

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City
Council City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue
MINUTES
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 7:00 p.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON X LEEHY X MEYER

WASSENBERG X WEHYEE X

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN X

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Linehan notes agenda item L. Closed Session and K. Adjournment were switched as adjournment should be after the closed session. Council has the correct printed version.

- D. PRESENTATION

- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - 1. May 3, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes
 - 2. May 3, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
 - 3. May 10, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Leehy motions to
approve the minutes; approved 4-0

- F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- G. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - 1. General Disbursements through 5/17/23: \$226,554.66 Payroll through 5/15/23: \$17,278.96
Wire Payments through 5/15/23: \$11,037.89
 - 2. Approval of City License(s)
 - 3. Appointment of David Simons as Senior Maintenance Worker
 - 4. Community Development Coordinator/Planner Hannah Lynch – Six Month Step Adjustment

5. 2023 PMP – Materials Testing Contract
6. Summer Hours
7. Purchase of MPH Industries StreetScout Trailer Using State Contract Pricing
8. Lease of City Hall Copier/Scanner from Loffler

The Council welcomes the new Senior Maintenance Worker David Simons.

Senior Maintenance Worker David Simons introduces himself and thanks Council for the opportunity to work for the City of Falcon Heights.

Councilmember Wassenberg is pleased to see the StreetScout Trailer on the Consent Agenda as a number of residents expressed concerns to him about speeding on certain streets in the City. He adds, study shows it can be an effective measure for speeding and is pleased with the cost effectiveness as well.

Mayor Gustafson comments, summer hours will start on Tuesday, May 30. City Hall will be open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM and on Friday from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM. He continues with stating that materials testing is being done for the 2023 PMP project, to ensure compliance and to move the construction along as quickly as possible.

Councilmember Leehy appreciates seeing the City working with Loffler for copier services. Speaking from previous office experience, she states Loffler is a reputable service agent.

Administrator Linehan explains, staff researched fiscally responsible copier options. The City will be getting the copier for state pricing, while also receiving Loffler's services. Linehan continues, the City used to own its own StreetScout trailer, but technology has improved significantly over the years. This trailer will be able to track very advanced matrix and Public Works is able to collect data through Bluetooth. The purchase of a StreetScout trailer will be no more than \$10,000, although it was not budgeted for in our capital plan. Funds would come from Public Safety Capital Fund (402), which has a fund balance of \$32,652 from the sale of fire equipment. Lastly, Linehan is excited to add Senior Maintenance Worker David Simons to the Public Works department. His experience and knowledge stood out amongst candidates.

Councilmember Wehyee motions to approve the consent agenda; approved 4-0

H. POLICY ITEMS:

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Wassenberg states, the Spring Together event on May 20th was very successful and enjoyable. There was great interaction between residents, staff, councilmembers, organizations and commission members.

Councilmember Leehy comments she unfortunately was unable to attend due to other responsibilities, but is pleased to see it was a successful event and the increase of attendance.

Administrator Linehan adds, there were over 200 attendants and around 265 ice cream treats were handed out.

Councilmember Wehyee attended the Spring Together event with his family and greatly enjoyed the event. He added there was participation from surrounding cities as well.

Mayor Gustafson adds it was a great event. He appreciates the feedback received on various City projects. The Planning Commission had their meeting the night before on May 23, and there was a presentation by the City Attorney regarding the Cannabis legalization and how licensing and regulations will work once legal. Lastly, Mayor Gustafson notes the next City Event will be Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 20.

Administrator Linehan thanks staff, commissioners and councilmembers who participated in the Spring Together event. Linehan received an update on the Cleveland Avenue Reconstruction Project. He was surprised to see the amount of work being done on Larpenteur Ave, which was not included in the original project plans. The County is installing a retaining wall and fence along Larpenteur Ave., between Cleveland Ave. and Gortner Ave. The retaining wall has been built and once the sidewalk and fence are reinstalled, Ramsey County will be reopening the closed lane on Larpenteur Ave., apart from the intersection. Public Works has the contractor Uppercut performing routine tree trimming throughout the City. Regarding the Policing Contract, Consultant Bostrom and Administrator Linehan have finalized briefing materials to solicit responses from other agencies and they have set up meetings with the two preferred agencies. Finally, the City has hired additional staff. An Administrative & Inclusions Intern, Fredi Ponce Parra, who started this week. Fredi is a junior at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, studying for a bachelor's degree in Political Science. A Seasonal Laborer was also hired. Henry Thomas is a senior at Roseville Highschool and will be graduating soon. Lastly, the City is recruiting more residents to join the State Fair Task Force. The goal is to appoint and start the Task Force in June.

Councilmember Leehy wants to alert everyone about the Kickoff to Summer at the Fair, she believes the attendance will be much higher than last year.

Administrator Linehan comments, the City put out a notice regarding the event on Social Media to make residents aware. Parking on Fairgrounds will be free, with the hopes of keeping all attendants within the Fairgrounds property. Attendees were asked not to park in the adjacent neighborhoods.

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.

Kim Schudy - 1381 California Ave W.

Good Evening Mayor, Councilmembers and staff. Me and my husband reside at 1381 California Ave W. Additionally, I have lived in the Como Neighborhood over 45 years. I would like to bring attention to the parking challenges residents face every year during the State Fair and request for purposeful action and dialogue to begin. A short list of issues:

- *Parking is restricted to one side of the street during the fair. Last year, people were parked solidly in all directions on the street starting at 5:30AM until after 11:00PM every day. If you own a one car garage, you're out of luck trying to find a parking spot for your second car.*
- *The driving challenges are multilevel and the consequences are serious resulting in accidents and personal injury. Cars are densely packed and if you need to make a turn at an intersection it is dangerous as cars overlap corners and obstruct the point of direction for drivers.*
- *Additional challenges also include, building construction trucks, roofing companies parking their dumpster, lawn services with large trailers all of which can occupy the space of three cars. There are also commercial delivery vehicles driving up and down streets with one lane of traffic available, mail services and restaurant deliveries as well. The motor coaches also run on Hamline Ave. between 5:30AM until 11:00PM carrying Park & Ride visitors and these vehicles are large.*
- *Cars speed up and down streets running stop signs looking for a parking spot. If you're trying to cross with your dog, you can forget about it or any of the older residents in the neighborhood avoid trying to cross the street. The south section of Falcon Heights is much older than the north section and the streets are far narrower.*

I come here to ask, does the City really need a State Fair Task Force to begin to address residential parking issues and safety issues during the fair. These are very real and serious issues around public safety and communities now more than ever given the rising increase of gun violence which I may add, the Fair couldn't even manage or control last year themselves. In closing and with all due respect, residential neighborhoods should not have to rely on the Minnesota State Fair and the City of Falcon Heights to maintain and ensure safety for their residents. The ideas neighbors and myself have been talking about for years are requests for no parking signs posted that prohibit parking from 10:00PM to 7:00AM in specific areas. Another idea is parking by permit only and the third idea is permit pass made available to homeowners for a fee. Thank you for your time.

K. CLOSED SESSION:

1. Annual Performance Evaluation for City Administrator Jack Linehan - Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(a).

Mayor Gustafson states, the City Council will be going in to Closed Session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13.D.05 3(a) - "to evaluate the performance of an individual who is subject to its authority." The topic of discussion will be the annual performance evaluation of City Administrator Jack Linehan. State Statute requires a performance evaluation to be an open meeting at the request of the subject of the meeting, which City Administrator Linehan has declined. Following Closed Session, there will be no formal action or business by the City Council other than the adjournment of the meeting. The adjournment vote will be open to the public but will not be televised on NineNorth. At our next open meeting, the City Council will summarize the conclusions regarding the evaluation pursuant to State Statute. Do I have a motion to enter closed session?

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to enter closed session; approved 4-0

L. ADJOURNMENT: 9:47 PM

Councilmember Wehyee motions to adjourn; approved 4-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 24th day of May, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator