

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

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May 14, 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, Jeff Dains, Duane Pulford, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Councilor absent: Sharon Kelly.

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 Sayre to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the April 23, 2024 City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the April 23, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the claims totaling \$178,547.81. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Order of Business/Recognitions/Proclamations

A. Recognition of Mayor Mary Gaasch

Luke Fischer, Executive Director of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), and Justin Miller, City Administrator for the City of Lakeville and First Vice President of the LMC, approached the dais to speak. They both thanked Mayor Gaasch for her dedication to the LMC as a member of the Board of Directors.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. City Council Updates

Mayor Gaasch attended a Regional Council of Mayors meeting on May 13. She said that the Minneapolis Foundation is working on water quality governance throughout Minnesota, which is part of a larger effort to improve water quality in the six states in the Great Lakes region. Gaasch also said that Xcel Energy spoke about their mission to become carbon neutral by 2030. Finally, Metro Transit spoke about their recent increases in ridership and decreases in crime.

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Public Hearings

A. Ordinance No. 24-01 Creating an Environment and Sustainability Commission and Repealing Title 2, Chapters 2, 4, and 5 of Lauderdale City Code

City staff revised the Environment and Sustainability Commission ordinance based on Council recommendation at the last meeting. It is ready for adoption. Staff will prepare application forms and spread the word starting in late June about how residents can apply.

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor at 7:16 p.m. to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council on this issue. There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor at 7:17 p.m.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-01—creating an Environment and Sustainability Commission and Repealing Title 2, Chapters 2, 4, and 5. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 051424A – Authorizing Publication of Ordinance No. 24-01 by Title and Summary

Councilor Pulford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 051424A—Authorizing Publication of Ordinance No. 24-01 by Title and Summary. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Agreement with Center for Energy and the Environment to Perform Discounted Home Energy Squad Visits in the City of Lauderdale

Butkowski said that for years, City staff have been promoting the work of the Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE) as they administer Ramsey County’s Energy Conservation Deferred Loan Program. It came to staff’s attention recently that some Ramsey County cities are partnering with them to offer discounted home energy squad visits. Cities pay for half of the cost of the visit to encourage folks to take advantage of them. The full cost for the Energy Saver visit is \$70, and the Energy Planner Visit is \$100. The City would cover \$35 and \$50 of the costs respectively. Staff anticipate a few household each year will participate so the budgetary impact will be low.

The home energy squad visits are a great service. CEE is a partner of Xcel Energy so the visits includes “freebies” in terms of LED light bulbs, installed weather stripping, and shower heads that more than cover the cost of the visit. The Energy Planner Visit includes infrared reporting of a home’s insulation, an otherwise costly service. If approved, staff will advertise in the next newsletter and online in the hope that residents take advantage of the service.

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Councilor Sayre made a motion to adopt the Agreement to Perform Home Energy Squad Visits in the City of Lauderdale. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the May 28 council meeting might include the April financial report, a presentation from Met Council representative Peter Lindstrom, and a visit from the new owners of Finn Sisu.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that Bluechip Tree Company was in the Lauderdale Nature Area today to remove trees about to fall on the old trolley tracks and on the new sewer project. Next week they will remove diseased ash trees as part of the DNR grant. She mentioned Stantec would be televising the inside of all sanitary sewer manholes to assess condition ahead of the mill and overlay project. Some of the manhole castings are covered by a Met Council grant. Staff will be meeting with Falcon Heights on May 15 regarding planning for Day in the Park. Finally, staff will be working on finalizing materials for the EPA's request for information follow up.

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 Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk