

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

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May 26, 2026

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Councilors present: Jeff Dains, Duane Pulford, and Mayor Pro Tem Evan Sayre.

Councilors absent: Sharon Kelly and Mayor Mary Gaasch.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator; and Miles Cline, Deputy City Clerk.

Approvals

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were any additions to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were corrections to the minutes of the May 12, 2026, City Council meeting. There being none, Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the May 12, 2026, City Council meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre asked if there were any questions on the claims. There being none, Councilor Dains moved and seconded by Councilor Pulford to approve the claims totaling \$98,534.83. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent

Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to approve the Consent Agenda thereby acknowledging the April financial reports and approving the Como Partnership L.L.P. sanitary sewer agreement.

Informational Presentations/Reports

A. Annual Report by Eureka! Recycling

Joanna Stone, Director of Customer Relations for Eureka! Recycling, approached the dais to present the 2025 recycling summary report. Along with her presentation, Stone mentioned that Eureka! will host a booth at Day in the Park on July 9. They are also offering tours of their facility to Lauderdale residents on Saturday, May 30 between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Discussion/Action Item

A. Insurance Renewal – Municipal Tort Liability

The City's workers compensation, property, liability, sewer backup, and auto insurance policies run from August to August. Staff work with the City's insurance agent annually to prepare the materials for renewal.

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Annually, the City Council must determine whether to waive the municipal tort liability limits established by state statute. The City has not waived them in the past as it opens the City to greater financial liability. Staff recommends maintaining that practice via the following motion.

Councilor Pulford made a motion to authorize staff to remit the Liability Coverage—Waiver Form to LMCIT indicating the City does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by MS 466.04. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

B. Contract for Architectural Services with Studio EA

The city attorney and attorney for Studio EA have come to terms on the agreement for architectural services for the construction of a new building at 2430 Larpenteur Avenue. The contract amount is \$94,500. This does not include the topographic and geotechnical analysis that will need to be done to assess soil conditions.

Councilor Dains made a motion to enter into an agreement for architectural services with Studio EA as defined in the AE Design Agreement and General Conditions as presented. This was seconded by Councilor Pulford and carried unanimously.

C. Quote for Storm Sewer Cleaning and Televising

Last year, the sanitary sewer system was cleaned, televised, inspected, and repaired. The plan for this year is to clean and televise the storm sewer pipes and inspect the storm sewer manholes. Repairs would happen in conjunction with the future mill-and-overlay project.

The city engineer estimated the cost at \$80,000. She facilitated a request for quotes among four companies known to do this kind of work. Only one prepared a response – Pipe Services. The question before the Council was whether to accept the response from Pipe Services or to direct the city engineer to research other options. Pipe Services' response of \$61,554.00 was below the engineer's estimate.

Councilor Pulford made a motion directing staff to enter into an agreement with Pipe Services for the cleaning and televising of the City's storm sewer system. This was seconded by Councilor Dains and carried unanimously.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Butkowski stated that the next meeting may include an ordinance providing for non-residential plumbing permit administration, revisions to the sewer utility ordinance, and the annual report by County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire.

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Work Session

A. Staff Project Updates

Butkowski shared that the City sent a letter of incompleteness to Lifestyle Communities based on the concept plan review for their senior co-op building.

B. Opportunity for the Public to Address the City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Sayre opened the floor to those interested in addressing the Council.

Kedar Deshpande, District Three Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner, expressed his concerns about the removal of the left-hand turn lane onto Broadway Drive for cars traveling northbound on Highway 280. His apprehensions revolve around commuting problems for citizens, access to local businesses, and from the Park Board's standpoint, difficulties in completing the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway System.

Dan Engelhart, District One Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner, also expressed concerns about traffic flow with the closure of the Broadway turn from Highway 280. In particular, he mentioned how this will adversely affect the southeast Como neighborhoods that he represents.

There being nobody else interested in speaking, Mayor Pro Tem Sayre closed the floor.

Adjournment

Councilor Pulford moved and seconded by Councilor Dains to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Miles Cline
Deputy City Clerk