

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

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February 26, 2024

**Call to Order**

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

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 Kelly to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the February 13, 2024 City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the February 13, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the claims totaling \$51,163.40. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent**

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the January financial report.

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

A. Louis Adams, Honorable Mention Winner of League of Minnesota Cities Mayor for a Day Essay Contest

Lauderdale resident Louis Adams, a fifth grader at Brimhall Elementary, was an honorable mention winner of the recent League of Minnesota Cities' Mayor for a Day contest. Louis attended the meeting to read his essay and be commended by the City Council.

Council Member Dains joined the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

**Informational Presentations/Reports**

A. Environment and Sustainability Discussion with Russ Henry, Owner of Minnehaha Falls Landscape, Giving Tree Gardens, and Founder of Bee Safe Minneapolis

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Russ Henry came highly recommended by City of Roseville staff as a knowledgeable speaker on the environment and sustainability. As the Council looks to support residents' sustainability projects, educate the community about pollinator health, and start an environmental commission, he offered to be a resource to launch those discussions and projects. Henry went through his presentation and answered follow-up questions from the Council.

The Council took a brief recess at 8:22 p.m. and returned at 8:27 p.m.

**B. City Council Updates**

Councilor Kelly shared that she and Councilor Pulford attended the League of Minnesota Cities Elected Leaders Institute in Alexandria the previous week. Mayor Gaasch stated that she attended the same conference in Plymouth a couple of weeks prior and the content was very valuable. Councilor Pulford reminded all that the Statewide Precinct Caucus would take place on February 27. The Presidential Primary would be held on March 5.

**Discussion/Action Item**

**A. Impact of Drafted State Legislation to Create "Missing Middle" Housing**

Mayor Gaasch added the discussion on proposed state legislation regarding "Missing Middle" housing. She said the concern of cities is that the law will limit the ability to govern in the interest of their residents and property owners. In Lauderdale, the bill would prevent off-street parking requirements and allow current single-family homes to be two to four units of housing based on the City's proximity to bus stops. Staff were asked by Metro Cities to comment on the proposed legislation; those comments were included in the packet.

**Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Butkowski stated that the March 12 council meeting might include the February financial report and an annual update from Eureka Recycling.

**Work Session**

**A. Community Development Update**

Butkowski shared that new legislative changes were made to TIF funding. Council members will meet with Ramsey County staff regarding Eustis Street on March 4.

**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 Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Miles Cline".

Miles Cline  
Deputy City Clerk