

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

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July 11, 2023

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Jeff Dains, Sharon Kelly, Duane Pulford, 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 Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the June 27, 2023 city council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023 city council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the claims totaling \$141,719.86. Motion carried unanimously.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Day in the Park Update

Assistant to the City Administrator Bownik gave an update on the food, games, music, and events that will take place at Lauderdale's annual Day in the Park event. The event will take place on Thursday, July 13 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Lauderdale Community Park.

B. City Council Updates

Councilor Kelly stated that she attended a Braver Angels presentation. Mayor Gaasch shared that she is part of the Minnesota Rural Urban Exchange, which has a similar mission to the Braver Angels. Councilor Pulford shared water line insurance information he received in the mail.

Public Hearings

A. Ordinance No. 23-01 – Interim Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium on the Operation of Cannabis Businesses

Ron Batty, the City's attorney, joined the meeting virtually to discuss the new cannabis legislation. Batty provided a memo, draft interim ordinance, and draft publication resolution.

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He said the state was going to play the lead on regulating cannabis businesses with cities having a more limited role. Parts of the statute go into effect on July 1 and August 1 but it is going to be a while before much happens. The new state department needs to be established and rules need to be implemented. It is likely that no licenses will be issued by the state for six months or more. In the meantime, cities need to determine if and how they want to get into the game. The statute allows cities to adopt an interim ordinance, which may prohibit a business from opening in the City. The ordinance may be in effect until January 1, 2025, longer than the 12 months usually allowed for interim ordinances. Since it will be difficult for cities to figure out how they want to participate until the state rules are in place, he recommended adopting a moratorium to buy some time to figure that out.

The Council discussed adopting the interim ordinance until the state finished its rulemaking process and provided cities guidance on next steps.

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor at 7:38 p.m. to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council on this topic. There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor at 7:42 p.m.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 23-01— Interim Ordinance Authorizing a Study and Imposing a Moratorium on the Operation of Cannabis Businesses. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 071123A – Authorizing Publication of Ordinance No. 23-01 by Title and Summary

As the ordinance was too long to publish cost-effectively, the city attorney recommended publication by title and summary.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 071123A – Authorizing Publication of Ordinance No. 23-01 by Title and Summary. This was seconded by Councilor Sayre and carried unanimously.

The council took a recess at 8:34 p.m. and returned at 8:36 p.m.

Discussion/Action Item

A. 2022 Moratorium on the Sale of Hemp Derived THC Products

Batty prepared a memo regarding last year's legalization of hemp-derived edibles. The City Council adopted a moratorium that's set to expire on July 30. Batty addressed whether the Council felt the need to regulate the hemp-derived edibles going forward.

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Batty also addressed whether the Council was considering addressing the smoking of cannabis and tobacco in public places. Many cities ban smoking around their public buildings and in their parks and open spaces. The Council said they were interested in addressing the issue because they anticipate complaints. Staff will work with the attorney on the issue.

The Council discussed the options presented by the city attorney regarding the hemp-derived edibles: do nothing and let the moratorium lapse; initiate a licensing program; or continue the ban on edibles until the state completes their rulemaking process and establishes the Office of Cannabis Management.

Councilor Dains made a motion to have the city attorney prepare an ordinance to regulate hemp-derived edibles. This was seconded by Councilor Kelly and carried unanimously.

B. 2023-2024 Goal Setting Session

Butkowski said staff prepared a list of staff goals and projects as well as some policy goals of the Council. The Council added some items to the list for future discussion and consideration.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the July 25 council meeting might include an electronic funds transfer policy, the June financial report, the quarterly investment report, a variance request by the owners of 1897 Malvern Street, and the annual storm water report.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that Rum River recently sent out code enforcement letters addressing property maintenance violations.

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 Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles Cline

Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk