

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

**AGENDA**  
June 1, 2022  
6:30 P.M.

**NOTE: THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE\***

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:41 p.m.
- B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS X GUSTAFSON X LEEHY X  
MEYER X WEHYEE X
- STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN X SORENSEN X OLSON X  
FREIHAMMER X SMITH X
- C. PRESENTATIONS:
- D. POLICY ITEMS:
1. 2023 Pavement Maintenance Project (PMP) Discussion

Jesse, the City of Falcon Heights Engineer, started the City Council Workshop by talking about the Falcon Heights Improvement CIP. Freihammer highlighted the three most expensive projects for 2023. These projects were Falcon Woods which would cost roughly \$1 million; Holton, Albert, Sheldon, and Ruggles would cost \$535,000; and Garden Ave. \$472,000. Freihammer then talked about the five different options available for Garden Ave. Freihammer stated that all of the options are blocks west of Holton, and the east side of Holton will vary. The curb line on the south side of the road is not moved. The sidewalk is at the back of the existing curb, so driveways would not be smaller than current conditions. Also, other options could be evaluated. For example, street width will be as low as 24' with no parking. Option A the street width will be 29 feet, and the street will be narrowed by 7 feet by moving the north curb in. Parking will be allowed only on the south side. In addition, a 7-foot sidewalk will be installed on the north side adjacent to the curb. Option B's width will be 29 feet, and the street will narrow by 7 feet by moving the north curb in. Parking will be allowed only on the south side. Also, there will be no sidewalk installed. Option C, the street width will be 24 feet, and the roadway narrowed 12 feet by moving the north curb in. No parking will be allowed, and a 6-foot sidewalk will be installed on the north side, separated by a 6-foot grass boulevard. Option D, the Street width is 24 feet, and the roadway is narrowed by 12 feet by moving the north curb in. No parking is allowed, and no sidewalk will be installed – option E Street width 36 feet (same as existing). Parking is allowed on both sides, and no sidewalk will be installed. Stephanie Smith, the City of Falcon Heights Assistant Engineer, stated that there is a sidewalk assessment district option to pay for Garden Ave. What this would do is the total costs of sidewalk district improvements may be apportioned and assessed to all parcels or tracts of land located in the established assessment district on a uniform basis as to each

classification of real estate. Jack Linehan, the City Administrator, stated that for the City Council to use this assessment to pay for Garden Ave. City Council would have to establish a City Ordinance, define improvement area, and define the type of improvements. Freihammer stated that residents had a lot of questions regarding the Garden Ave. 2023 PMP. There were some concerns about no parking. In addition, there were a lot of worries about speed on the road and the cost, and who will pay for this project. Freihammer also stated that there was a study on how fast people drive on Garden Ave. The study found an average of 746 vehicles that drive on Garden Ave. every day and the average speed of vehicles is 20.55 mph. Another significant finding of this study was that 61% of people drive over the speed limit on Garden Ave.

Council Member Weyhee asked what are the timelines for the different options?

Freihammer responded that there would only be about a month difference between option from option E being the quickest.

Council Member Leehy stated that Garden Ave residents did not think it would be fair if they paid for the sidewalk when other residents would be benefiting from it

Freihammer stated that the sidewalk is 100% eligible for state aid funding

Freihammer stated that we will have more meetings with the community for their feedback and

Freihammer stated that the Ruggles pathway, all four property owners objected, but other residents supported it. It can become a liability if someone with a wheelchair cannot get through if not improved.

Smith says a petition from the residents from pascal and Idaho to improve the alley. We mailed out a petition to ask if residents to see more wanted this project done, and we heard a thing barely in response.

Freihammer stated that Tim Pittman, the Public Works Director, has stated the alleyways have gotten worse.

## 2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Discussion

Linehan stated that by resolution, on April 27, 2022, the City of Falcon Heights elected to use the Standard Allowance available under the provision of ARPA for the revenue loss general provision of government services. Falcon Heights already received \$302,056.11 in the fall of 2021 and expects to receive a similar sum in 2022 for \$604,112.20. Funds are intended to cover eligible costs incurred in the time period that begins on March 3, 2021, and ends on December 31, 2024, as long as the obligations for the funds incurred by December 31, 2024, are expended by December 31, 2026. As a recipient of an SLFRF award, our organization has substantial discretion to use the award funds to best suit our constituents' needs. Linehan highlighted that for the provision of government services, to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such recipient due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the

recipient before the emergency. Linehan stated the ineligible uses such as no deposits into pension funds. No debt service or replenishing financial reserves. No satisfaction with settlements and judgments. Additional general restrictions: conflicts with the purpose of ARPA, conflict of interest, and use that undermines the COVID-19 mitigation practices in line with CDC guidelines and recommendations. Using ARPA, a local government may allocate CSLFRF funds to those projects and expenditures that will trigger the fewest Uniform Guidance compliance requirements, thereby limiting the administrative burden. For example, a local government may opt to fund personnel salaries instead of purchasing new police vehicles, which would trigger UG procurement and property management standards. The unit will have freed up general fund revenue that would have otherwise been used to pay for salaries. This additional general fund revenue could then be expended on purchasing new police vehicles, which would only trigger state law procurement and property disposal requirements. The next steps are that the City has already experienced revenue losses due to coronavirus, particularly in the sanitary sewer operations. With the coronavirus continuing, the City uses its ARPA funds for general governmental services in the sanitary sewer operation, storm sewer maintenance and improvements, city operations, and infrastructure street and equipment maintenance and improvements. Under the Council's direction, staff can work on a plan for 2022 and/or 2023 to allocate the ARPA funds, which will recognize the funds as new, unbudgeted revenue. Staff could either: A) Use ARPA funds towards current budgeted expenses, such as personnel or a public safety contract, for 2022 in the form of a budget amendment. Any surplus after 2022 could be transferred to capital or reserves. B) Use ARPA Funds directly towards specific capital expenditure in 2022 and/or 2023/2024. C) Other use or need as identified by the Council.

Council Member Wehyee is disappointed that the City will not be able to use ARPA for third parties.

Council Member Andrews asked would there be another capital project if the UMN and community park did not go through?

Linehan stated that the garden Ave could be paid in full by ARPA.

Council Member Meyer stated that he has talked with residents about establishing a tool library that could be another use for the ARPA funds.

Linehan said the City staff would do more research on how other cities similar to Falcon Heights are using the ARPA funds.

### 3. Information Only: Gas Station Hours of Operation

Leehy stated she had received calls about the gas station's hours of operation.

Linehan stated a conditional-use permit gives them additional hours; however, they operate earlier and later than those hours. The conditional-use permit does supersede the business license.

## E. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Andrews asked if there was a follow-up on Spring Ahead?

Mayor Gustafson said he would not be able to make it due to Covid.

Linehan mentioned that the City has a backup location at the church if the weather is not good.

Council Member Wehyee asked could you please give a quick update on the splash pad?

Linehan: trying to find out what we have done historically.

Leehy asked if a skate park was a part of the options?

Linehan stated that a flex space could be used for that, but everything still needed to be decided.

Leehy stated Restoration and Unity are about a month away.

F. ADJOURNMENT: 8:44 p.m.

\*You can view the meeting by clicking the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81254927566>

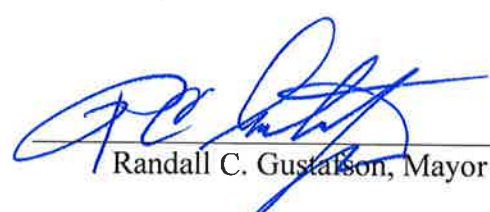
Toll Free Number 1-888-788-0099 or 1-877-853-5247

Webinar ID: 812 5492 7566

*DISCLAIMER: City Council Workshops are held monthly as an opportunity for Council Members to discuss policy topics in greater detail prior to a formal meeting where a public hearing may be held and/or action may be taken. Members of the public that would like to make a comment or ask questions about an item on the agenda for an upcoming workshop should send them to [mail@falconheights.org](mailto:mail@falconheights.org) prior to the meeting. Alternatively, time is regularly allotted for public comment during Regular City Council Meetings (typically 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) during the Community Forum.*

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2022

  
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Jack Linehan, City Administrator

  
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Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor