

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

MINUTES
December 23, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_ MEYER ___
MIELKE _X_ WASSENBERG_X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Wassenberg is requesting consent agenda item 6 to be moved to policy items.

Councilmember Leehy and Wassenberg motions to approve the amended agenda;
Approved 4-0

- D. PRESENTATION

- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. November 13, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
- 2. December 4, 2024 City Council Workshop Minutes
- 3. December 11, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve the minutes;
Approved 4-0

- F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1. Consideration of Amending the 2025 Fee Schedule Ordinance to Modify 2025 Water & Sewer Rates, 2025 Recycling Rates, Re-inspection Fees, Credit Card Minimum Convenience Fees, and Cannabis / Hemp Business Registration Fees

Administrator Linehan points out the changes to the fee schedule. The sanitary sewer rate is increasing from \$37.75 to \$38.50 per quarter for residential and apartments. There is a correction to the fee listed for the storm drainage fund, which will show a decrease from \$28.50 to \$28.25 for residential units and an increase from \$261.58 to \$268.64 for apartments. The city has a new agreement with Tennis and therefore, the rate for recycling will increase from \$14.25 to \$15.75 per quarter for residential units. The proposed fee schedule increases re-inspection fees from \$50 to \$100 and further specifies the fee can be charged for either an initial recheck failure or for a no-show and it is a per-occurrence fee. The payment processing vendor AllPaid is establishing a minimum card charge of \$3.99. Staff is working on researching a new vendor for all card transactions. The proposed fee schedule also establishes registration fees for Cannabis and Hemp Businesses as \$500 for initial registration and \$1,000 for renewal.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve Ordinance 24-09 and Summary Ordinance 24-09 an Ordinance Amending the Fee/Rate Schedule for the City of Falcon Heights Relative to 2025 Water & Sewer Rates, 2025 Recycling Rates, Re-Inspection Fees, Credit Card Minimum Convenience Fees, and Cannabis and Hemp Business Registration Fees;
Approved 4-0

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 12/19/24: \$503,277.15
Payroll through 12/15/24: \$24,767.06
Wire Payments through 12/15/24: \$15,828.25
2. Approval of City Licenses
3. Approval of the 2025 City Meeting Calendar
4. Approval of an 18-Month Step Adjustment for Senior Maintenance Worker Dave Simons
5. Acceptance of a \$500.00 Donation from the Falcon Heights / Lauderdale Lions Club
- ~~6. Authorization to Apply for NEVI Grant for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations~~
7. 2024 Budget Amendments
8. Authorization of a Budget Amendment and Pay Request #1 to the City of Roseville for the 2024 Pavement Management Project – Roselawn Avenue Cost Share Agreement
9. Ratification of Approved Contract with the City of St. Anthony Village for Police Services from March 1, 2025 through December 31, 2030
10. Approval of an Amendment to the City's Personnel Policy to Reflect the Change to Bi-Weekly Payroll for 2025
11. Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2025
12. 2025 Polling Place Agreement

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve the consent agenda;
Approved 4-0

Mielke suggests advertising the licensed tree contractors.

Wassenberg thanks the Falcon Heights/Lauderdale Lions Club for their donation.

H: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Consideration of Selecting Northland Recreation as the Playground Equipment Supplier for Community Park and Authorizing Purchase Using a Joint Purchasing Cooperative Not to Exceed \$250,000

Linehan explains WSB released an RFP on behalf of the City and accepted proposals and designs for playground equipment and rubber play area surfacing from qualified playground manufacturing representatives. The Parks and Recreation Commission met in early December, reviewed the eleven playground proposals received, and unanimously selected a favorite design by Northland Recreation. City Council supported the decision. Staff has been working with the vendor on small revisions. Staff will also try again to apply for the MN DNR Outdoor Recreation grant, which will be utilized for a fence around the playground and a rubberized surface underneath the playground. Without the

grant, there will be engineered wood fiber. They're hopeful to start construction in the summer of 2025.

Council thanks the Parks and Recreation Commission for their efforts.

Mayor Gustafson motions to approve Resolution 24-73 Resolution Selecting Northland Recreation as The Playground Supply and Installation Contractor Through a Joint Purchasing Cooperative Not to Exceed \$250,000;
Approved 4-0

2. Authorization to Apply for NEVI Grant for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Linehan explains Falcon Heights is considered an EV-ready city as the council previously passed an ordinance supporting EV initiatives. The federal government has a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program that provides funding to states to build EV charging networks. Staff was approached by a company called Opt4EV to help with the application process for organizations that qualify for the NEVI funds. Falcon Heights City Hall, due to its proximity to I-35E, does qualify for this funding. Five parking spots are needed to install 4 charging stations. The city will have zero cost and no maintenance. Opt4EV will apply for the grant and is responsible for installation, maintenance, and electric costs and they will receive the revenue. In return for using the parking spaces at City Hall, the company will pay the city rent of \$400 per month.

Mielke wonders if at a future workshop, it can be discussed where the chargers will be placed. Wassenberg adds he feels confident about the technology used by Opt4EV for the chargers. Having a public charging station will be a great addition to the city, especially since grant funding is used for installation.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve Resolution 24-74 Resolution Authorizing Opt4ev and Jule to Apply for Nevi Funding for Electric Vehicle Chargers at Falcon Heights City Hall;
Approved 4-0

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mielke explains the International Institute of Minnesota is looking for donations. A drop-off will be available at City Hall until the end of January.

Leehy notes the Community Engagement Commission met on December 16, during which they recapped Human Rights Day, and they also discussed community outreach to apartments. They will not meet until March 17 due to the holidays in January and February. Lastly, there are commissioner openings with the CEC.

Gustafson points out that City Hall will be closed for Christmas on December 24 and 25 and for New Year's Day on January 1. He's thankful for a great year's worth of work in 2024.

Linehan reminds everyone that the city's snow and ice policy goes into effect when there is new snow of 2" or more and ends 48 hours after it has stopped snowing or when streets are plowed full-width. Staff aimed to open the ice rink at Curtiss Field and the Grove, but the new liner is causing some trouble. Public Works will continue to flood the rink and is hopeful to open it after the next cold snap.

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: 7:42 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn;
Approved 4-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 8th day of January, 2025



Jack Linehan, City Administrator