

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Lauderdale City Hall
1891 Walnut Street
Lauderdale, MN 55113

Page 1 of 4

September 24, 2019

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Jeff Dains, Kelly Dolphin, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Councilors absent: Roxanne Grove and Andi Moffatt.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator; and Miles Cline, Deputy City Clerk.

Approvals

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Dolphin to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the September 10, 2019 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Dolphin to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Dolphin to approve the claims totaling \$51,531.03. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Dolphin to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the August Financial Report.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. 2019 Infrastructure Improvement Project

Administrator Butkowski provided an overview of progress on the project.

B. Halloween Party Planning – September 30

Assistant to the City Administrator Bownik provided an update on the annual Halloween party. He stated that volunteers are needed as well as candy and monetary donations.

C. Update on City Council Meet and Greet Events

The Council recapped their meet and greet event at City Gables on September 23 and thanked the residents who attended. They continued to say that the logistics of their upcoming event on October 7 are still being determined.

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Lauderdale City Hall
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Page 2 of 4

September 24, 2019

D. City Council Updates

Councilor Dains shared that his three-year term for Lauderdale on the St. Paul Regional Water Board was coming to an end. Dains continued to say that the 61 bus route does not currently run on Sundays and holidays but that will soon be changing. Councilor Dolphin stated that she will be attending a Roseville Area Schools Foundation luncheon at Midland Hills on September 25.

Discussion/Action Items

A. Resolution No. 092419A Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Lauderdale BP to Open Three Service Bays at 2421 Larpenteur Avenue

At the last meeting, the City Council directed staff to bring back a resolution of approval for a conditional use permit with some stipulations. The city attorney drafted the resolution which is ready for ratification.

Councilor Dolphin made a motion to adopt Resolution 092419A – A Resolution Granting a Conditional Use Permit to Scott Weber and Tony Rammer to Reopen Three Service Bays at the Property Located at 2421 Larpenteur Avenue. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

B. 2020 Budget and Levy; Resolution No. 092419B Adopting the 2020 Preliminary Property Tax Levy and Establishing the Budget Meeting Date

Butkowski said the proposed budget balanced at \$1,484,684 for 2020, an increase of 3.2% (\$46,110) over 2019. The balanced budget requires a levy increase of 4.4% or \$35,510. The impact of the city's levy increase is approximately \$39.79 on a median valued home (\$218,300) as residential property values in Lauderdale are up 5.8% over last year.

In addition to adopting the resolution establishing the levy at this meeting, the Council must establish the date and time for the public hearing held prior to final budget and levy adoption in December. This year, the timing works such that the public hearing can be held on November 26. Staff would prefer holding the public hearing earlier so that feedback can be worked into the budget prior to adoption on December 10.

The resolution also dedicates \$67,769.06 from the 414 Development Fund to cover what otherwise would be the 2020 debt levy. The Council has committed to using the money generated from conduit debt projects to fund the portion of the 2019 Infrastructure Improvement Project not covered by Ramsey County, St. Paul Regional Water, or special assessments. This will be set up as a budgeted transfer in the 2020 budget.

Councilor Dolphin made a motion to adopt Resolution 092419B – A Resolution Adopting the 2020 Preliminary Tax Levy and Establishing the Budget Meeting Date. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Lauderdale City Hall
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Page 3 of 4

September 24, 2019

C. An Interim Ordinance Regarding the Regulation of Fences with the City of Lauderdale – Ordinance No. 19-03 and Resolution No. 092419C Authorizing Publication of Ordinance No. 19-03 by Title and Summary

Butkowski mentioned that recently questions have arisen from residents considering a front yard fence. The current ordinance offers little guidance on considerations for front yard fences. For example, one of the inquiring owner's properties is along Larpenteur Avenue and a privacy fence would likely create sight line issues.

The city attorney advised that the City Council could adopt an interim ordinance for up to a year to study the front yard fence issue. If adopted, staff would bring the item back to a future meeting to refine the scope of the study to be undertaken.

Councilor Dolphin made a motion to adopt Ordinance 19-03 – An interim Ordinance, Adopted Pursuant to Minn. Stat., Section 462.355, Subd. 4, Regarding the Regulations of Fences within the City of Lauderdale. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

A vote on the resolution publishing by title and summary was postponed until the October 8 meeting as it requires four voting council members be present.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Administrator Butkowski stated that the October 8 council meeting may include the 2020 fund budgets, the Larpenteur Avenue sidewalk snow removal contract, a 2019 Infrastructure Improvement Project pay request, and resolution authorizing publication of Ordinance No. 19-03 by title and summary.

Work Session

A. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to anyone in attendance that wanted to address the Council. There being no parties interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

B. Falcon Heights Fire Services Update

In early September, Mayor Gaasch and the administrator met with the mayor and administrator from Falcon Heights to discuss their plans to replace the fire chief. We expected to receive information regarding their plans for discussion at our Council meeting, but no new information was available before the meeting.

The Council held a discussion regarding the future of fire services in the City of Lauderdale and will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

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Page 4 of 4

September 24, 2019

C. Community Development Updates

Butkowski stated she continues to meet as needed with the developer of Luther Seminary's property in Lauderdale.

Adjournment

Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Dolphin to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk