

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

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April 25, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Jeff Dains, Sharon Kelly, Evan Sayre, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.
Councilors absent: Duane Pulford participated as a member of the public via Zoom.

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 Kelly 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 April 11, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2023 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the claims totaling \$110,593.48. Motion carried unanimously.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Ramsey County Public Works – Eustis Street Cost-Sharing

Alan Maxwell, the Ramsey County engineer working on the Eustis Street project, shared an updated presentation with the Council. He discussed updated cost estimates, and what the City's share of the project would be if the Council elects not to take ownership of Eustis Street.

After Maxwell fielded questions from the Council including responding that a final agreement needed to be in place prior to bidding the project in 2025.

B. Annual Police Department Report

Police Chief Jon Mangseth and Captain Jeff Spiess were in attendance to present the annual police report to the Council.

They provided a wide array of data from 2022 and shared that steering wheel locks are available at Lauderdale City Hall for Kia and Hyundai owners that are vulnerable to being stolen.

The Council paused for a brief recess from 8:07 p.m. to 8:14 p.m.

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C. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch shared that she attended a Ramsey County League of Local Governments meeting on waste. A video is available for those interested in watching a replay of the event. Gaasch continued to say that she is on the board of the League of Minnesota Cities where they are down to two candidates for the new executive director.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Fence Waiver Request at 1798 Walnut Street

Bownik explained that Devon and Kirsten Camitsch, 1798 Walnut Street, are proposing to construct a six-foot-tall fence in their back yard. They would like to continue the six-foot height of the fence ten feet past the “Point of Intersection” into the side yard. The city code allows for fences up to a height of four feet in the side yard, thus the reason for the waiver request.

There is a unique circumstance in that the house has a projection in the side yard that includes the water spigot that they owners would like to tie the fence into. There also are a few big bushes along Spring Street that would conceal that section of the fence. The waiver process was designed for situations like this if the Council finds that the requirement is not necessary for the protection of public health, safety, or welfare. If approved, conditions can be placed on the approval. However, staff does see any concerns with approval of the waiver; we do not think there is a need for conditions in this case.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to approve the fence waiver request for 1798 Walnut Street without conditions. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the May 9 council meeting might include an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds transfer and a zoning ordinance discussion.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that she completed the ARPA funds report through March 2023. She also said that the social room was updated with new light fixtures, paint, and ceiling tiles. Finally, Butkowski urged residents to stop flushing wipes down the toilet even if they are deemed flushable on the packaging as they cause backups in the sewer mains.

B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council. Duane Pulford mentioned that the newsletter was great and appreciated that it highlighted the drug deactivation bags. He was excited for the roll out of the organics recycling. He mentioned his thanks for the police department handing out locks for Kia’s and Hyundai’s. Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

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Adjournment

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Heather Butkowski".

Heather Butkowski
City Administrator