

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

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April 11, 2023

**Call to Order**

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Councilors present: Jeff Dains, Duane Pulford, Sharon Kelly, Evan Sayre, and Mayor Mary Gaasch. Councilors absent: None.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; and Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator.

**Approvals**

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councilor Pulford 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 March 28, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the minutes of the March 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 Pulford to approve the claims totaling \$54,733.01. Motion carried unanimously.

**Informational Presentations/Reports**

A. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch shared that she is on the board of the League of Minnesota Cities, and they are looking to hire a new executive director.

**Discussion/Action Item**

A. Annual Audit Presentation by Abdo

Each year, a representative of Abdo presents the findings of the annual audit to the City Council. This year, Bonnie Schwieger provided the Council an overview of their findings and shared a summary of the financial health of the City. She then fielded questions from the Council.

B. Resolution No. 041123A – Adopting Reduced Speed Limit on Streets over which the City has Jurisdiction as the Road Authority

In November, the Council asked Stantec, the City's engineering firm, to prepare a speed study to assess appropriate speeds for residential streets in Lauderdale. They concluded that residential streets could be posted 20 mph but Eustis Street north of Larpenteur and Roselawn Avenue from Fulham Street to Eustis Street must be posted 25 mph because they are minor collector streets.

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The City Council may change the speed limits via resolution. The expectation is that the new speed limits would go into effect June 1 unless the Council prefers another date. Staff would not suggest any sooner as we need time to order and install the signage and get the word out about the change. The police chief and captain are prepared to discuss the roll out with the Council when they are here to present their annual report on April 25. With the exception of one location, staff believe signage can be added to existing poles. The cost for signage is \$1,149.

Councilor Dains made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 041123A—A Resolution Adopting Reduced Speed Limits on Streets over which the City has Jurisdiction as the Road Authority. This was seconded by Councilor Kelly and carried by a 3-2 vote with Councilors Dain and Kelly and Mayor Gaasch voting for and Councilors Pulford and Sayre voting against.

C. Resolution No. 041123B – Supporting No Mow May Initiative 2023

Butkowski mentioned that last year the City supported the “No Mow May” campaign. Residents were offered window signs if they participated, and code enforcement for rank growth was suspended through the end of May. As the Council discussed in February, No Mow May has downsides, and the long-term goal is to increase environmental education offered by the City as we did in the most recent newsletter.

The Council must decide whether to suspend enforcement of rank growth again for those wishing to participate in No Mow May. If so, the Council must adopt the resolution suspending the city code requirement that grass and weeds not exceed 8 inches in height during the month of May. No Mow May signs printed on heavy card stock for windows will be available at City Hall. We encourage residents to buy their preferred No Mow May/bee habitat yard signs.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 041123B— A Resolution Supporting No Mow May Initiative 2023. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried by a 4-1 vote with Councilors Dain, Kelly, Pulford, and Mayor Gaasch voting for and Councilor Sayre voting against.

D. Road Condition and Pothole Repair

Butkowski explained that we generally do not have spring potholes to repair since we keep up with maintenance. With the age of our roads, and the winter we had, we have a couple of problem areas that need repair. Staff spoke with Jake Wegscheider from Goodmanson Construction about repair options. He provided two proposals:

1. Repair the road deterioration on Walnut Street (\$2,746), the sinking section of road on Pleasant Street (\$13,561), and then patch potholes around town on a time and materials basis not to exceed \$10,000.
2. Repair a catch basin in the Pleasant/Lake Street alley with concrete for a permanent fix and then it would not need repair in 2-3 years during the mill and overlay project.

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Councilor Sayre made a motion to accept the proposal for Goodmanson Construction's quoted work. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

**Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Butkowski stated that the April 25 council meeting might include the March financial report, a Ramsey County public works/Eustis Street cost sharing presentation, and the annual police department update.

**Work Session**

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that our AmeriCorps member, Maggie Duerwachter, would be leaving the City on April 14, annual reports for ARPA funds are due by the end of the month, and our administrative fines have been effective at dealing with some code enforcement issues.

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 Sayre to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline  
Deputy City Clerk