

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
HELD REMOTELY VIA TELECONFERENCE

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January 11, 2022

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Roxanne Grove, Duane Pulford, Jeff Dains, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.
Councilor absent: 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 or corrections to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councilor Grove moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any corrections to the December 14, 2021 City Council meeting minutes. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the minutes of the December 14, 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 \$296,096.07. Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Consent

Councilor Grove moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the Consent Agenda thereby approving Resolution No. 011122A – Designating Official Depository and Investment Institutions.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. City Council Updates

Councilor Dains stated that he attended a Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) meeting on January 11 where Doug Snyder, Executive Director of the MWMO, announced that he will retire in March. Kevin Reich will be the interim director while they search for a permanent hire.

Councilor Pulford shared that he is the treasury-secretary of the North Suburban Communications Commission. They are searching for a new director, with Dale Irving serving as the interim director.

Mayor Gaasch spoke about the Regional Council of Mayors meeting on policing and public safety with Hennepin County attorney Mike Freeman and Ramsey County attorney John Choi.

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Gaasch thanked Administrator Butkowski for her Star Tribune interview, which touched upon the senior affordable housing project at the former school site.

Public Hearings

A. Ordinance No. 22-01 Repealing Title 9, Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding HVAC and Gas Pipe Installation Licensing Requirements

The City has an ordinance requiring that mechanical contractors qualify for a city license before being able to work here. This was adopted because the State of Minnesota does not have a licensing program. Some cities license contractors, while others do not. The new building official does not find the city license requirement necessary since mechanical contractors are bonded by the State of Minnesota. He feels that is assurance enough that a business is legitimate. The city attorney drafted language that would repeal the ordinance that established the licensing program.

Mayor Gaasch opened up the floor at 7:11 p.m. to anyone in attendance interested in addressing the Council on this topic.

There being no one interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor at 7:12 p.m.

Councilor Grove made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 22-01—Repealing Title 9, Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding HVAC and Gas Pipe Installation Licensing Requirements. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Resolution No. 011122B – Declaring a Climate Emergency in Lauderdale, Minnesota

Mayor Gaasch is actively involved in the Minnesota Collaboration Climate Group. The mission of the group is to bring climate issues before city councils throughout the state.

Mayor Gaasch made a presentation to the Council on behalf of the Minnesota Collaboration Climate Group and asked them to support a resolution. They discussed the draft resolution and asked staff to add additional content for the next meeting.

B. 2022 City Council Meeting Schedule

The City Council sets its meeting schedule at the first meeting of the year. The proposal is to continue meeting the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Holidays do not conflict with the proposed meeting schedule but the primary election in August does. A date for the August 9 meeting may be set during the meeting or at a later date. In the absence of Councilor Moffatt, the Council chose to wait for her return before finalizing the schedule.

C. 2022 Committee Appointments and Assignments

The Council determines committee assignments and makes other designations at the first meeting of the year. Staff added the appointment of Andy Schreder and Rum River Construction Consultants as the City's building official. The Council decided to finalize appointments at the next meeting.

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Set Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Council meeting may include the December financial report, the quarterly investment report, and a I-35W North Gateway study update by MnDOT staff.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski stated that Gasparre Pond dredging would begin soon. There is a meeting scheduled with the apartment managers to discuss crime in the City. Dave Hinrichs officially retired on December 31, and Tom Douvier started on January 4. Butkowsi attended a meeting hosted by New Brighton last week to discuss way beyond policing to address the metro wide increase in crime. The federal final guidance on the ARPA funds will allow cities to consider it lost revenue and the money can be spent for general government purposes. Real Estate Equities was awarded state tax credits and bonding authority so the 1795 Eustis Street project will move forward.

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 one interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

Adjournment

Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk