

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

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January 25, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Special City Council meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Councilors absent: None.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; and Miles Cline, Deputy City Clerk.

Approvals

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting agenda. Councilor Dains added a staff appreciation item to the Additional Items section of the agenda. There being nothing else, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Follow up to Meeting with Ramsey County Engineering Staff Regarding Eustis Street Reconstruction and Turnback

Butkowski explained that she relayed to Alan Maxwell at Ramsey County the Council's decision to cost-share versus accepting the turnback. She received an email back stating, "It seems like something was lost in translation from when we began work on this project." She met with Maxwell and County Engineer John Mazzitello to discuss what was "lost in translation." They said that their offer was to do the project with the sidewalks and retaining walls if there was a turnback to the City. If the project would be county owned in the end, they said they would have designed something different.

Mayor Gaasch asked staff to go through the council meeting and open house videos to pull out relevant discussion points. Staff emailed those to council members with links and notes for the starting and end points to watch. The videos do not show differing understandings. Alan Maxwell specifically came to the April 25 meeting to present what the City's cost share would be if the Council declined the turnback. Throughout the entire process, the Council explained to Ramsey County where they were in the decision-making process on whether to cost-share or take ownership of the road.

Ramsey County engineering staff asked the City Council to meet with Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire. Mayor Gaasch and Council Member Sayre met with Maxwell, Mazzitello, McGuire, and Ramsey County Public Works Director Brian Isaacson. The Mayor Gaasch and Member Sayre were clear with Commissioner McGuire that the City would not be forced into a turnback situation that wasn't in the best interest of the City. She agreed and said that was not the position

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or desire of the County. The purpose of this special city council meeting was to bring all council members up to speed on discussions with the County.

Mayor Gaasch and Member Sayre provided the Council a summary of the meeting with Ramsey County. They discussed that Ramsey County may decide to revise the scope of work based upon the Council's decision not to take ownership of the road. The County articulated that a cost of over \$6,000,000 for less than a half mile of roadway not a good use of tax dollars if they were to retain ownership of the road and its future maintenance. The Council members agreed that they would not decide on the turnback option without the Council being given a full understanding of the alternative. The Council expects to be given the opportunity to review a revised scope of work and revised cost-share estimates.

Additional Items

A. Staff Recognition

Councilor Dains voiced his appreciation for City staff for their work throughout the course of the past year. In recognition, he proposed staff be granted two personal days to be used at the City Administrator's discretion.

Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to grant two personal days to staff to be used at the discretion of the City Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk