

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

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November 26, 2024

**Call to Order**

Mayor Gaasch called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Councilors present: Sharon Kelly, Duane Pulford, and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Councilors absent: Evan Sayre and Jeff Dains.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; and Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator.

**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 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the November 12, 2024, City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the November 12, 2024, City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Gaasch asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Kelly to approve the claims totaling \$116,022.19. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent**

Councilor Kelly moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the October financial report, and approving the 2025 Northeast Youth and Family Services agreement.

Council Member Dains arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**Public Hearings**

A. Resolution No. 112624A – Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Obligations for the Benefit of Catholic Eldercare or its Affiliates; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Revenue Obligations and Related Documents; And Taking Other Actions Related Thereto  
Previously, the City of Lauderdale assisted Catholic Eldercare with the issuance of debt with the City acting as the conduit. Catholic Eldercare is asking the City to do the same once again.

Greg Baumberger of Catholic Eldercare and Julie Eddington, the City's bond counsel, shared information about the project and asked the City Council to approve a resolution after holding a public hearing.

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Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council on this topic at 7:11 p.m. There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor at 7:12 p.m.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 112624A—Authorizing the Issuance of Revenue Obligations for the Benefit of Catholic Eldercare or Its Affiliates; Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the Revenue Obligations and Related Documents; and Taking Other Actions Related Thereto. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

**B. Truth-in-Taxation Public Hearing**

- 2025 Special Revenue, Capital, and Enterprise Fund Budgets
- 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff provided a brief presentation on the budget and fielded questions from the Council. Staff will prepare the documents approving the budget and levy for the next meeting.

Mayor Gaasch opened the floor to those in attendance interested in addressing the Council on this topic at 7:21 p.m. There being nobody interested in speaking, Mayor Gaasch closed the floor at 7:22 p.m.

**Discussion/Action Item**

**A. Resolution No. 112624B – Establishing 2025 Sanitary Sewer, Storm Water, and Recycling Rates**

At the previous meeting, the City Council discussed the sewer and recycling funds and whether rate increases were necessary.

Staff recommended increasing the sanitary sewer rates by 6.7% or \$16.74 per residential household in anticipation of the manhole rehabilitation project happening in 2025. Staff recommend increasing the storm sewer rates by 13.6% or \$11.64 per residential household in anticipation of the mill and overlay project coming up. Finally, staff recommend increasing the recycling rates by 7.5% or \$9.00 per residential household in response to the new recycling contract adopted in 2024.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 112624B—A Resolution Establishing 2025 Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Recycling Rates. This was seconded by Councilor Kelly and carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution No. 112624C – Resolution Approving the Application for Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 2025 Private Property Inflow and Infiltration Grant Program**

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The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) has grant funds to help private individuals with sanitary sewer repairs that will remove and prevent clear water from entering the wastewater treatment system. The City qualified for \$25,000 in 2024. MCES has made this an annual program and is seeking applications for the funds.

The 2024 funds haven't been fully used yet, but staff recommend applying for \$25,000 again for 2025. The max grant award is \$5,000 per participant. The amount granted will be determined after all applications are received.

Councilor Kelly made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 112624C—Approving the Application for Metropolitan Council Environmental Services 2025 Private Property Info and Infiltration Grant Program. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

C. Resolution No. 112624D – Accepting 2025 SCORE Funding from Ramsey County for the Lauderdale Recycling Program

In 1989, the Minnesota Legislature adopted comprehensive waste reduction and recycling legislation based on the recommendations of the Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment. This set of laws, commonly referred to as SCORE, is part of Minnesota's Waste Management Act. The SCORE legislation has provided counties with a funding source to develop effective waste reduction, recycling, and solid waste management programs.

SCORE funding grants are automatically provided to municipalities in Ramsey County on an annual basis with submittal of a grant application and resolution. In 2024, Lauderdale received \$4,826 to help cover expenses related to the City's recycling program such as administration, promotion, equipment, and collection.

Ramsey County had been using population as the basis for the amount of funding for cities each year. However, they have recently changed the formula so that it now incorporates an Environmental Justice Index (EJI). Lauderdale has the second highest EJI, which translates to \$19,404 in base funding for 2025, which is a big increase from previous years.

Councilor Dains made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 112624D authorizing staff to apply to Ramsey County for recycling funds via the SCORE grant application. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

D. Draft Ordinance No. 24-03 Regarding Cannabis and Hemp Business Regulations

The City Council adopted an interim ordinance regulating hemp and cannabis sales that will expire January 1, 2025. The expectation was that the State would have cannabis regulations in place by that date, but they do not. Cities across the state are adopting ordinances before January 1, 2025 to regulate those areas they can.

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The draft ordinance was prepared by Kennedy and Graven attorneys and modified by the City's planning consultant to reflect future zoning changes. Jennifer Haskamp, of Swanson Haskamp Consultants, attended the meeting to discuss the draft language and options for additional changes. The ordinance will be finalized for adoption at the next meeting to be in place before 2025.

**Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Butkowski stated that the December 10 Council meeting might include adopting the 2025 General, Capital, and Enterprise Fund Budgets; adopting the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan; the City Administrator performance review; and a resolution certifying single-year special assessments for delinquent or unpaid services.

**Work Session**

A. Community Development Update

Butkowski stated that staff met with ViSu-Sewer regarding the sewer televising and cleaning project. She notes that warming house staff are being hired for the ice rink, and finally, that City Hall is closed November 28 and November 29 for Thanksgiving.

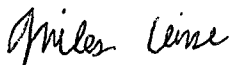
B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

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 Dains to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline  
Deputy City Clerk