

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

MINUTES
April 9, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X__ LEEHY_X_ MEYER_X__
MIELKE_X__ WASSENBERG_X__

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_ LYNCH_X_ HENRICKSEN_X_

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gustafson points out the amendments are noted in red.

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

- D. PRESENTATION

1. Presentation from paleBLUEdot on Climate Action Plan Draft
Ted Redmond provides an introduction and the background of paleBLUEdot. The company has worked on 70+ projects in 22 states. The Climate Action Plan is funded by an MPCA grant. Redmond presents an overview of the collaborative planning process. A lot of research was conducted to learn the most about the community. This along with a community survey serves as a baseline assessment document, to help the planning team and have a place to start the conversation. Redmond discusses key themes that emerged from the community, these include support from municipal action and leadership, renewable energy, impacts on vulnerable populations, and protecting resources. Next Redmond points out temperature changes, and what the climate projections for Falcon Heights are, and how a Climate Plan can help mitigate and adapt. This transitions into greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, where those are emitted from most, and how large they are in Falcon Heights. The plan to address this is comprised of 6 sectors: transportation, buildings and energy, waste, water, local food and agriculture, and green space. There are a total of 23 strategies connected to the 6 sectors, and these focus on GHG emission reductions and climate adaptation. The goal is a 47% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions by 2035 and a long-term goal of a 100% reduction by 2050. The strategies are supported by detailed actions. Redmond describes what the goal of each sector is, and what strategies will help achieve these strategic goals. The impacts of the plan also spill over into other sectors. There will be economic savings as well, which creates another incentive. Lastly, Redmond provides the next steps for the plan. The draft plan is made available online for the community to provide input. Following this, staff will assist with refinement and present a final draft.

Next Council asks questions. Meyer wonders where the transmission data comes from and if this includes the delivery of packages. Redmond answers yes, the data comes

from the MN Department of Transportation, which collects the data annually. Surrounding cities are also working on Climate Action Plans. Wassenberg has a question about electrical consumption and reduction. Meyer wonders about the survey and if there are any biases. Redmond answers that it gets linked back to a similar study conducted in each county annually by Gale University. Leehy worries about creating too stringent requirements on commercial buildings, rental properties, and homeowners. She also wonders about the decrease in pollinators, and that this is not addressed in the plan.

Meyer points out that he prefers the terms clean or low carbon over renewable energy.

Redmond answers that community-wide, there are no requirements, but encouragements.

Mielke thanks residents and community leaders who assisted with the creation of the plan. Meyer appreciates the science behind the plan. Gustafson thanks the city staff and everyone else who participated in the creation.

2. Presentation from Tubman

Jennifer Dickinson, Director of Legal Services of Tubman, presents an update on the organization's recent activity. She starts by providing an overview of the services the organization can assist with. These include legal services, shelter/housing services, youth and adult programs, and clinical services. Certain programs are more challenging to staff than others, as the processes often are lengthy. She continues to explain how Tubman supports victims/survivors of relationship violence in Falcon Heights. Law enforcement has access to a 24/7 intervention line. They can then offer any of the 24/7 services to the victim/survivors. They also have a designated legal advocate for Falcon Heights criminal cases. Dickinson explains what kinds of cases Tubman took on in Falcon Heights in 2024, and a specific situation that took place in Falcon Heights. Lastly, Dickinson addresses the ongoing challenges Tubman and victims/survivors face, discusses a new service available, and an upcoming program coming soon - Harriet's Haven for Pets. She finishes with sobering domestic violence statistics.

Gustafson points out that Tubman receives funding from government entities as well as private donations. Dickinson answers yes, and the organization works with various campaigns for funding.

Linehan notes that Falcon Heights has been supporting Tubman Services and wonders if more Ramsey County cities are supporting it. Dickinson answers yes, and they continue to have conversations with municipalities.

Leehy wonders if there is a remembrance day surrounding domestic violence awareness. Dickinson points out Violence Free Minnesota, and October is domestic violence awareness month. She also has questions around the number of beds available and access to the youth services.

The council thanks Tubman for their services.

E.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. March 4, 2025 City Council Goal Setting Session Minutes

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve meeting minutes;
Approved 5-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 4/2/25: \$327,195.00
Payroll through 3/23/25: \$25,004.18
Wire Payments through 3/23/25: \$16,164.98
2. Approval of City Licenses
3. Approval of Resolution 25-30 Request for Proposal (RFP) for City Website Redesign
4. Approval of Resolution 25-31 Accepting Alice Hausman's Resignation from the State Fair Task Force
5. Approval of Resolution 25-32 Authorizing Acceptance of a Proposal with **DDA Human Resources, Inc.** for Completion of a Compensation & Classification Study Not to Exceed **\$11,000.**
6. Authorization to Close Fund 429 – 2023 Street Project Fund and Transfer Remaining Funds to Remaining Debt Service Funds
7. Authorization to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Goff Public for Communication Support and Media Relations Services
8. Approval of Proposal for Construction Materials Testing for the 2025 Pavement Management Project
9. **Approval of a Resolution 25-33 Supporting a Capitol Region Watershed District Stewardship Grant for Falcon Woods Outlet Control Structure**

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

Gustafson thanks Alice Hausman for serving on the State Fair Task Force.

Linehan points out that the general disbursement consists largely of the first payment to the St. Anthony Police Department and a payment for the park shelter. The city received great responses from the Comp and Classification Study RFP. DDA was selected as the most cost-effective and has the best experience with small cities. Mielke points out the license approval of Bouquets in Bloom, a local florist shop.

H. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Approval of Resolution 25-34 Awarding the Contract for the 2025 Pavement Management Project to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for \$1,236,579.00

Henricksen provides an overview of the bids received and they all came in lower than engineering estimates. Linehan points out that the city worked with Northwest Asphalt on a previous road project. Henricksen provides a background on Bituminous Roadways, the lowest bidder, and some similar projects they completed recently. He then provides updated estimates based on the bid received. Final assessment numbers will be known at the end of the project. For Falcon Woods, this decreased from \$3,850 to \$2,500 per parcel. In Northome, this decreased the range from \$1,525 - \$2,750 to \$985 - \$1,900 per parcel. Henricksen continues by providing an overview of the project timeline. The contractor wants to start the project as soon as possible, looking at April/May, which means the completion date will be sooner as well. The preconstruction meeting will clarify a lot regarding the schedule.

Leehy wonders about the protection of the soil and grass following the project, similar to the project in Roseville. Henricksen explains that the containment of erosion will be a requirement in the project and will be coordinated with the contractor and the watershed, as there are some disruptions in the stormwater.

Wassenberg wonders about the assurance of the completion date. Henricksen notes that timely completion is contractually required; failure to meet the deadline will trigger liquidated damages and this allows the city to charge a daily fee, for each day past the set completion date.

Linehan points out that staff will ensure everyone is aware of the city's sensitivity around turf restoration. Henricksen adds there will be more communication with property owners to assist with continuing the restoration of the turf and provide the tools they need. Leehy wonders about water restrictions. Henricksen answers that is an excellent point, and he will discuss this with St. Paul Regional Water Service.

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve Resolution 25-34 Awarding the Contract for the 2025 Pavement Management Project to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for \$1,236,579.00;
Approved 5-0

2. Approval of Resolution 25-35 Accepting a Proposal from All Energy Solar for City Hall Solar Panels to be Contingent Upon Receipt of the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program

Linehan points out this is the next phase in getting solar panels for city hall. The next step in getting the grant is to show a contract and cost with a vendor.

Lynch notes following the selection of a vendor, the grant program will assist with the remainder of the application. She explains an overview of the RFP process. The current panels are not functioning to their full capacity and will be recycled, which was part of the RFP requirement as well as experience with other cities and this grant program. She provides an overview of the proposals received. All Energy Solar was selected because of their level of experience and understanding of the project that was needed, the best plan for maintaining and preserving the panels, as well as the second lowest out-of-pocket costs.

The total cost is \$117,848.00, including \$19,175.56 for removal and recycling of the existing panels. If the City receives the grant and federal tax credit, the City's net cost will be \$29,042.54. This will result in an estimated electric savings of \$121,859.00 over 25 years.

Leehy wonders if they provide residential services as well. Lynch answers she believes so but is unsure as this was not a requirement of the RFP.

Wassenberg points out the estimated level of savings is conservative, based on his own experience.

Meyer wonders about any concerns about federal tax credit payments being taken back, as well as tariffs. Lynch answers All Energy Solar did not mention anything about tariffs, it would potentially need to be considered.

Wassenberg also wonders about the status of the roof. Linehan answers that the roof was redone in the last 10 years and is in good shape. Lynch notes the racks will not make holes in the roof.

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve Resolution 25-35 Accepting a Proposal from All Energy Solar for City Hall Solar Panels to be Contingent Upon Receipt of the Solar on Public Buildings Grant Program;
Approved 5-0

I. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wassenberg explains the Parks Commission and Community Engagement Commission met to discuss city events.

Leehy notes that May 17 Spring Together will be held at Curtiss Field and July 17 is the date for the Ice Cream Social, more details will follow. Both events will have ice cream. Fall Fest will also be held again this year.

Meyer thanks everyone for their feedback on the parking meter proposal.

Mielke encourages everyone to attend the Sustainability Fair on April 26 at Falcon Heights City Hall, in collaboration with the City of Lauderdale. Also, the tree sale, in partnership with Tree Trust, is still open. Residents can purchase a tree for \$50, and Public Works will deliver the trees. The State Fair Task Force continues to work hard on the parking meter proposal, they will meet next on April 16.

Gustafson summarizes the upcoming participation efforts.

Linehan notes Public Works are also completed with tree trimming, and they will be starting street sweeping, starting on the west side and working east. American Environmental completed televising and cleaning all the sewer lines in the city. Lastly, he notes that St. Paul Regional Water Services is also going around completing hydrant flushing and may occasionally shut the water off.

J. COMMUNITY FORUM:

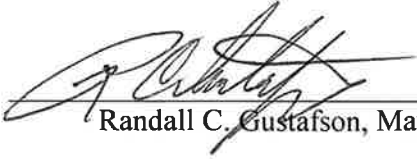
Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person. Items brought before the Council will be referred for consideration. Council may ask questions for clarification, but no council action or discussion will be held on these items.

1740 Simpson St. – Heather

After watching the public meetings, she remains unconvinced that this is more than a money grab and has not heard how this helps with safety. Heather provides her experience from when she lived in Santa Monica, CA. She would like to see a real-world example with data, in how this helps with safety. Following the public hearing, she felt a decision was already made prior to the discussion. Heather gives a summary of comments made during the workshop on March 5, and feels resident comments, specifically opposing comments were not heard. She wonders about the signs, if they will be permanent or temporary. Heather is hopeful that the council will have more public hearings, take all resident comments in account, and make it known when an actual decision will be made

K. ADJOURNMENT: 9:29 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn;
Approved 5-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 14th day of May, 2025



Jack Linehan, City Administrator