

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
HELD REMOTELY VIA TELECONFERENCE

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October 12, 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, Andi Moffatt, Duane Pulford, Jeff Dains, 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 or corrections to the meeting agenda. Mayor Gaasch added a Halloween update by Josh Dirksen to the Informational Presentations section. There being nothing else, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the September 28, 2021 City Council meeting minutes. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Grove to approve the minutes of the September 28, 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 Grove to approve the claims totaling \$85,104.68. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Crime Update by St. Anthony Police Captain Jeff Spiess

Captain Spiess updated the community on two recent crime that happened in the City. The first was an assault of an employee of Midland Hills walking along Fulham Street to Larpenteur Avenue. The second was an illegal party hosted at 2520 Larpenteur Avenue that resulted in an attendee being shot in the leg by an unknown third party. Residents are encouraged to watch the replay of the meeting on cable TV channel 16 or at www.ninenorth.org for more details.

B. Development Update by Steve Schwanke of Inland Development Group Regarding Luther Seminary's Property

Steve Schwanke of Inland Development Partners provided an update on the redevelopment of Luther Seminary's property and answered questions from the City Council.

C. Halloween Update from Josh Dirksen

Josh Dirksen addressed the community about the upcoming Halloween event. He said the organizing group needs more volunteers, candy, and gHost sites. Additionally, he shared that

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Saturday's activities including the pumpkin patch will be held at Lauderdale Community Park from 1-3 p.m. Trick or treating and the gHost sites would happen on Sunday night from 5-8 p.m.

D. City Council Updates

Councilor Grove shared that she attended a Ramsey County League of Local Governments meeting on the topic of homelessness and housing.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Waiver Request and Encroachment Agreement for a Retaining Wall at 1791 Malvern Street
Andrew and Monika Davis recently built a garage and expanded their driveway to match the new garage at 1791 Malvern Street. They want to restore their yard and include a short retaining wall to create a manageable grade. The retaining wall would extend into the City right-of-way.

The boulevard tree in the front yard close to their driveway that makes grading difficult and a retaining wall necessary. The waiver process was designed for unique situations like this. If approved, conditions can still be placed on the approval, such as requiring an encroachment agreement with the City.

Councilor Dains made a motion to approve the encroachment agreement and the retaining wall waiver request for 1791 Malvern Street. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Waiver Request for a Fence at 1050 33rd Avenue Southeast

Bolger Family LLP, 1050 33rd Ave SE, applied to construct a ten-foot-tall chain-link fence on part of their property. City code allows for fences up to eight feet in height for security purposes in commercial and industrial zones, which is two feet less than the request.

The previous fence was removed due to maintenance needs and inadequate height. BMX bike enthusiasts have been attracted to the roof of their building, which could mean future roof repairs and safety concerns. The ten-foot-tall fence would solve those concerns. The waiver process was designed for unique situations like this.

Since the property is a business, Duane Grace, the City's commercial building official, visited the site and discussed the fence with Travis Lienemann, who is a service technician for Bolger. The proposed fence is chain link so there is no concern about wind shear and no engineered plans are needed due to the height. Duane stated that he does not see any concerns with approval of the waiver. If approved, staff will work with Bolger on a building permit for the fence.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to approve the fence waiver request for 1050 33rd Ave SE. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

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C. Public Works Job Description and Hiring

With Dave Hinrichs upcoming retirement, the City needs someone to do all the other non-building official work Dave did. Ideally, this includes hiring someone with a MPCA wastewater license. The other important aspects of the job are the jack-of-all-trades type work that happens daily around the City.

Councilor Moffatt made a motion to approve the Public Works Sewer Utilities and Maintenance position and post the position for hire. This was seconded by Councilor Grove and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

D. Proposed 2022 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff shared the proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) with the City Council. Butkowski mentioned that a number of projects were moved up to be completed before Dave retires, leaving a sparse CIP. The budgeted storm sewer costs pay for our share of the work done on Seminary Pond. The debt levy amounts for the 2019 Improvement Project are tracked in the CIP as a reminder to budget transfers from Fund 414 each year.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Council meeting may include a contract for building official services, a contract with Northeast Youth and Family Services, the September financial report, and the quarterly investment report.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski said there were no additional updates.

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 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk