

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

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023
7:00 p.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X__ LEEHY_X__ MEYER_X__
WASSENBERG_X__ WEHYEE_X__

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X__

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve the agenda; approved 5-0

- D. PRESENTATION

1. Award Sale of General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2023A

Todd Hagen from Ehlers & Associates, Inc., presents the General Obligation Improvement Bond, Series 2023A Sale. The bond of \$521,000 was marketed to over 15 banks for sale. Four bids were received up until the morning of Tuesday, July 25th. The best bid was received by Zions Bank Corporation located in Salt Lake City, UT was for 4.41%, which is lower than projected on the pre-sale report. The other three bids were also greatly appreciated by Hagen. They were received by Security Bank & Trust Co., Hunting Bank and Citizen State Bank, with slightly higher interest rates. The bond was lowered to \$520,000 as the cost of issuance came in lower than predicted at the pre-sale. The City will not be using a paying agent, the bank will be paid directly. The bond also includes pre-payable on any date without penalty, meaning after the closing the bond can be paid off earlier. Resolution 23-49 is attached for the Council to review.

Councilmember Wassenberg asks if the terms of the four bids received are of similar nature.

Hagen replies that the terms and conditions were locked in to prevent movement.

Councilmember Wassenberg asks if there is a preference for awarding the sale of the bond to local banks.

Administrator Linehan answers that it is up to Council to decide, but traditionally the bid with the lowest interest rate is selected. However, there is nothing that states the City has to select a local institution.

Councilmember Meyer wonders if it is possible to negotiate with a local institution to match the lower interest rate received from a bank out of state.

Hagen answers that would be a negotiated sale and those perimeters would have to be set at the beginning. Typically, the bid with the lowest rate is selected if there is not another valid reason to pick another bidder.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Resolution 23-49 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of \$521,000 General Obligation Improvement Bonds, Series 2023A pledging special assessments and levying a tax for the payment thereof; approved 5-0

Administrator Linehan adds that Resolution 23-49 was updated to reflect the bond amount of \$520,000.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. July 12, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Wehyee motions to approve the Meeting minutes; approved 5-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Fee Schedule Modification Ordinance

Administrator Linehan states this Public Hearing is for two different fee increases to consider. The first is to increase the parking violation fee. At its last meeting, The State Fair Task Force (SFTF) meeting, the SFTF discussed the importance of ensuring parking violations cover the costs for violations during the State Fair. The current uniform parking violation is \$50. Lot parking in commercial lots near the State Fair reached \$50 in 2022. The proposed ordinance change would be to include language that parking violations are \$100 from August 15th to September 15th, and \$50 from September 16th – August 14th. The second fee is an increase in fees for right-of-way obstruction permits, as currently the fees does not cover the costs occurred by the city.

Paula Mielke – 1506 Crawford Ave.

- Added that City will put up signage about the doubling of the parking violation fee. The State Fair Task Force is working hard. They reviewed comments from the survey and Town Hall meeting and are prioritizing these, resulting in motions that have been put forward to the Council. They met on July 13th, with the new general manager of the State Fair and they believe there will not be much relieve this year when it comes to parking issues. Metrotransit will only have four routes, compared to eight routes years ago. This year they will also not be able to add more Park and Ride lots. State Fair employee parking was added in Roseville. The Task Force asked if the General Manager is willing to meet again after the State Fair to continue the parking discussion.

Ross Allard – 1381 California Ave.

- To clarify the parking restrictions, there are already signs stating “no parking within 30 feet of the corner”, but those signs are often ignored as the current fine is not much higher than it costs to park at a lot. As a result, the street is wall to wall cars making it hard to see right or left at an intersection and that is a safety issue and he encourages Council to vote in favor of increasing the parking violation fee.

Councilmember Meyer motions to end the Public Hearing approved 5-0

Council commented it is good way to word the signs by saying fines will be doubled, also to prevent Council from having to reassess every year. Then they discussed towing, if there is room in signage to include this and what valid reason for being towed are.

Councilmember Wehyee asked how soon the fee schedule will be updated.

Administrator Linehan stated that the fee schedule will be updated upon passage and signs will be ordered. Signs will be placed at the 30 feet mark at every corner and they will be put up before the State Fair.

