

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

Page 1 of 3

July 23, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:03 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 Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the July 9, 2024 City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the July 9, 2024 City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the July 15, 2024 Work Session. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the July 15, 2024 Work Session minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Sayre to approve the claims totaling \$153,663.57. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the Consent Agenda thereby approving the Fourth Amendment to the Joint Cooperation Agreement with Ramsey County for Pooling of the Community Development Block Grant Funds and Resolution No. 072324A Appointing a Responsible Authority and Assigning Duties (Data Practices) and acknowledging the June financial report and the second quarter investment report.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Resolution No. 072324B Approving of Letter of Concurrence for Watershed District Boundary Change/Adjustment

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) is one of three watershed organizations within Lauderdale's city limits. RCWD did hydrological modeling to determine where, within their district, water actually flows. Based on RCWD information, they want to move parcels in and out of their district to better align with

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Page 2 of 3

July 23, 2024

hydrological reality. The packet included maps and address lists showing which Lauderdale properties will move into the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) or Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD). No Lauderdale properties will move into RCWD territory.

Overall, Butkowski said that this is a positive step. We have a good working relationship with RCWD, but regularly work more closely with CRWD, and have standing membership on the MWMO board. In an ideal world, Lauderdale would be in one watershed district. As that is not a possible outcome, these changes are for the better.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 072324B—Approval of Letter of Concurrence for Watershed District Boundary Change/Adjustment. This was seconded by Councilor Sayre and carried unanimously.

B. Contract to Repair Walnut Street Storm Sewer Pipe

Butkowski explained that the City has an easement for its storm sewer pipe that runs through 1769 Walnut Street. The adjacent property owner recently notified staff that the pipe collapsed and separated from the storm sewer manhole that it ties into. It is the City's responsibility to repair this.

Staff worked with the city engineer to put together a simple spec that was put out for quotes to at least four contractors. Two responded. The pricing was very similar, but Valley-Rich Co. Inc. was slightly cheaper at \$14,800 versus \$15,152. The City has contracted with Valley Rich Co. Inc. in the past, and we anticipate the work will be completed in the next month. Staff prepared our standard independent contractor's agreement. To move ahead, the Council would need to approve this with a motion.

Councilor Sayre made a motion to approve a Contract between the City of Lauderdale and Valley Rich Co. Inc. as presented. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

C. 2025 Budget and Levy

Butkowski presented a rough first draft of the 2025 budget which includes many of the known costs for next year including staffing costs. St. Anthony sent over a preliminary policing cost of \$1,052,453 or 7% over last year. Fire service costs would rise at a rate of 2.5%. The budget includes funds to join the Minnesota Association of Small Cities. As you would expect, costs are up across the board. Staff budgeted for the additional investment interest anticipated but LGA is only going up \$205. A 10.7% levy increase is needed to balance the budget. The Council saved a third of the public safety funds provided by the legislature for 2024. Without that, the levy increase would be approximately 13.5%.

Staff will continue to update the budget as information comes in. Nothing can be finalized until the City receives the fiscal disparities revenue number and the taxable market values, which is

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Page 3 of 3

July 23, 2024

anticipated in late August.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the August 13 council meeting might include the 2025 budget and levy, a one-year extension agreement with the City of St. Anthony for policing services, and a draft of storm water ordinances.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski reiterated that council members should finish their comments on the Uses chapter of the new zoning ordinance and remit to the planning consultant. Councilor Pulford mentioned that NineNorth met and that he is sitting on a couple of League of Minnesota Cities policy committees. The Council also discussed funding that Lauderdale will receive from the small cities' transportation funding pool.

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 Sayre to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk