

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
HELD REMOTELY VIA TELECONFERENCE

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June 9, 2020

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Andi Moffatt, Jeff Dains, Roxanne Grove, Kelly Dolphin, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Councilors absent: None.

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 Moffatt to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the May 26, 2020 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Grove moved and seconded by Councilor Moffatt to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the June 1, 2020 emergency city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Moffatt to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Grove moved and seconded by Councilor Moffatt to approve the claims totaling \$15,173.49. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch expressed her grief for the death of George Floyd and read a statement from St. Anthony Police Chief Jon Mangseth. Councilor Dains stated that he attended a virtual Met Council Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) meeting. They discussed the challenges of wearing masks and social distancing on Metro Transit, as well as their work on other community issues. Councilor Moffatt mentioned that the I-35W North Gateway Committee she and Councilor Dains are members of have suspended their meetings but are maintaining an active Facebook page to provide updates. Mayor Gaasch added that the Ramsey County League of Local Governments Committee that she and Councilor Grove are members of, have an upcoming meeting to discuss how other cities are dealing with the coronavirus and the Governor's safety directives.

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Public Hearings

A. Variance Request for 1767 Malvern Street

Assistant to the City Administrator Bownik addressed the council to discuss the variance request for 1767 Malvern Street. The applicants, Keith & Grace Dyrud, requested a two-foot side-yard setback variance for an existing deck located three feet from the side property line. The variance was requested because the applicant has another pending land use application to divide two previously consolidated lots. The property is zoned R-1.

After council discussion, Keith Dyrud, 1805 Walnut Street, joined the teleconference to state that he had no additional information to provide at that time.

The Council concluded that the Dyrud's inherited this issue from the previous owners thereby meeting the conditions of state law for granting variances. Councilor Dains made a motion to approve the variance without conditions and direct staff to prepare a resolution of approval with findings of fact for the next meeting. This was seconded by Councilor Grove and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Petition and Waiver Agreement with Como Partnership, LLLP (a.k.a. Bolger Printing) for a Special Assessment for the Como Avenue Reconstruction Project

The Council has previously discussed aspects of the City of St. Paul's plans for the rehabilitation of Como Avenue and Hunting Valley Road in 2020. Lauderdale has two property owners adjacent to the project. One owner is MnDOT, who is exempt from paying special assessments. The other owner is Como Partnerships, LLLP (a.k.a. Bolger Vision Beyond Print). Instead of going through the typical special assessment process, they agreed to sign a petition and waiver agreement establishing the payback terms of the special assessment. The proposed term is over ten years at 4.15% interest, the same as the City's 2019 street assessment project.

Councilor Moffatt made a motion to approve the Petition and Waiver Agreement with Como Partnership, LLLP as presented. This was seconded by Councilor Dolphin and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. 2020-2021 Goal Setting and Budget

Administrator Butkowski walked the Council through the goal's established last year to highlight those accomplished and prioritize those that weren't. Often, some goals get set aside as new issues and opportunities come up throughout a year and are moved into the new budget cycle. The feedback from the Council gave staff direction to begin working on the 2021 budget.

C. Day in the Park and Community Events Planning

The Council discussed the summer community events schedule. They concluded that Day in the Park and the Farmers Markets couldn't reasonably be held while maintaining social distancing. Night to Unite already was rescheduled for October. Halloween will be discussed later.

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Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Administrator Butkowski stated that the June 23 council meeting may include a quotation from Midwest Playscapes for the purchase of playground equipment for Skyview Park, a fire services discussion, a petition and waiver agreement for 1763 Malvern Street, and a lot split application for 1767 Malvern Street.

Work Session

A. Coronavirus Impacts Update

With the Governor easing more of the coronavirus related restrictions, the Council revisited the discussion of park amenities. They ultimately decided to keep the basketball court and dog park closed, while opening up the playground equipment.

B. Community Development Update

Butkowski stated that the Eustis Street project is almost entirely complete aside from a small bit of concrete work and the raising of two manholes.

The St. Paul street project is starting soon. There will be different lane closures at different times on Eustis Street and Como Avenue.

There has been a great response to the graduation cards, but there is still time to drop them off at City Hall if community members would like to do so.

Staff is preparing for the upcoming elections and rental housing inspections.

C. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Gaasch opened up the floor to anyone in attendance interested in addressing the council.

Emily Heille, Roseville resident, urged the Council to reconsider opening the dog park. She stated that she enjoys the smaller size of the park and idea of keeping the dogs local.

Zach Zehrer, 2445 Summer Street, asked the Council to consider a variance to allow a fence in the side yard between his garage and the alleyway.

There being no other people interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

Adjournment

Councilor Moffatt moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk