

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

Page 1 of 2

August 27, 2024

Call to Order

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Councilors present: Evan Sayre, Sharon Kelly, Jeff Dains, Duane Pulford, 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. Gaasch stated that she would like to add an update about last night's storm to the Discussion/Action 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.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the August 14, 2024 City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the August 14, 2024 City Council meeting 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 Pulford to approve the claims totaling \$25,905.79. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Councilor Sayre moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the July financial report.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Storm Damage

Butkowski said the storm damage left a number of trees down and some damage to homes. A number of homes lost power and some were still without power. Xcel Energy needs to clear overhead debris near the corner of Ione Street and Walnut Street before restoring power. After that is completed, the City's tree trimmers will remove the tree on the road. Ramsey County will no longer take the City's yard waste, so we have started stockpiling debris for our tree trimmer to haul away. City staff has reached out to county staff hoping to find a resolution about yard waste.

B. Budget and Levy

Butkowski explained that Ramsey County provided cities with their fiscal disparities revenue

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Page 2 of 2

August 27, 2024

amounts for 2025 ahead of the finance directors meeting scheduled for the day of the next council meeting. Until all of the information is received from them, the budget is still very preliminary. With the additional fiscal disparities revenue, the proposed levy increase drops from a 10.7% to 10.3%. The overall general fund increase is 7.4%.

Part of the general fund increase is due to a shift in personnel costs. The Communications Fund slowly loses money as there are less cable subscribers. This budget reflects the personnel costs previously born by the fund moving to the general fund.

Staff will make final revisions for the next city council meeting that will include all of the new information we receive from Ramsey County. We will also model tax increases for homes at different price points. Please let staff know ahead of the meeting if you have any questions.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the September 10 council meeting might include the 2025 budget and levy and a draft of the storm water ordinances.

Work Session

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski shared that she met with Terrence Walker from the Fern Apartments about arranging a meet and greet with the City Council.

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 Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk