

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

MINUTES - AMENDED
April 22, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 PM

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ MAY_X_ MOGEN_X_

MIELKE_X_ WASSENBERG_X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_ JOHNSON_X_ BROWN_X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Linehan walks through amendments, stating that consent agenda item 3 was removed and policy item H2 was added; added a sample of a purchase agreement for playground equipment. Changes have been updated.

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

D. PRESENTATION

1. St. Anthony Police Department Annual Report from Chief Spiess

Chief Spiess presented the St. Anthony Police Department Annual Report, highlighting department growth and key accomplishments. SAPD has expanded from 1 officer to 26 full-time officers, along with Community Service Officers, a cadet program, and 3 civilian staff.

Crime data showed no significant concerns. Both Part 1 and Part 2 crimes were consistent with surrounding communities, and the Investigative Division achieved a 42% clearance rate in 2025, reflecting strong case resolution.

The Patrol Division focuses on 911 response, proactive policing, traffic safety, and community engagement, with traffic enforcement driven largely by community concerns. The department tracks 37 performance metrics to monitor trends and guide decision-making.

Chief Spiess noted full compliance with training requirements and highlighted ongoing initiatives, including a therapy dog program, safety camp funding efforts, and expanded social media outreach. Technology updates included continued use of body cameras, a new video system, and the launch of a drone program used for missing persons and investigative support under strict guidelines.

Recruitment remains a priority, with career fairs, grant-funded hiring pathways, and a growing cadet program supporting efforts to attract and retain high-quality officers.

Officer wellness and community engagement are also key focuses, with 260 documented engagement activities in Falcon Heights.

The report concluded with updates on long-term goals, including continued regional integration, recruitment and retention strategies, facility planning, and expanded support services.

2. Presentation of Updated City Website

Linehan introduced Johnson and Brown, who presented the City's new website and outlined the next steps for launch.

Johnson explained that the City contracted with CivicPlus to redesign the website. The project focused on improving navigation, modernizing the design, and ensuring compliance with updated ADA accessibility requirements for government websites. Brown and Johnson highlighted key design updates, including new layouts, fonts, and colors, and shared sample pages to demonstrate the updated look and structure.

A key addition is CivicSend, which allows staff to create newsletters and post news updates directly on the website, improving communication with residents. Staff is also working with CivicPlus to migrate the City Code to Municode, an online code hosting platform.

Next steps include continued content updates, document migration, system testing, and collecting feedback from staff and Council prior to launch.

Councilmembers asked about access to a live version of the site. Staff noted that a post-launch survey will be available for public feedback and that most staff have already completed training with CivicPlus. They also clarified that the website search function is keyword-based and does not search documents.

Staff emphasized that the new site improves usability and accessibility compliance, while full document accessibility will be addressed as a separate project. Linehan noted that staff will continue working with Council on opportunities for feedback.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. March 25, 2026 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
2. April 8, 2026 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
3. April 8, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes

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

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 4/17/26: \$85,011.91
Payroll through 4/9/26: \$21,955.79
Wire Payments through 4/17/26: \$15,571.04
2. Approval of City Licenses

- ~~3. Approval of Ordinance 26-04 Amending Chapter 109 of the Falcon Heights City Code Concerning Parkland Dedication for Subdivisions~~
4. Approval of Resolution 26-31 Reappointing Jacob Brooks to the Planning Commission
5. Approval of Resolution 26-32 Approving a Contract with Electro Watchman Inc. for the Expansion of Current Lenel/S2 Netbox System for Added Access at Community Park
6. Approval of Resolution 26-33 Authorizing the Budget Amendments to Transfer Funds and for the Purchase of 1407 Larpenteur Ave. W. – Get Pressed
7. Approval of Resolution 26-34 Authorizing a Change Order for 2026 Sanitary Sewer CCTV & Clean Project #26-02 with American Environmental, LLC
8. Consideration of City Hall Operating Under Summer Hours
9. Approval of Resolution 26-35 Awarding Bid for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Lining Project FH 25-03 to Visu-Sewer
10. Approval of Resolution 26-36 Authorizing the City to Enter into a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
11. Approval of Resolution 26-37 Authorizing the Purchase Agreement for Playground Equipment from Northland Recreation at Community Park

Mayor Gustafson motions to approve the consent agenda;
Approved 5-0

H: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Approval of Resolution 26-38 Appointing Members to the Les Bolstad Golf Course Redevelopment Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Linehan outlined the process used to establish the CAC and the recruitment of members, noting the committee is now ready for appointments.

Councilmembers Wassenberg and May expressed appreciation for the strong experience of the applicants. Councilmember Mogen noted that only one member has formal planning experience and suggested adding Scott Wilson, given his background on the Planning Commission. He proposed either expanding the committee to 10 members or replacing one of the at-large seats to include additional planning expertise, emphasizing the importance of development knowledge for the group.

Councilmember Mielke asked whether Bolton & Menk staff would attend CAC meetings. Linehan confirmed that they will, and also that he and City Planner Hannah Myhren will participate. Wassenberg also noted that SAP representative involvement brings valuable development expertise and emphasized balancing skills and perspectives across the committee.

Councilmember May expressed concern about altering the selection process after it had been established, noting the importance of maintaining consistency and transparency. Councilmember Gustafson supported moving forward with the recommended slate, stating that the process was clearly defined, the candidates were evaluated collectively, and additional input could be provided through staff and consultant participation.

Councilmembers discussed the CAC's role, emphasizing it is advisory and intended to represent community perspectives while incorporating technical expertise through staff and consultants. Mogen ultimately withdrew the request to modify the committee composition.

The Council proceeded with the appointments as presented.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Approval of Resolution 26-38
Appointing Members to the Les Bolstad Golf Course Redevelopment Community
Advisory Committee (CAC);
Approved 5-0

2. Request of Out-of-State Travel Reimbursement for an Elected Official

Linehan explained that state law requires cities to have an out-of-state travel policy for elected officials, establishing clear standards for reimbursement and approval. Councilmember Mielke requested approval to attend the Strong Towns conference in 2026, which she also attended in 2025. Linehan noted that the conference budget line is expected to be exceeded regardless, but could be adjusted in future budget cycles, including in 2027.

Mielke asked that in lieu of attending the LMC conference, the estimated \$800 cost to attend that event be applied toward the cost of attending the Strong Towns National Gathering, and she would cover the balance.

Gustafson asked whether covering the full cost of the conference would require a formal budget amendment. Linehan responded that a budget amendment is not necessary at this time, as expenses still fall within the overall fund structure, but staff will continue to monitor spending to ensure the general fund remains balanced.

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to approve Resolution 23-29 the Request of Out-of-State Travel Reimbursement for an Elected Official;
Approved 5-0

I: INFORMATION / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Wassenberg expressed excitement about advancing grant funding for the playground project.

Councilmember May suggested involving additional individuals who were interviewed for the CAC, noting the strong pool of community talent. She also shared that the Sustainability Fair was successful.

Councilmember Mielke reported that the Community Engagement Commission met on Monday, now has a full membership, and is preparing for the May 16 Spring Together event. The Commission is also working on its mission statement and planning two pilot listening sessions in May.

Councilmember Mogen attended the Metro Cities Annual Meeting. He also noted that the Planning Commission will meet next Tuesday to discuss city code updates and thanked staff and volunteers for the Sustainability Fair.

Mayor Gustafson echoed appreciation for the Sustainability Fair and reminded everyone of upcoming events, including Spring Together on May 16 and the Ice Cream Social on July 16.

Linehan shared excitement about moving forward with DNR grant funding and noted continued progress at the Community Park. The existing playground will remain in place until the new one is installed. He also reported that Public Works has completed spring street sweeping operations and that planning continues toward a Community Park grand opening.

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: 9:02


Councilmember Mielke motions to adjourn the meeting;
Approved 5-0

*Amendments to the agenda are noted in **bold** for additions and ~~strikethrough~~ for removals.*

Dated this 13th day of May, 2026



Jack Linehan, City Administrator



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor