M.


Melanie Leehy, Mayor Pro Tem

Dated this 8th day of May, 2019


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator