

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

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May 9, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:05 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; 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 Kelly to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the April 25, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the minutes of the April 25, 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 \$120,260.36. Motion carried unanimously.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Discussion of Enforcement of New Speed Limits with St. Anthony Police
Jeremy Sroga of the St. Anthony Police Department (SAPD) was on a call and unable to join until later in the meeting.

B. City Council Updates

Councilor Dains said the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) is working on race and equity projects in regards to the environment, green storm water systems, and a number of other climate change initiatives.

Mayor Gaasch shared that the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) will be doing a webinar on the newly instituted laws regarding cannabis legislation.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Zoning Ordinance Revisions Discussion

On January 30, 2023, the Council met with Jennifer Haskamp in a work session regarding the Zoning Code Update project. At the work session, Haskamp covered approximately half of the

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content included in the presentation. At this meeting, she completed the presentation, and provided some follow-up regarding the discussion held at the work session.

Her objective was to finalize which include development of an annotated outline, ordinance drafting, public engagement, and City Council work sessions and/or presentations. The timing of the deliverables, engagement events, and work sessions will be refined after further discussion.

The Council took a brief recess from 8:45 p.m. – 8:52 p.m.

Informational Presentations/Reports Resumed

A. Discussion of Enforcement of New Speed Limits with St. Anthony Police

Jeremy Sroga of the St. Anthony Police Department (SAPD) joined the meeting via Zoom to discuss the upcoming speed limit changes in Lauderdale. St. Anthony reduced their speeds to 25 MPH so the department has previous experience to draw from. Sroga shared information about how the transformation worked in St. Anthony, and answered questions from the Council.

Discussion/Action Item Resumed

B. Resolution No. 050923A – Transferring a Portion of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Established Under the American Rescue Plan Act

The Communications Fund 226 is funded by cable franchise fees paid by Comcast. The fund covers 5% of the assistant to the city administrator salary, 5% of the deputy city clerk salary, programming costs to NineNorth, and the City's annual contribution to the North Suburban Cable Commission. With cable subscriber numbers dwindling, increasing staff salaries, and increased programming costs since COVID, the fund is being depleted.

Butkowski explained the Council had two options. The first was to move staffing costs from the 226 Fund to the general fund. The costs are then covered by the levy. The second option was to transfer funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund.

Much like recycling, the cable TV world is in flux and no one knows what the long-term outcome is for franchise fees and cable commissions. Staff recommends making a transfer from the ARPA fund. It is a opportunity to prop up the fund for the next 5-10 years and not shift costs to taxpayers. If the Council adopts this resolution, the transfer would be made in 2023.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to adopt Resolution 050923A—A Resolution Transferring a Portion of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Established under the American Rescue Plan Act. This was seconded by Councilor Kelly and carried unanimously.

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Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the May 23 council meeting might include the April financial report, a building safety month proclamation and update by Building Official Andy Schreder, and a conversation with County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that Day in the Park will be on July 20, we are making progress on fixing potholes in the streets, street sweeping will take place on Thursday and Friday this week, the retaining wall in Lauderdale Community Park is being rebuilt, and an arborist has been examining trees in the park that need to be removed.

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 9:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Butkowski
City Administrator