Councilmember Leehy motions to amend the 2023 City Fee Schedule; approved 5-0

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 7/19/23: \$370,184.76
Payroll through 7/15/23: \$23,987.91
Wire Payments through 7/15/23: \$14,175.29
2. City Licenses
3. Night to Unite Proclamation
4. ~~Authorize use of \$14,626 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds for the 2023 Pavement Management Project~~
5. 2023 Pavement Management Project (PMP) Pay Request #1
6. ~~Snelling-Larpenteur Study~~

Council decided to move item 4. and item 6. to Policy Items to allow for further discussion.

Councilmember Wehyee motions to approve the consent agenda; approved 5-0

H: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Authorize use of \$14,626 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds for the 2023 Pavement Management Project

Administrator Linehan explained that this is state funding made available during Covid, for road projects and has to be used on eligible street projects. These funds have not been utilized and it was advised by engineers to apply the funds towards the 2023 street project.

Councilmember Meyer motions Authorize use of \$14,626 in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds for the 2023 Pavement Management Project; approved 5-0

2. Snelling-Larpenteur Study

Administrator Linehan states that the City applied for and received \$50,000 in funding from Ramsey County's Critical Corridors Pre-Development Planning grant to conduct a Larpenteur-Snelling Corridor Study. A proposal was submitted by WSB for the study in the amount of \$54,685.00. WSB was selected because they won the bid for the City's Comprehensive Plan. A big part of the study is utilizing public engagement and making the community an active stakeholder in looking at various opportunities and parcels along Larpenteur Avenue.

Councilmember Wehyee wonders about the timeline.

Administrator Linehan answers, the deadline to spend the grant is the end of 2024. Plan is to start the process as soon as the grant is funded as the City is aware of issues that need addressing.

Council wondered if the University of Minnesota and the State Fair will be engaged in the process by WSB. They also discussed adding neighboring municipalities and agencies.

Administrator Linehan says yes. Having the University and the State Fair as a stakeholder will be important. Larpenteur and Snelling were selected for the study to keep the focus and funding mostly within Falcon Heights.

Councilmember Leehy adds that the changing speed limit throughout Larpenteur should be addressed in the study.

Administrator Linehan adds that Ramsey County announced that they will be lowering speed limits on certain parts of Larpenteur.

Councilmember Leehy wonders if a disclaimer can be included as to what cannot be changed with this study and grant.

Administrator Linehan wants to put out a press release if the Resolution passes.

Mayor Gustafson adds that the Planning Commission is thrilled with the proposal and grant.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Resolution 23-51 Accepting WSB Proposal and Authorizing City Administrator to Enter Into Contract With WSB For Larpenteur Snelling Corridor Study; approved 5-0

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Wassenberg shares that it was a pleasure being at the Ice Cream Social and handing out ice cream treats.

Councilmember Leehy thanks Administrator Linehan and Staff for organizing Ice Cream Social and bringing the community together.

Councilmember Wehyee has no announcements.

Councilmember Meyer expresses gratitude towards City Staff. He is excited for Night to Unite and is excited to be organizing a block party on his own street.

Mayor Gustafson also agrees, Ice Cream Social was a fabulous event and it was greatly organized. There are 16 block parties for Night to Unite. Which is also a great event to connect with neighbors. The Planning Commission had a workshop meeting, where they started looking at City Code and zoning ordinances. The State Fair is coming up and everyone is encouraged to watch where they park.

Administrator Linehan updates Council about the 2023 PMP, it is moving along at a good pace. This week sidewalk installation is happening along with pavers on Ruggles pathway. Next up, they will start milling on several streets. It is quick, but disruptive. The project is on target to be finished a week before the start of the State Fair. Public Works is doing sidewalk replacement on Hoyt Ave. as well as some other streets that needed emergency replacement. Another grant the city applied for, was the Be Active! Be Green! Bench Initiative. The city asked for three benches, but is possibly receiving eight benches. Budget season will be starting soon, staff is working on getting the numbers together. Lastly, the State Fair Task Force has been meeting frequently and they have been coming up with good interim recommendations. The plan is to come up with more permanent solutions. Council is encouraged to attend the meetings.

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: 8:22 PM

Councilmember Meyer motions to adjourn the meeting; approved 5-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 26th day of July, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator