

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

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May 23, 2023

**Call to Order**

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Councilors present: Duane Pulford, Sharon Kelly, Evan Sayre, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.  
Councilor absent: Jeff Dains.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator (virtually); 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. Gaasch noted the amended claims total. There being nothing else, 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 May 9, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the amended claims. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the claims totaling \$62,400.77. Motion carried unanimously.

**Special Order of Business/Recognitions/Proclamations**

A. Building Safety Month Proclamation and Update by Andy Schreder, Building Official  
Rum River Consultants owner Andy Schreder joined the meeting via zoom to provide an update on the work being done at Rum River. He asked the city council to adopt a proclamation for Building Safety Month. Education is a key component of their mission that they want to continue to promote it in all the communities they work in.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to adopt the Proclamation recognizing May as Building Safety Month. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

**Informational Presentations/Reports**

A. Conversation with County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire  
Commissioner McGuire provided updates from the Ramsey County Board and answered questions from the Council.

The Council took a break at 7:47 p.m. and returned at 7:51 p.m.

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**B. City Council Updates**

Councilor Kelly stated that she and Councilor Pulford attended the Ramsey County League of Local Governments year-end celebration. Councilor Kelly said she completed a ride along with the St. Anthony police department. Kelly concluded by saying that the City should make Deterra bags available at Day in the Park for those who want to safely dispose of old prescriptions.

Mayor Gaasch shared that there are new legislative bills that would allocate funds to small cities for roads. Gaasch continued to say that a bill passed which allows council members to virtually take part in city council meetings up to three times per year. Finally, Gaasch said there would be a LMC webinar taking place in June to highlight the various legislative changes.

**Discussion/Action Item**

**A. Resolution No. 052323A – A Resolution Providing Preliminary Approval to the Issuance of Revenue Obligations under Minnesota Statutes and Taking Other Actions in Connection Therewith**

Ron Batty from Kennedy and Graven joined the meeting via Zoom to provide information and answer questions from the Council regarding the City's participation in securing bank qualified debt or conduit debt for Franklin Riverside LLC. Franklin Riverside LLC plans to use the funding to construct a 155-unit affordable multi-family apartment building in Minneapolis.

The City has participated in a number of conduit debt projects outside of the city limits in years past. The City partners with the organization that wants to use the City's tax-exempt bonding authority, which is done in exchange for a fee. Each city is given \$10,000,000 in tax-exempt bonding per year, and our current rate is 0.90% of the project amount. In this case, they are asking for a flat fee of \$75,000. Staff recommends participating at the reduced rate because opportunities do not come around each year, and the funds are vital. The funds pay the debt levy from the 2019 Eustis Street/Roselawn Avenue reconstruction project. The 414 Development Fund does not have enough money to fund the debt levy through the last payment in 2029.

Participating in conduit debt projects does not create a financial obligation for the City. The following resolution allows for the call of a public hearing on the matter at a future meeting.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 052323A — A Resolution Providing Preliminary Approval to the Issuance of Revenue Obligations under Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 462C and 474A, as Amended, and Taking Other Actions in Connection Therewith. This was seconded by Councilor Sayre and carried unanimously.

**B. Annual Liability Insurance Renewal and Tort Liability Waiver Questionnaire**

Butkowski explained that the City's workers compensation, property, liability, sewer backup, and auto insurance policies run year over year from August to August. Staff work with our

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insurance agent annually to prepare the materials for the renewal. This includes updating data on improvements and staffing costs. LMCIT hires appraisers to give values for the more expensive structures like city halls.

Annually, the City Council must determine whether to waive the municipal tort liability limits established by state statute. The City has not waived them in the past as it opens the City to greater financial liability. Staff recommends maintaining that practice.

Councilor Kelly made a motion authorizing staff to remit the Liability Coverage—Waiver to LMCIT as presented indicating the City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MS 466.04. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

**C. Promotion of Gordy Beck to Public Works Coordinator**

Butkowski noted that when the City Council approved the classification and compensation study earlier this year, it resulted in a ladder for public works promotions based upon qualifications. Gordy Beck recently completed the tree inspector's course and passed the competency test to be a licensed Tree Inspector. Licenses are issued by the Department of Natural Resources. This means that Gordy qualifies to be promoted to Public Works Coordinator and the associated pay. Gordy remains at Step 5 and his pay increases from \$36.68/hour to \$38.84/hour.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to promote Gordy Beck to the Public Works Coordinator position with the associated pay and benefits effective May 23, 2023. This was seconded by Councilor Kelly and carried unanimously.

**Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Butkowski stated that the June 13 council meeting might include the April financial report, an electronic funds transfer policy, restoration of City owned property around Walsh Lake, and the adoption of a county-wide comprehensive emergency operations plan.

**Work Session**

**A. Community Development Update**

Butkowski shared to the public and Council what steps should be taken if construction workers at the Fern project are operating outside of compliance.

**B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council**

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council.

Charlene Peterson, 1873 Eustis Street, stated her frustration with the group home in her neighborhood, and in particular one of the individuals residing there.

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Lara Mac Lean, 1905 Eustis Street, shared that she has dealt with issues at the group home for 20 years, and does not feel safe at times because of it.

Rebecca Slater, 1869 Eustis Street, stated her frustrations with the group home as well. She said that construction workers at The Fern have parked illegally creating an unsafe situation around the construction site.

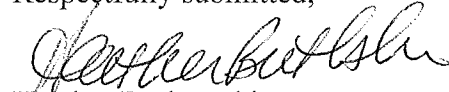
Heather Brian, 1778 Eustis Street, joined via Zoom to share that workers at The Fern have been in violation of working outside of designated hours, and have been parking illegally along Eustis Street as well.

There being nobody else interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor.

**Adjournment**

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Butkowski  
City Administrator