

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

MINUTES
August 14, 2023
5:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 5:34 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON__x__ LEEHY_x__
MEYER_x__ WASSENBERG_x__ WEHYEE_x__

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X__ NELSON __X__
- C. POLICY ITEMS:
 - 1. Law Enforcement Contract Update

Linehan says that he and Mayor Gustafson had a call with St. Paul Police, which included Mayor Carter, the Deputy Mayor, the Police Chief, the Finance Director, etc. They had been working on setting this meeting since May. Although no decision was made, it seemed like it was a positive meeting and went well.

Linehan goes on to share that an overtime model was presented to St. Paul PD. Officers would be given the opportunity to patrol and protect Falcon Heights during their off days from St. Paul, when they would otherwise be at home, to earn overtime pay. This model does not require hiring additional officers in St. Paul in order to add coverage to Falcon Heights.

Gustafson shares that St. Paul's City Attorney was not in favor of St. Paul providing our policing two years ago, but this is a different model. Liability was a sticking point then. The traditional way of thinking is forming a police department and staffing it. This model looks at how best to support the staff.

He goes on to say that the research gathered last fall from Falcon Heights residents about what they want from a police department fits with what Mayor Carter envisions. A safe Falcon Heights is a safe Como/St. Paul.

Wehyee asks if Linehan can elaborate more on what aspect of liability was a sticking point two years ago.

Linehan says that insurance and liability are areas that need to be addressed further.

Leehy says that that must make them feel like we have skin in the game.

Linehan says that three FTEs (full-time equivalents) would equate to approximately \$15,500 annually in increased premiums.

Leehy asks if Falcon Heights would be the starting point or ending point in determining liability. If a pursuit originated in Lauderdale, for example, but ended in Falcon Heights, then how would you determine it?

Linehan says that how he'd write it is to cover the off-duty officer serving in Falcon Heights. He doesn't want to cover all officers responding from St. Paul. If there is a call after-hours and St. Paul is responding, this liability would not cover that.

Linehan then shares a draft of a proposed agreement. He says that the Scope of Services section was added to this draft and that it includes such things as background checks, emergency patrols, engaging with the community, etc. This is our opportunity to build that section out.

Wassenberg asks if Linehan is looking for feedback on the draft.

Linehan says that he's open to feedback, but that he also feels like St. Paul needs to take a temperature internally first about what they can provide. He adds that the draft is built from our old coverage.

Wassenberg suggests to Linehan that he makes edits to take into the next meeting with St. Paul in case they want to go deeper on the call.


Gustafson says that out of St. Paul's 400 or so employees, there would be enough looking for overtime hours and extra income. And, it's a benefit to the St. Paul Fire Department as well.

Linehan will update the Council after his next meeting with St. Paul.

D. ADJOURNMENT: 6:49 PM

Councilmember Leehey motions to adjourn the meeting; approved 4-0
(Meyer had left)

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 14th day of August, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator