

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue
AGENDA
December 28, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON LEEHY MEYER

WASSENBERG WEHYEE

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gustafson asks if there are any changes to the agenda. Wehyee says there are no changes.

Linehan says that there is just one minor change to the approval of the minutes for the December 7th minutes; we had a name wrong. The representative from Tubman, we had her as Jennifer Polzin; a little bit confusing, there were three Jennifers or Jens that we dealt with at Tubman, so it's actually Jennifer Dickinson. So, that's been corrected in the minutes that you have in front of you but different from the previous minutes. But otherwise, no other changes.

Motion by Council Member Meyer to approve the agenda.
Approved, 3-0

- D. PRESENTATION: N/A

- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. December 7, 2022 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 2. December 14, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

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

- F. PUBLIC HEARINGS: N/A

- G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 12/21/22 \$227,291.33
Payroll through: 12/15/22 \$18,372.40
Wire Payments through: 12/15/22 \$13,191.88
2. City License(s)
3. 2022 Year End Budget Amendments
4. 2022 General Fund Transfer(s)
5. Amendments to the Saint Paul Academy and Summit School Project Revenue Refunding Note Series 2017
6. 2023 City Calendar
7. Acceptance of Donation from Falcon Heights / Lauderdale Lions Club

8. Accept the Addendum to Feasibility Report and Order Public Hearing for the Idaho-Iowa Alleyway Improvement Project 21-03
9. Request for Approval for Payment of First and Final Invoice to Q3 Contracting for 2021 PMP Restoration

Motion by Council Member Meyer to approve the Consent Agenda.

Approved, 3-0

Gustafson says that on that, the big news on that one, will be the Feasibility Report on the Idaho-Iowa Alleyway Improvement Project. And that one, the residents that are impacted by that, will be getting noticed by the City here of the upcoming public hearing, which will be at our first meeting in January, the first meeting of the Regular Council Meeting. Is that correct?

Linehan confirms that is correct. It will be at the January 11th meeting that we host the public hearing. So, residents will be receiving that notice that are impacted; it should be going out at the end of this week.

H: POLICY ITEMS:

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wehyee says the Planning Commission met yesterday. Unfortunately, I was not able to be in attendance. I did intend to and I think it kind of slipped my mind; I didn't have anything specific going on. I did miss that meeting yesterday but I don't know the content of it. So maybe...I don't know if you have any information on that, he asks Linehan. Besides that, I have no other comments. Thanks.

Meyer says that he has no announcements.

Gustafson says that his announcement, thinking about that City Licenses, we've got all of the licensees listed on the website. So, I would encourage people, when you are looking for services, to utilize those that are actually licensed by the City, like, for your tree trimming. And a lot of these people hold statewide licenses and bonded and insured but, the City licensure method makes certain that they are operating properly and you're not going to get scammed and that type of thing. I talked to a gentleman here last week about he had done a fly-by-night tree trimmer in Shoreview and found out that it...and all those things with scams, you know they ask for all the money up front and he gave it to them. The work wasn't done and yada ya, so make a point, you know, make it a point that you are dealing with reputable people that are licensed by the City of Falcon Heights to do business in the City of Falcon Heights. If they come door-to-door, pedaling something, even if it's selling their roofing service or whatever, they're still required to have a peddlers' permit under...everywhere in Ramsey County and our surrounding cities, with the exception of Roseville, which just says that you can't do it past nine o'clock at night or before nine in the morning, and you have to abide by the "No Solicitor" sign. So, Roseville's the exception, but everybody else has...you have to have a Peddlers' Permit, a Solicitors' Permit, in order to drum up business door to door. Unless, you're a kid, selling candy for your local school or you're a political organization. So, that's that. I want to thank everybody for all the work that was done this year; looking forward to what we're going to do here in 2023 and I want to thank City staff for keeping our roads clear, even if it's meant clearing off the end of the driveway more often than I was thinking I would. But, that's okay, that's a good problem to have, and I want to thank our Public Works staff for that and people for keeping the City going. So, that's pretty much what I've got.

Gustafson asks Administrator Linehan, "What is happening in the City? Can you bring us up to date?"

Linehan: Sure, thank you, Mayor. You guys covered quite a bit. The other one I wanted to call out on the Consent Agenda is that we did do the General Fund Transfer of \$400,000 this year. This is something we were able to do last year and we did again this year. A lot of it's a reflection of our strong financial position to the City. So, we've allocated the money from the fund balance in the General Fund over to the Parks Capital so we're continuing to build that up. The benefit of that is that, we will then, when we do purchase the park's building, or purchase the park land and rebuild the building, we'll be in better financial position to take out less of a debt levy. So, part of why we're able to do that, is the City does have a very strong General Fund balance. Our current, as of our 2021 audit, our fund balance was at 122% of our operating expenditures. So, essentially, we had more than a year's worth of expenditures in the General Fund. Our policy is that we have no less than 45% of General Fund balance. So, we're clearly much above our policy. When we go out for bonds, they suggest, to maintain our AAA status, which the City has the highest bond rating we can have, that you keep that above 75%. So, this transfer reflects again, a very good year; we were under on expenses, over on revenue. It will dip into the fund balance, generally, but we still expect we'll be over 100% of our fund balance. So, we're continuing to draw that down, little by little, while investing in the park. So, a good move by the Council, a good move by the City, that'll help set us up long term for success.

As the Mayor mentioned, Public Works have been out doing snow removal; generally, doing cleanup; a little bit of scraping here and there. Our policy is that plows go out when 2 inches of snow accumulate. Now, it's not all the same. Sometimes, they need to do a little cleanup. Or, like last week, there was drifting happening. So, snow was blowing into the streets like it happened on Fry Street; you get a blockage. So, Public Works crews went out and cleaned that up. I do want to remind residents, because we're running into this quite a bit, there were a lot of cars that got tickets last week and some vehicles were towed, that whenever there's two inches of snow, for 48-hours OR, and this is the important part, until we're able to plow from curb to curb, our snow street parking is in effect. So, we do have some cars that have gotten tickets on certain streets and a lot of those cars, they don't move, and they sit there for a week with the ticket; they are at risk of getting towed just because we need to be able to go through and clear curb to curb to allow emergency vehicles to pass. So, just a good reminder. We're trying to put out information just to remind residents of our policy.

The ice rinks...so, weather has not been kind. It's either been too cold, or now it's too hot. So, we're kind of looking for that Goldie Locks; between zero and thirty-two degrees is perfect ice rink weather and we just haven't really been there yet. So, they're still working, they're still flooding, they're working to get them open. The weather, it's good for all of us that it's going to be above freezing for the next couple of days, but starting next week, it looks like we're going to get right in that perfect band. So, we're hopeful that it will open. We are ready to go. We have both of our Warming House Attendants hired, ready and trained.

So, and then also, Council Member, Wehyee, mentioned the Planning Commission. So, they did meet last night. They discussed the THC Moratorium, so kind of looking at it a little further. A reminder, we passed a one-year moratorium that ends in September. We, as a City, are required to analyze it during that time, and so staff has been working, preparing reports. Hannah, our new liaison, presented to the Planning Commission. The general consensus from the Planning Commission was that they generally support allowing THC, but with some zoning modifications and regulations similar to our tobacco licensing. So, they see it more similar to tobacco than liquor, which is an approach that cities like Roseville just passed. So, essentially, a facility would have to get licensed through the City to be able to sell, they'd have certain restrictions on distance from schools, other things like that, that makes sense. So, they're working on that. What they're going to do, is they have a subcommittee, made of Chair, Scott Wilson, member, Laura Painter, and liaison, Lynch, they're assigned to work on it and they're hoping to bring recommendation by February to the Planning Commission. So, that's their timeframe and their goal. Now, the thing is, there's a chance that in the Spring Session, that the Minnesota legislature may pass some sort of legalization or other sweeping policy, but they're keeping an eye on that. And then, we also, we do have a vacancy on the Planning Commission still for Council Member Wassenberg's seat. So, we're going to be recruiting for that.

And then, finally, a reminder that we are closed on Monday for the New Year holiday. It's a little bit of a quiet time in the City, but we're still keeping busy.

Wehyee says that he does have one additional update. So, I was actually supposed to share this with the Council a couple weeks back, but Ron Rabinovitz, he passed away and I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention. I believe that Ron was somebody that was a part of some of our endeavors in equity and inclusion work, and he was Pen Pals with Jackie Robinson. And, so, I think he had some familiarity with the community and vice versa, so I just wanted to bring it to the community's attention that Ron did pass away a couple of weeks back. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family.

Mayor Gustafson says that he was an interesting guy. It was a fascinating evening (he was a part of our speaker series things that we were exploring deals; that was good. And, interesting perspectives brought up by his life-long friendship with Jackie Robinson for this Jewish kid from Milwaukee. So, wow. Anyway, that's a bummer, but thanks for sharing. Any other announcements or to add.

J. 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.

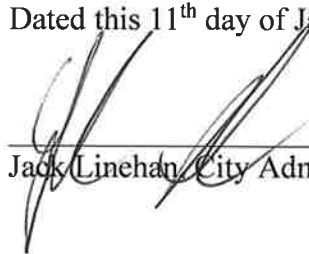
K. ADJOURNMENT: 7:17 P.M.

Motion by Council Member Wehyee to adjourn.
Approved, 3-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 11th day of January, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator