

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
HELD REMOTELY VIA TELECONFERENCE

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March 23, 2021

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Roxanne Grove, Jeff Dains, Duane Pulford, Andi Moffatt, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

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. Butkowski asked to add street sweeping quotes to Additional Items. Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the March 9, 2021 city council meeting minutes. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Moffatt to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 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 Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Moffatt to approve the claims totaling \$37,250.10. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consent

Councilor Moffatt moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the Consent Agenda thereby recognizing the January financial report. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Update on NineNorth by Dana Healy

Dana Healy, Nine North Executive Director, presented their 2020 accomplishments to the Council. NineNorth, formerly CTV, provides the City with numerous production services and cable franchise management services. Healy highlighted council chamber upgrades they would like to make before the City returns to in-person meetings.

B. City Council Updates

Councilor Moffatt mentioned that State Senator Ann Johnson Stewart asked cities to prepare short videos about infrastructure needs that she can share with legislative colleagues. Councilor Dains mentioned that residents have shared their concerns regarding street conditions on Eustis Street south of Larpenteur Avenue. Councilor Pulford shared that Lauderdale City Hall hosted a successful Covid-19 vaccine clinic on March 15.

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Councilor Pulford made a motion providing staff vaccination leave up to four hours per Covid-19 shot. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch shared that she attended a Ramsey County League of Local Governments (RCLLG) meeting on mental health access and was appointed to the RCLLG committee. She said the recent Niche survey ranked Lauderdale the sixth best city to live in Minnesota. Finally, Gaasch stated that the City will be sending out an e-mail regarding the Chauvin trial.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Community Event Planning

Council Member Grove met with city staff to discuss community events for the summer. The events depend on pandemic restrictions being relaxed by summer. Up for discussion was the date of the June event so staff can advertise it in the April-June newsletter. For June, staff proposes a public safety theme, as our public safety partners can be flexible if pandemic restrictions aren't lifted by then. The St. Anthony Police Department, St. Paul Fire Department, and Ramsey County Emergency Management expressed willingness to participate. The City also could invite public safety partners like Gopher State One Call, Xcel Energy, state patrol, and various Ramsey County departments (SWAT team, water patrol, K-9 unit) to see if they can attend.

Staff envisions each summer event having music, food, and adult beverages. Staff proposes getting the music copyright licenses in order to invite musicians such as the Roseville Community Band. The City would also invite a food or ice cream truck, as well as Bent Brewstillery.

Summer events have been on a consistent schedule the past few years. Since the events this summer won't include farmers markets, staff propose starting them later. After discussion, the Council decided to host the first event on June 24 from 6-8 p.m. The rest of the schedule will be determined at a later time.

B. City Administrator Employment Agreement and Compensation

The Council evaluated the job performance of Administrator Butkowski in January. Part of that discussion was to have the city attorney review the employment agreement. He made the amendments highlighted in the contract.

Councilor Dains commended Butkowski for all of her work and made a motion to adopt the employment agreement and increase her salary by four percent. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Additional Items

A. Street Sweeping Quotes

Staff received a quote from Mike McPhillips, Inc. Staff did not solicit additional quotes as Mike McPhillips has been the only company that consistently meets the City's expectations in terms of quality of sweep and attention to detail.

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Councilor Moffatt made a motion to approve contracting with Mike McPhillips, Inc. to perform the 2021 spring and fall street sweeping per the terms of the service agreement. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

The April 13 council meeting may include the February Financial Report, goal setting for 2021-2022, discussion of the new federal Covid-19 funds, a public works management software update, and a presentation of audit by Abdo, Eick, and Meyers.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski stated that staff is working on the second quarter newsletter, the new city website will be launched on March 26, and city managers will be meeting on March 30 to discuss Ramsey County's HRA levy.

B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

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

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

Adjournment

Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk