

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

MINUTES
January 24, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON X LEEHY MEYER X
WASSENBERG X MIELKE X

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN X VAN DER WERFF X

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Administrator Linehan notes that Policy Item 1 is ready to be considered for Council approval now that the contract is finalized.

Mayor Gustafson motions to approve the meeting agenda; approved 4-0

D. PRESENTATION

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. December 27, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
2. January 3, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes - Joint Meeting

Councilmember Meyer motions to approve the meeting minutes; approved 4-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 01/19/24: \$52,138.13
Payroll through 01/15/24: \$24,214.86
Wire Payments through 01/15/24: \$15,387.39
2. Approval of City License(s)
3. Resignation of Stephanie Skarolid from the Environment Commission

Mayor Gustafson motions to approve the consent agenda; approved 4-0

Mayor Gustafson thanks Stephanie Skarolid for her time served on the Environment Commission.

H. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Consideration of a Contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for 2024

Administrator Linehan notes Falcon Heights and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) have been working towards a contract for 2024 since late last year. The updated contract provides coverage for the City of Falcon Heights through 2024. Since January 1st, the RCSO has been providing coverage under the general understanding of the agreement while terms are being finalized. He notes the following differences from the previous contract:

- A change in indemnification. Beginning April 1st, the City is required to indemnify the RCSO for any general and professional liability that may arise up to the City's \$4M annual liability coverage. Any incidents that occur before April 1st are the responsibility of Ramsey County. Claims that exhaust the City's liability cap would then become the financial and defense responsibility of Ramsey County. This helps protect the City.
- The City compensates the RCSO for excess liability as well as auto liability, which is about \$3,000 per month. This was a compromise to meet the Sheriff's requirement that the City provide auto liability as well, which was not feasible.
- It highlights that both parties intend not to renew or extend the agreement past December 31st.
- In the event the City finds a successor agreement with a new law enforcement agency, the municipality may request in writing to terminate the agreement with a 30-day notice.
- Due to the nature of the agreement, by providing overtime to deputies to provide 24/7 coverage, the cost of the agreement is approximately a 30% increase over the 2023 contract.

Administrator Linehan explains the proposed agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney, as well as attorneys for the League of Minnesota Cities. This is a new model for LMC, but this will be used as other cities move to similar models. He recommends approval by City Council. Following that, it will be brought to the Ramsey County Board for approval.

Councilmember Wassenberg asks if the scope of services is similar as previous services received by RCSO.

Administrator Linehan notes yes, the services remain substantially the same as previous contract.

Mayor Gustafson wonders if the County Board has seen the contract.

Administrator Linehan is uncertain. It's also uncertain at which meeting the contract will be brought in front of the board, most likely halfway through February.

Mayor Gustafson wonders what happens if the board makes changes to the contract.

Administrator Linehan answers if that happens, it would have to be brought back to City Council to approve the changes.

Councilmember Meyer has no further addition, but is happy to see we have reached an agreement to continue working with RCSO while we search for another party.

Mayor Gustafson abstains from voting on the matter due to conflict of interest as employee of the RCSO and Ramsey County.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Resolution 24-09; approved 3-0
Mayor Gustafson abstains

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Wassenberg has no announcements

Councilmember Meyer has no announcements.

Councilmember Mielke attended the Falcon Heights Community Engagement Night and was pleased to see the turnout and active participation.

Mayor Gustafson echoes Mielke's comments. He also notes that the Planning Commission met on January 23 and reviewed electrical vehicles and charging stations. There will be a public hearing as it requires an ordinance change. The Larpenteur Snelling Corridor Study will have a task force and they will hold their first meeting on Monday, February 26. Residents are still able to sign up. Lastly, the winter carnival kicks off this weekend.

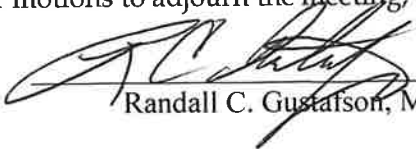
Administrator Linehan was also pleased to see the turnout for the Falcon Heights Community Engagement Night. The CEC will have a meeting on Monday, January 29 to do their annual updates. The Parks and Rec Commission will meet on Monday, February 5 where they will review plans for the park and do their annual updates as well. He also notes that the City is actively working with the consultants and attorneys on finalizing plans and timelines. The Environment Commission met on January 8 and they discussed inclusion of electrical vehicle charging stations as well as annual updates. And, the Planning Commission met last night as noted. AARP Tax-Aide appointments are starting soon at City Hall. More information can be found on the website and in the newsletter. Public Works received the new plowing truck from Ramsey County. The laser will be mounted on there as well. They will now have 3 snow trucks in their fleet. The ice rinks and warming house are open for now, hopeful that we will remain open. The weather line provides the most up-to-date information on opening hours of the rink and warming house.

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: 7:24 PM.

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


Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 28th day of February, 2024


Jack Linehan, City Administrator