

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

Page 1 of 2

February 28, 2023

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Councilors present: Sharon Kelly, Evan Sayre, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Councilors absent: Duane Pulford and Jeff Dains.

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 Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the February 14, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the claims totaling \$18,122.61. Motion carried unanimously.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Presentation by the Roseville Area League of Women Voters

Bonnie Koch from the Roseville Area League of Women Voters approached the dais to share their research on cities within the area and their compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After her presentation, she answered questions from the council.

B. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch shared that she, Councilor Sayre, and Councilor Kelly attended a League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) conference for elected officials. Gaasch continued to say that a majority of the Council would be attending Day on the Hill on March 9. Finally, Gaasch stated that she is on the search committee to replace the LMC Executive Director.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Resolution No. 022823A – Condemning the Use of Discriminatory Covenants and Approving Participation in the Just Deeds Coalition

The City Council supports efforts to improve racial equity in Lauderdale. The University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice identified two properties with restrictive covenants.

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Page 2 of 2

February 28, 2023

By joining Just Deeds, the covenants can be removed from the deeds. No official action is required to join Just Deeds, but most cities have adopted a resolution of support. By becoming a member, city can access pro bono lawyers that will work with the homeowners to have the covenants removed. One of the lawyers that does this work also represents our cable commission and he said he is ready to help our homeowners.

Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to adopt Resolution No. 022823A – Condemning the Use of Discriminatory Covenants and Approving Participation in the Just Deeds Coalition. Motion carried unanimously.

B. City Administrator Employment Agreement

Based on the recent class and compensation study, the Council discussed raising the compensation of the city administrator position. As the position was below market pay by more than ten percent, the Council discussed raising the pay by five percent in 2023 and 2024 in addition to the COLA adjustment. The employment agreement was amended accordingly.

Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the city administrator employment agreement as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the March 14 council meeting might include the January financial report, garbage hauler licenses, and a waiver request for a fence at Xcel Energy's substation.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that City staff is working with Eureka Recycling on residential pickup issues. She continued to say that Goodmanson Construction salted the alleyways on February 25.

B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council. There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

Adjournment

Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk