

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

MINUTES
Wednesday, October 25, 2023
7:00 p.m.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_ MEYER_X_

WASSENBERG_X_ WEHYEE__

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X__

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Linehan takes item 4. Appointment of Wesley Goldberg to the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Consent Agenda on the request of the applicant.

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve the amended agenda; approved 4-0

- D. PRESENTATION

1. Charitable Gambling Proceeds Donation to the Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden

Administrator Linehan explains that the City maintains a Charitable Gambling fund that is financed by a tax on charitable gambling activity within Falcon Heights. Of the 10% funds that are collected to this fund, a portion needs to go back into the community. The funds were collected a number of years ago and it is of the best interest for the City to find a use for the fund. One of these purposes is that a contribution to a 501(c)(3) is allowable. Formal approval is recommended for the contribution of these 10% gambling funds to the 501(c)(3) "Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden" to assist in getting a water hookup to the site and closure of Special Revenue Fund 203.

Council agrees this would benefit the volunteers, who are Falcon Heights residents as well as the Philando Castile Peace Garden, which is located in Falcon Heights and therefore benefits the community.

Councilmember Meyer reads Resolution 23-69 Resolution for Contribution to The Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden into record.

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve Resolution 23-69 Resolution for Contribution to The Friends of the Philando Castile Peace Garden into record; approved 4-0

Sue Gehrz thanks the City for this generous donation. This will help pay for a permanent water source. The Peace Garden has been an effort of this community and surrounding communities. Provides recent updates:

- Signage has been installed in the garden with explanations
- Planning for installation of boulders that will provide additional seating

- Designing proposals for lighting in the garden
- Bringing back original donated artwork
- Plan for virtual exhibit of the garden.

They also had an art festival on September 9th at the garden, sponsored by Public Arts St. Paul. The garden is still relying on volunteers to help water, weed and maintain the garden.

Councilmember Leehy adds that those interested can visit <https://philandocastile-peacegarden.org/>

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. October 11, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

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

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 10/20/23: \$154,383.15
Payroll through 10/15/23: \$19,395.00
Wire Payments through 10/15/23: \$12,681.96
2. City Licenses
3. 6-Month Performance Evaluation – Administrative and Communications Coordinator
Elke van der Werff
- ~~4. Appointment of Wesley Goldberg to the Parks and Recreation Commission~~
5. Resolution in Support of Buhl Investors’ Application for Emerging and Diverse Developers Grant Funds

Councilmember Meyer motions to approve the Consent Agenda; approved 4-0

Administrator Linehan thanks Council for the 6-month step adjustment for Administrative and Communications Coordinator Elke van der Werff. This position is the first-person people see or hear when interacting with the City, and Elke does a great job of listening to residents and diffusing situations.

Administrator Linehan states that this Resolution in Support of Buhl Investors’ Application for Emerging and Diverse Developers Grant Funds is not a vote of any matter for the Amber Flats proposal, rather this is to help Buhl Investors with the grant application process, which they qualify for.

H. POLICY ITEMS:

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Meyer reminds everyone to get out and vote.

Councilmember Leehy has no announcements.

Councilmember Wassenberg reminds residents about the public engagement session for the Community Park. This will take place during the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on Monday, November 6 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

Mayor Gustafson announces that the Planning Commission held the first community meeting of the Snelling & Larpenteur Corridor Study on October 18 at City Hall together with the consultant WSB. Staff created a webpage where residents can fill out a community survey and

provide input on a community map. The Planning Commission also held a Public Hearing on October 24, regarding a proposal from Buhl Investors for the parking lot next to Amber Union. Conversations with Constitutions will be held on October 26 at the Roseville City Hall at 6:30PM where all mayors from surrounding cities will gather. Lastly, Public Works has two open positions.

Administrator Linehan states that the City Council meeting for Wednesday, November 8th will be moved to Wednesday, November 15th to allow for certification of election results. Ramsey County requires certification by City Councils between November 13th - 17th. The City Council Workshop next Wednesday, November 1st will include Personnel Policy Updates, Sidewalk Snow Plowing and a Map Update as well as a 10-Year Capital Plan Budget Update. The general election is on Tuesday, November 7. Polling locations remain the same. City Hall will be a polling location, only on election day itself. Residents west of Snelling vote at City Hall, east of Snelling vote at Falcon Heights Church. The Community Engagement Commission is looking for commissioners as there are currently 3 vacancies.

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.

Chuck Long - 1717 Albert St. N.

Chuck Long states at their last meeting on October, 24, the Planning Commission voted to approve a PUD proposal for the apartment building, Amber Flats. Before the proposal will get voted on by the City Council, Chuck asks the Council why they should make a decision about the PUD now, when the Larpenteur & Snelling Corridor Study just kicked off. He believes the City should wait for the results of the study.

Ric Cox - 1639 Larpenteur Ave.

Ric and his wife are residents of Roseville and business owners in Falcon Heights. Ric provides history on how they acquired the property on Larpenteur for their business and how they renovated it over time. They are interested in the development of the vacant lot located next to Amber Union and across from their property, but are asking the City to make an informed decision and await the result of the Larpenteur & Snelling Corridor Study as they are worried about parking at both properties. Ric states they need more parking at their property and are concerned they cannot expand their parking and therefore stay in Falcon Heights.

K. ADJOURNMENT: 7:57 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn the meeting; approved 4-0


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 15th day of November, 2023


Jack Linehan, City Administrator