

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

Page 1 of 3

March 14, 2023

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

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

Councilor absent: Duane Pulford.

Staff present: 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 Sayre to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the February 28, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the claims totaling \$134,354.43. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent**

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the January financial report and approving the garbage hauler licenses.

**Informational Presentations/Reports**

A. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch shared that she attended Day on the Hill with Councilors Sayre and Pulford where they met with State Representative Finke. Gaasch said she plans to attend the League of Minnesota Cities annual conference in Duluth from June 21-23 and encouraged other council members to attend if possible. Finally, Gaasch stated that the Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Plan meeting would take place March 28 online from 6-7 p.m.

Councilor Dains said he continues to push discussions to reroute bus route 3 to be more accommodating for Lauderdale citizens. Dains also said that on March 6 he, Administrator Butkowski, and Maggie Duerwachter met with the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative staff to discuss way to partner. Finally, Dains shared that the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization may plant trees between Idaho Avenue and Como Avenue along Eustis Street.

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

Page 2 of 3

March 14, 2023

**Discussion/Action Item**

**A. Waiver Request for a Fence at Xcel Energy's Substation**

Chapter 7 of the Code of Ordinances regarding fences and retaining walls allows property owners to apply for a waiver to deviate from City code if the Council finds that the requirement is not necessary for the protection of public health, safety, or welfare.

Xcel Energy, 2535 Larpenteur Avenue West, requested to construct a 10' high mesh fence surrounding the staging yard located at the rear of the terminal substation. City code allows for fences up to 8' in height for security purposes in commercial and industrial zones, which is 2' less than the request.

The existing seven-foot chain-link fence is inadequate for security to protect critical infrastructure. The ten-foot fence would better address the concern. The waiver process was designed for unique situations like this. If approved, Rum River Consultants will work with Xcel Energy on a building permit for the fence.

Sean Lawler, representative of Xcel Energy, joined the meeting via Zoom to answer questions from the Council about the proposal.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to approve the fence waiver request from Xcel Energy for 2535 Larpenteur Avenue West. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution No. 031423A – Authorizing Lauderdale Staff to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure Lauderdale Participation in the Multistate Settlements Related to Opioid Supply Chain Participation, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement.**

The state attorney general provided a resolution and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for City Council consideration to continue in the new opioid settlement proceedings. The City originally approved a resolution and MOA in late 2021. This is an ever-evolving process, but our understanding is that the more Minnesota cities participate, the more funding Minnesota will receive.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution 031423A—A Resolution Authorizing Lauderdale Staff to Execute All Necessary Documents to Ensure Lauderdale Participation in the Multistate Settlements Related to Opioid Supply Chain Participation, and in the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement. This was seconded by Councilor Sayre and carried unanimously.

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

Page 3 of 3

March 14, 2023

**Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Bownik stated that the March 28 council meeting might include the revised speed study and a presentation from the Carbon Free Futures MN Coalition.

**Work Session**

A. Community Development Update

Bownik stated that he did not have any additional updates.

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 Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline  
Deputy City Clerk