

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

MINUTES
June 7, 2023
6:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:51 PM

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_ X_ LEEHY_ X_
 MEYER_ X_ WASSENBERG___ WEHYEE_ X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_ X_ VAN DER WERFF_ X_

C. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Law Enforcement Contract Discussion

Administrator Linehan provides an update on the search for a new law enforcement partner. He stated himself and Consultant Bostrom have scheduled discussions with nearby policing agencies.

The City Council discussed the current options for policing services.

2. State Fair Task Force

Administrator Linehan asks Council about next steps for the Task Force. The City received a number of applications and the State Fair is happening soon. He asks if Council would approve of appointing the applicants we have right now, most of whom live in the Northome neighborhood. He believes it's harder to gather applicants from other neighborhoods as they are not impacted as much as residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the State Fair.

Councilmembers discussed how many applicants they should appoint to ensure there is always a quorum. With a Task Force, a quorum is not needed to have a meeting and discuss ideas. The Council would still have a final say, as the Task Force will be working in an advisory capacity to the Council.

Mayor Gustafson comments the City can appoint every applicant to the Task Force and have them select their chair, vice chair and minute taker. It would be beneficial to get started with some plans prior to the State Fair.

Administrator Linehan states he will be reaching out to all applicants to get them appointed at the next Council Meeting. He will be the facilitator at the Task Force meeting.

Councilmember Meyer asks if there is any participation from the State Fair.

Administrator Linehan answers that is something he wants to discuss with the new CEO. He does not want to rush this Task Force. He wants to get it started prior to the Fair, so the Task Force might be able to recommend some temporary regulations. The Task Force will continue to meet during and after the Fair, in order to be able to make recommendations for next year.

Councilmember Leehy wants to make sure that parking is made available to residents on Hoyt. They are impacted heavily during the Fair. This needs to be an early agenda item for the Task Force.

3. Juneteenth / CROWN Act Personnel Policy Changes

Administrator Linehan explains that CROWN Act stands for “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair”, which bans racial discrimination based on hair. Juneteenth is set to become a federal holiday. After Governor Walz signed a bill making Juneteenth a state holiday in 2024, cities are having discussions on having it becoming a holiday this year. Administrator Linehan discusses with Council that he would like to declare June 19, 2023 as Juneteenth Day in Falcon Heights and to have City Hall closed during that day. He also would like to add the CROWN Act and the Juneteenth Holiday to the Personnel Policy.

Councilmember Wehyee asks if Juneteenth and the CROWN Act can be made into a Policy Item instead of being on the Consent Agenda to bring more prominence to each item.

Mayor Gustafson suggests to have the items as a presentation on next week’s agenda.

Council discussed if the two items should be two separate resolutions. City Administrator Linehan adds, they can both be a separate presentation and have a vote attached to it. For example, like the Audit presentation. Both items are impactful and should receive the attention they deserve. Council decided that both items will be a separate presentation at next week’s Council Meeting.

4. THC Moratorium Extension

Administrator Linehan explains that with the legalization of Adult-use cannabis, legal sales and the licensing process are expected to begin January 2025 upon establishment of the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management. He requests to have the current moratorium in place extended and to wait for more regulations to roll out and the establishment of the cannabis agency. Council agrees with this request and believes more discussion is needed.

D. ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 p.m.

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 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.



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 7th day of June, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator