

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

MINUTES
September 25, 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__OLSON_X__VAN DER WERFF_X__

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. PRESENTATION

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. August 28, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
2. August 28, 2024 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve the meeting minutes;
Approved 5-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 9/20/24: \$352,568.04
 - a. Payroll through 9/15/24: \$22,839.33
 - b. Wire Payments through 9/15/24: \$15,261.27

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

H. POLICY ITEMS:

1. 2024 Pavement Management Project (PMP) Declare Costs to Be Assessed and Call for Assessment Hearing

Administrator Linehan explains the City Council is requested to call for an assessment public hearing to occur on Wednesday, October 9 at City Hall. Roselawn was improved this summer and the cost came in lower than estimated. If the assessment roll gets approved at the public hearing, residents have 30 days to pre-pay the assessment after approval on October 9. This is not a requirement and if residents decide to not pre-pay, the assessment roll will get sent to Ramsey County to be added to property taxes, which will then be assessed in 2025, with interest. There was no need for a bond, but there were still financial implications for the city. In acknowledgment of a decrease in the federal interest rate, the recommendation is to set the interest rate at 5.91%.

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve Resolution 24-52 ordering Assessment Hearing for 2024 Pavement Management Project;
Approved 5-0

2. Adoption and Certification of the 2025 Preliminary Levy

Linehan notes City Staff and Council have been working on the 2025 budget since June. While staff acknowledges there were challenges, they feel confident with what's presented and propose a moderate increase. The largest cost is police services, as the city moves towards a community policing model. This is posing a rough increase of \$250k. Linehan adds the truth-in-taxation hearing will be on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00 PM at Falcon Heights City Hall.

Councilmember Mielke wonders if this is the highest city tax rate. Linehan answers yes, higher than 2022. He is unsure about historical data but adds this will be the highest total general fund levy as budgets increase.

Councilmember Wassenberg clarifies the increase in the levy versus the increase in policing cost.

Councilmember Leehy notes that even though it's the highest levy, the percentage jump is not the highest, historically.

Councilmember Meyer wonders if Linehan could speak to how Falcon Height's tax rate compares to other cities.

Linehan explains that St. Paul is set around a 48% levy, and Roseville and New Brighton are in line with Falcon Heights at 37%. Some cities are lower. He notes the jump in higher levies across cities came once policing started becoming more expensive.

Councilmember Meyer motions to approve Resolution 24-53 Certification of the Preliminary Levy for 2025;
Approved 5-0

3. Approval of Setting Truth in Taxation (TNT) Hearing Date of Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Resolution 24-54 Setting the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing Date;
Approved 5-0

Mielke adds the truth in taxation hearing is very educational.

4. North Suburban Access Agreement Contract Renewal

Linehan explains that Falcon Heights has been working with North Suburban Access Corporation (NSAC) or NineNorth for many years along with other communities as part of the agreement. There is a slight increase in cost.

Wassenberg clarifies if the previous contracts were also of 3-year duration. Linehan answers yes.

Gustafson thanks NineNorth for their services.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve the 2025 NineNorth NSAC Professional and Technical Services Agreement and authorize the City Administrator to execute all necessary documents;
Approved 5-0

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leehy explains the Community Engagement Commission held their meeting last week, where they discussed more around the CERT program and they started discussing Human Rights Day. They also have an opening on the commission and she encourages residents to apply.

Meyer notes the Planning Commission met last night and they discussed laws around cannabis legalization.

Mielke attended the NineNorth board meeting and they are working on budgets, leasing, and licensing. Last week the State Fair Task Force met and they discussed the first post-fair survey results. In acknowledgment of the 75th anniversary, there will be a Falcon Heights-themed Trivia Night at Stout's on Tuesday, October 29 at 6:00 PM. Residents are encouraged to sign up. Spectators are welcome.

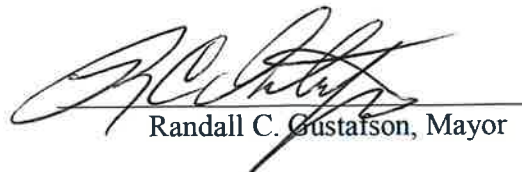
Linehan explains there will be a fall festival and a celebration of the 75th anniversary at City Hall on Saturday, October 26 from 1 PM to 5 PM. There will be music, food, and various activities. Gibbs Farm will also have its trick-or-treat event, and residents can attend both. Public Works finalized improvements of the Falcon Heights Monuments. They are also installing a sidewalk at Curtiss Field as there is a gap in the trail system that was identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The City welcomed Olivia, the Green Corps member. She will be at Falcon Heights for a year, and this is funded by a grant. A big project she is working on is creating a tree inventory of all boulevard trees in the city. Lastly, the state fair post survey is still open and he encourages residents to provide feedback.

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: 7:25 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn;
Approved 5-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2024



Jack Linehan, City Administrator