

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

MINUTES
June 12, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X__ LEEHY_X__ MEYER X__

WASSENBERG __X__ MIELKE__X__

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X__

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve the agenda;
Approved 5-0

- D. PRESENTATION
1. Tubman Legal Services

Jennifer Dickinson, Director of Legal Services at Tubman, provides an overview of services provided to Falcon Heights. Tubman Legal Services is a not-for-profit organization that serves Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties, offering pro-bono legal services for those experiencing trauma – particularly victims of relationship violence, sexual assault, and more. They have three advocacy services programs that include civil and criminal advocacy in each county. They also offer attorney services for cases such as orders of protection and family law. Due to high demand, and low funding, they offer short free clinics.

Mayor Gustafson is appreciative of the services provided with limited funding. Councilmember Meyer wonders how residents can learn about Tubman's services.

Dickinson notes they have an intervention line that all law enforcement agencies in their working area can call in certain incidents. They also proactively check the court calendars. Lastly, there is a regular resource line.

Dickinson explains the financial support provided by Falcon Heights goes towards their legal advocacy program. This includes the following:

- Assist clients in Hennepin, Washington, and suburban Ramsey County
- Are a non-judgmental, confidential, person-centered resource
- Act as a bridge between the victim/survivors and the court systems
- Answer questions and provide support throughout court processes
- Are NOT attorneys and do not provide legal advice

She notes funding for legal advocacy programs has become stagnant, while costs have been rising, leading to reductions in the program. Other legal advocacy programs include:

- Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program
- Lease Breaking Assistance

Dickinson provides a review of 2023 in Falcon Heights:

- Criminal/Civil Advocacy
 - 7 criminal cases followed
 - 2 orders of protection granted
 - 10 clients received information and support for the order of protection process
- Safety Plans
 - 7 safety plans developed with an advocate
 - Other services included shelter, attorney services, lease breaking, and freedom fund
- Total numbers:
 - 15 unique advocacy clients
 - 69 total legal advocacy services provided
 - Average of 5 services per client

Mayor Gustafson wonders if these numbers align with other similar cities. Dickinson notes they are similar in numbers to other cities of similar size. Some challenges Tubman faces is lengthy court process, multiple and complex needs of the client, and not having the ability to follow a case from start to finish. Dickinson provides a story of a client in Falcon Heights (real names are left out). Lastly, there are additional Tubman programs related to Shelter/Housing Services, Clinical Services, and Youth and Young Adult Programs.

If you or someone you know is experiencing Domestic Violence, please encourage them to reach out for help: Tubman www.tubman.org, 612-825-0000.

Councilmember Leehy provides gratitude to Tubman and their team for all the services they provide.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. April 27, 2024 City Council Retreat Minutes
2. May 8, 2024 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes
3. May 22, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve the minutes;
Approved 5-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 6/5/24: \$115,016.35
 - a. Payroll through 5/31/24: \$25,967.86
 - b. Wire Payments through 5/31/24: \$16,217.11
2. Restoration of Falcon Heights Monument and Gazebo
3. Accept Grant Funds from the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund
4. Accept Donation of a Little Free Library from Viking Materials
5. Senior Maintenance Worker Dean Pope – Six-Month Step Adjustment
6. Community Development Coordinator Hannah Lynch – 18-Month Step Adjustment

7. Pay Request #2 - Larpenteur Streetlighting Project - Forest Lake Contracting
8. Appointment of Tom Prather to the State Fair Task Force

Councilmember Meyer motions to approve the consent agenda;
Approved 5-0

H. POLICY ITEMS:

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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: 8:09 PM

Councilmember Mielke motions to adjourn;
Approved 5-0.



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 26th day of June, 2024



Jack Linehan, City Administrator