

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

MINUTES
October 23, 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_ LYNCH_X_

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- D. PRESENTATION

- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - 1. September 11, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - 2. September 11, 2024 City Council Special Workshop Minutes
 - 3. September 25, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - 4. September 25, 2024 City Council Special Workshop Minutes

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

- F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- G. CONSENT AGENDA:
 - 1. General Disbursements through 10/17/24: \$188,091.20
 - a. Payroll through 10/11/24: \$23,623.97
 - b. Wire Payments through 10/11/24: \$15,069.68
 - 2. City Licenses
 - 3. Elke Johnson 18-Month Step Adjustment
 - 4. Appointment of Sophie Nagel to the Environment Commission

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

Mayor Gustafson notes the City License approved is for the Lions Club for the sale of holiday trees at Community Park.

- H. POLICY ITEMS:
 - 1. Consideration of Entering into a Contract for Police Services with the City of St. Anthony Village

Administrator Linehan explains they started conversations with St. Anthony in 2024 around renewing a partnership, but this has been a multi-year process. Falcon Heights has been

looking for a long-term partner for police services. The current contract with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) started in 2018 and is set to expire at the end of this year. Linehan provides an overview of the exploratory process between St. Anthony Village and Falcon Heights. This was followed by a formal vote in April of 2024 to agree to enter into contract discussions. For the past few months, both cities have been working on contract discussions. One challenge was finding a bridge partner, as St. Anthony initially wasn't able to provide police services until January 1, 2026. Falcon Heights explored temporary service options with neighboring agencies without success and requested an extension of services from RCSO. The RCSO offered to extend coverage only until February 28, 2025, due to their own staffing concerns. As a result, Falcon Heights and St. Anthony agreed on a phased ramp-up of services beginning on March 1, 2025. In this proposal, the St. Anthony Village Police Department would provide a limited daily patrol of 8 hours per day, but there will be 24/7 call response. Linehan points out St. Anthony Village City Council approved the contract at their meeting on Tuesday, October 22 with a 4-1 vote. The final contract is still a work in progress as both city attorneys work out the final details. As this is not a full-24/7 patrol model, both parties had discussions around pricing, and this will follow a tiered model based on how much coverage is provided.

Councilmember Wassenberg thanks St. Anthony Village for their flexibility. Councilmember Leehy extends a thank you to City staff and Council for all the work that went into this process. She appreciates the creativity. Councilmember Meyer echoes the comments and says it has been a pleasure working with St. Anthony Village. He looks forward to reconnecting the relationship. Councilmember Mielke is appreciative of the discussions she had with residents. She acknowledges it was a hard decision but feels good about working through it and moving in this direction. Mayor Gustafson thanks everyone who was involved and he looks forward to returning to a community-based policing model.

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve Resolution 24-60 A Resolution Approving to Enter into A Contract Agreement with The City of St. Anthony Village for Policing Services and Authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to Execute Said Agreement;
Approved 5-0

Administrator Linehan is seeking authorization from the Council to formally negotiate a 2-month extension of the contract with RCSO.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to provide the City Administrator Direction to Negotiate a Two-month Contract Extension with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office;
Approved 5-0

2. Partners in Energy Program - Adoption of Energy Action Plan

Community Development Coordinator Lynch explains the city has been working on the Energy Action Plan for the past couple of months with Partners in Energy. In the past 6-8 months, various groups and organizations have worked to identify the City's energy use, its energy-related goals and develop strategies. Through various input from the community, an energy action plan was drafted. Lynch explains the various edits made to the plan since presenting the original draft. Following approval of the plan, Partners in Energy and Oliva, the Green Corps Member, will assist with implementation.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve Resolution 24-61 Adopting the City of Falcon Heights Energy Action Plan and Authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to Sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Phase 2 - Implementation;
Approved 5-0

Mayor Gustafson thanks everyone involved in creating the plan. Meyer remembers declaring a climate crisis and is glad to see a plan is being implemented that guides the City towards a better future. He's appreciative of all the work put in, and the edits made. Wassenberg is thankful for the creation of the plan as well and appreciates how much it focuses on community education and involvement.

3. Bid Release – Community Park Playground Design

Administrator Linehan explains this item has been a topic of discussion for a while. Now the City is looking to redo the playground as part of the renovation at Community Park. The current playground does not meet all the needs of the community as it is not in compliance with ADA. The consultant WSB has been working on a request for proposals/quotes for the playground. This gives direction for vendors to create a quote that fits the City's budget and needs. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be tasked to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the City Council. The hope is to select a vendor and place an order by the end of 2024 because of a long wait list for equipment.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve Resolution 24-62 Resolution Authorizing the Request for Quotes for The Community Park Playground;
Approved 5-0

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mielke explains the Environment Commission met in the previous week. Two items they have been working on, a tree inventory with the help of Green Corps member Olivia, and the Climate Action Plan. There will be a Climate Action Team application, and residents are encouraged to apply. The State Fair Task Force met in the previous week as well and they continue to discuss the post-fair survey results. They also looked at police data from the past 6 years. NineNorth met last week as well to continue working on their budget.

Meyer encourages residents to attend the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 26. There will also be a Falcon Heights-themed Trivia Night at Stout's Pub on Tuesday, October 29. The Planning Commission met the night before, where they discussed regulations around cannabis legalization, using a sample ordinance provided by the Office of Cannabis Management. They discussed locations and what kinds of controls will be put in place.

Leehy notes the Community Engagement Commission met and they discussed apartment outreach and Human Rights Day. The topic will be around Racial Covenants and property owners can attend to start the process to have them disavowed from their deed. The commission also has a vacant seat and encourages residents to apply.

Wassenberg encourages residents to attend the Fall Festival.

Gustafson adds there will also be a recognition event of the 75th anniversary on the same day as the Fall Festival. He also encourages residents to get out and vote.

Linehan explains the 75th anniversary celebration will be at 1 o'clock on Saturday, October 26 at Falcon Heights City Hall. He thanks Councilmember Mielke and resident Ricé Davis for their work in organizing the celebration. They coordinated with NineNorth to create a video with former mayors and the current mayor to provide a history of Falcon Heights. The staff has been preparing for the Fall Festival. There will be bouncy houses, music, food, touch-a-truck, and other fall festivities. The staff has been working on city licensing. Residents can now pre-pay for the Roselawn PMP assessment; the deadline is November 8th. Public Works has been busy with street sweeping and they touched up the workout stations at Community Park.

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: 7:43 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn;
Approved 5-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 11th day of December, 2024



Jack Linehan, City Administrator