

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

**AGENDA**

Wednesday, September 11, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 9:06 PM

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON\_X\_ LEEHY\_X\_  
MEYER\_X\_ MIELKE\_X\_ WASSENBERG\_X\_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN\_X\_ VAN DER WERFF\_X\_ OLSON\_X\_

C. POLICY ITEMS:

1. 2025 Proposed Budget: Workshop #3

Administrator Linehan explains that he changed the general budget to include updated figures and the latest estimates.

a. General Fund Update

i. Revenue: \$3,846,963 - 9.5% increase

1. Increase of 10.5% ad valorem taxes

2. The draft proposed levy is 10.12%, which is the median compared to other communities. Around \$151 per year for a median-valued home. Linehan acknowledges this is higher than past years due to unknown policing costs.

3. Increase in fiscal disparities of \$95,695.

ii. Expenditures: \$3,846,963 - 9.79% increase

1. \$1.85 million for law enforcement services. Based on St. Anthony Village (SAV) projections. This can be decreased but will allow for a manageable increase the following year. Linehan spoke with SAV after sending the proposed contract, to provide staffing by March 2025. SAV is on board, but wants to discuss this with all of the police. They are dedicated on making this work. A guaranteed funding source will help with recruiting. Linehan acknowledges it's a steep increase.

2. Councilmember Wassenberg wonders about their new department building. Linehan answers that he is unsure; there is the \$250,000 capital fund expense but will push back if asked for a much higher donation.

3. Councilmember Meyer wonders about the discussions with New Brighton. Councilmember Mielke adds the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will cover us until March 1, 2025. Linehan states the idea is for SAPD to start then, through a ramp-up model, which is manageable with their current staffing.

4. Meyer wonders if SAPD and New Brighton would both

submit an RFP for policing. He believes it's a big cost. Mayor Gustafson explains that this is the cost of policing and would be the cost of a contract with RCSO. He adds that maybe not having a 24-hour presence, but a 24-hour response is sufficient and can reduce costs.

5. Linehan explains the levy can be lowered in December before being finalized.
- iii. \$21,000 for the commissioner's stipend.
- b. Debt Service
    - i. Linehan explains the debt levy comparison, as it will decrease with one bond being paid off.
    - ii. Wassenberg wonders about the commissioners' stipend and paperwork for staff. Mielke answers it's to promote diversity and add accountability. Linehan explains this is just from a budget perspective. Staff will do more research into the implementation.
  - c. Budget narrative, the 2025 levy is increasing because:
    - i. An increase in law enforcement cost to return to a community policing model
    - ii. We are making commission participation accessible for all
    - iii. We are investing in our staff
    - iv. We are succession planning
    - v. We are expanding our use of technology, including a new website and easier-to-search municipal code
  - d. Other Notes
    - i. Mielke wonders about an increase in rental inspection costs. Linehan notes this will be covered by licensing fees, which will be discussed in December when looking at the City Fee Schedule.
    - ii. There is an increase in the general fund of approximately \$5,000 to move away from paper packets and towards city-issued tablets.
    - iii. Increase of \$10,000 for inclusion efforts.

## 2. Future Agenda Items

Linehan explains the Partners in Energy action plan will be discussed in October, and they will also continue discussing Amber Union code violations. Mielke wonders about discussing youth commissioners. Linehan recommends codifying it, as it is confusing for staff. Mielke notes New Brighton has a good policy. Gustafson wonders if it can be included with the commissioner stipend.

## D. ADJOURNMENT: 9:35 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](mailto: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.*

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2024



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor



Jack Linehan, City Administrator