

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

MINUTES
August 2, 2023
6:30 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:42 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_
MEYER_X_ WASSENBERG_X_ WEHYEE_X_
- STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_ VAN DER WERFF_X_
- C. POLICY ITEMS:
1. Law Enforcement Contract Update

Administrator Linehan provides an update on the search for a new law enforcement partner. Council discussed what they would like to see included in a potential policing contract, it should be customized to Falcon Heights' needs. These needs can be adjusted week by week.

2. Budget Calendar

Administrator Linehan introduced a tentative meeting schedule for the Council to discuss the 2024 budget. He is proposing to have budget workshops after the regular scheduled meeting instead of having special meetings on different days. Linehan plans on keeping things brief and can explain further detail if needed. This schedule will be on next week Council Agenda for Council to approve and it will also be put on the City's calendar. Everything needs to be in place for the budget by September 27, 2023 and then the preliminary levy will be approved. Linehan adds that hopefully, police costs will be more known by then. The levy can be decreased but not increased.

3. Sister City Program

Administrator Linehan states that funds are included in the budget for miscellaneous items such as sister cities. Councilmember Wehyee asked for the topic to be included on the August agenda.

Councilmember Wehyee presents the Sister Cities Program to the Council as a good way to showcase our city, highlight and foster our accomplishments. It can be as formal as a city wants it to be. The program is helpful in expanding world knowledge and expanding cultural knowledge. There is no limit to the amount of sister cities one city can have. Small and large cities can have sister cities and even municipalities can participate. Sister cities are often chosen by looking at historical ties or cultural similarities. Councilmember Wehyee suggest multiple cities that would fit with Falcon Heights. One would be in Liberia, where Councilmember Wehyee still has many family members residing. One would be in France, specifically the town where the Larpenteur Family came from. A good fit could also be a city in Somalia. The Sister

City program comes with a lot assistance when it comes to setting up connections and maintaining the network. There are different models the City can choose from that works best for Falcon Heights.

Mayor Gustafson wonders what kind of model would fit best for Falcon Heights, what would we be able to showcase to other cities.

Councilmember Wehyee would like to bring in the Community Engagement Commission for ideas on model and structure of the program. We could learn from other cities about their governing model or how they hold meetings. Cities do not have to be in direct comparison to be able to learn from each other. He also believes it's something the community would be excited about to participate in and some might not even know this program is possible for Falcon Heights.

Councilmember Wassenberg adds it would be nice to bring in a sister city that is completely different and to learn even more from each other.

Councilmember Meyer likes the idea and thinks cultural enrichment is exciting. He adds it's a potential way to celebrate the different places the people of Falcon Heights come from.

Council discussed if the Sister Cities program could connect with the Third Sphere program and if they should be introduced and launched at the same time in Falcon Heights or if one would take attention away from the other.

Councilmember Wehyee adds that the registration itself would not take up too much time. Choosing a city and formalizing the relationship would require more time, but this does not need to be rushed or acted on right away.

Councilmember Wassenberg asks if Sister Cities is a program that stays with us over time or if it is more a flurry of events. If it stays overtime, we can change how much we focus on it overtime.

Council discussed if they should start with partnering with a domestic city first and then branch out to an international city. They then talked about how to pick a city and if this requires community involvement through a poll or a survey or if Council can pick a city. The topic was tabled for a later meeting to further discuss.

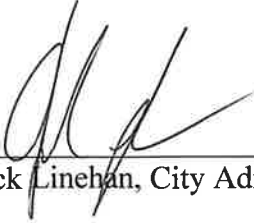
D. ADJOURNMENT: 9:15 PM

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 2nd day of August, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator