

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Mayor Dains called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Council members present: Denise Hawkinson, Karen Doherty, and Mayor Jeff Dains. Council members Lara Mac Lean and Clay Christensen were not present at the start of the meeting.

Mayor Dains asked for any additions, deletions, or changes to the meeting agenda. Mayor Dains requested the addition of recreational fire discussion.

Council member Doherty moved to approve the agenda as amended; council member Hawkinson seconded the motion and it carried.

Council member Hawkinson moved approval of the February 26, 2008, City Council meeting minutes. Council member Doherty seconded the motion and it carried.

Council member Hawkinson asked for clarification on the Park Services bill for fuel.

Council member Hawkinson moved approval of the claims totaling \$74,822.70. Council member Doherty provided the second and the motion carried.

Mayor Dains asked if members of the public wished to address the council on items not on the agenda. Jack Barlow raised two issues. He questioned the stop sign on Roselawn and Eustis. He said traffic rarely stops there and felt the signs should be removed or changed to yield signs. He then addressed the nuisance ordinance. He indicated the current provision on storage of firewood might make it impossible for some people to have woodpiles. Staff clarified the issue and the Council thanked Mr. Barlow for his comments.

Council member Doherty moved the Consent Agenda approving 2008 rental housing licenses and HVAC licenses, PCIC minutes and approval for the Administrator to attend the Annual MCMA Conference. Hawkinson seconded the motion and it carried.

Council member Mac Lean joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Heck provided a brief update on the status of the Highway 280 bridge and sound wall. He stated he would be meeting with Mn/DOT on Wednesday, March 12 to discuss bridge issues and planned to meet with the sound wall engineer as well.

Heck then updated the Council on the joint NSCC / TAC Meeting held on Thursday, March 6.

The Council then discussed traffic calming options. Mayor Dains indicated he felt children at play signs were appropriate and suggested signs be installed upon resident request. Council member Hawkins expressed concern about stop signs on Fulham and Roselawn as well as on Fulham and Spring.

After further discussion, the Council chose to have a community tour before the goal setting session on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. The goal setting meeting begins at 5:00 p.m. and the Council will conduct a brief tour of the community at that time and return to City Hall by 5:30 for the goal setting meeting.

The Council took a five minute recess at 6:55 p.m.

The Council reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for the public hearing on the Lauderdale Storm Water Plan. Heck stated this is an annual requirement of the city's storm water permit. He stated the city is involved with an organization that produces PSA's for radio and television and plays these during Twins games and at other times. This counts towards the city's educational and informational requirements. He said Lauderdale also uses the city newsletter, web site and community access as a means to educate the public. Heck attached a copy of the 2007 annual report of the city's activity in promoting storm water protection.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. and asked if there were any comments or questions. There being none, the mayor closed the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

The Council took another break and reconvened at 7:30 p.m. for community discussion on the proposed sound wall along the east side of Highway 280.

Mayor Dains welcomed the residents to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the meeting. Heck provided an update to the residents and explained the city's concerns with Mn/DOT's current plans. Specifically, Heck addressed the north end of the project.

Council member Mac Lean told the residents about some research she did on alternative materials.

Mayor Dains asked for anyone who may have comments or questions to state their name and address and come to the podium.

Council member Christensen joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Steve Martinson, 1943 Walnut Street, told the council he is in favor of the sound wall however, he felt 20' behind his house was too high and suggested the council work with Mn/DOT to have the height reduced to 15'.

Mike Rose, 1751 Malvern Street, felt the sound wall was unnecessary. He stated he's accustomed to the noise and doesn't want his view of downtown obstructed by a sound wall. He indicated it would be like living behind prison walls. He suggested if the sound wall is constructed that it stop at Ione Street so he still has access to the corner to view downtown Minneapolis.

Dan Lang, 1725 Malvern Street, stated he has lived in the community for 30 years. He said he understands and agrees those along Walnut need the sound wall, but those on Malvern – the 1700 block – do not need the sound wall. He stated their homes already sit 50' to 60' above the road and the noise is not too bad. He suggested stopping the sound wall near the city park property. He also commented on the view of the downtown skyline.

Steve Munson, 1703 Malvern Street, echoed the comments of Mr. Lang.

Grace Dyrud, 1805 Walnut Street, commented that the sound wall is necessary. She said they cannot open windows in the summer because of the noise. She said it has always been bad, however, after 280 became the alternate route for I35W, the situation is unbearable.

Tracey Koch, 1769 Walnut Street, fully supports the sound wall and addressed the issue of drainage. He stated there seems to be a discrepancy between the bridge plan and the sound wall plan. The bridge plan calls for a retaining wall, yet the retaining wall is not shown on the sound wall plan. He wants to ensure Mn/DOT is using accurate data in their planning.

Gary Sax, 1935 Walnut Street, addressed the council. He said he opposed the sound wall in the past due to the view he enjoys. However, since the I35W bridge collapse, he fully supports the wall. His main concern is the design for the north end of the project.

Seth Dahlquist, 1966 Walnut Street, expressed concern over the proposed design at the north end. He likes the open field and wants to keep that space if possible. Heck responded Mn/DOT indicated they wanted that area for a storm pond and that the City shares his concerns as well and that the City will work with Mn/DOT on the design.

Bob Roper, 1759 Malvern Street, wanted to know if the construction of the sound wall would result in an increase in his property taxes. Heck said unless the city requested something that cost more, the funding for the wall would be all state dollars.

Nancy Reed, 1762 Carl Street, addressed the issue of crossing highway 280. Heck said there will be sidewalks and bike shoulders on the new bridge.

The Council thanked all for attending and for the comments.

Council member Hawkinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Council member Doherty seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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

Page 4 of 4

Respectfully submitted

Brian W. Heck
City Administrator