

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Lauderdale City Hall

1891 Walnut Street

Lauderdale, MN 55113

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September 23, 2008

Mayor Dains called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Councillors present: Karen Doherty, Clay Christensen, Denise Hawkinson, and Mayor Jeff Dains. Councillor absent: Lara Mac Lean.

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

Mayor Dains asked for additions, deletions, or changes to the meeting agenda.

There being none, Councillor Hawkinson moved to approve the agenda. Councillor Doherty seconded the motion and it carried.

Councillor Christensen moved approval of the September 10, 2008, City Council minutes. Councillor Doherty seconded the motion and it carried.

Councillor Hawkinson moved approval of the claims totaling \$23,197.74. Councillor Christensen provided the second and the motion carried.

Mayor Dains asked if members of the public wished to address the Council. There being none, the Council moved to the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Hawkinson moved the consent agenda approving Abdo, Eick, and Meyers, LLP as the City's 2008 auditing firm and the August 11 and September 8 PCIC minutes. Councillor Doherty seconded the motion and it carried.

At the previous meeting, the Council discussed purchasing volunteer accident insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Outstanding questions about how benefits were handled were included in the Council packet.

Butkowski also noted the PCIC asked whether non-staff members could drive city vehicles while helping out at city events. The city's insurance agent responded they are covered by the city's policy.

Councillor Doherty moved to purchase Group Self-Insured Accident Plan Basic Coverage and Coverage D: Optional Medical Benefit for city volunteers through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Councillor Christensen seconded the motion and it carried.

Veteran's Day is the second Tuesday of November which means the Council cannot hold their regularly scheduled Council meeting that night. After some discussion, the councilors agreed to Thursday, November 13.

**Councilor Doherty moved to change the November 11 Lauderdale City Council meeting to November 13 due to the observance of Veteran's Day. Councilor Hawkinson seconded the motion and it carried with all Councilors present voting yes.**

Butkowski read the items on the agenda for the next meeting: Larpenteur Avenue development – TH280 bridge lights, Local Surface Water Management Plan adoption, recycling contract renewal, county road crosswalks, and 2009 budget.

The Council then moved into the Work Session.

Ahvo Taipale presented the Council plans for a new retail store at 2436 Larpenteur Avenue. He noted issues regarding parking and access need to be worked out to make the site viable. Taipale discussed options for a shared driveway easement with his western neighbor to avoid the median and allow for left hand turns onto Larpenteur Avenue. The Mayor responded that Ramsey County would need to be involved in issues related to access as Larpenteur Avenue is a county road.

Taipale also noted the zoning requirement of one parking space for every 150 feet of retail. His plans would require 30 parking spaces and the most he can fit on the lot is 21 spaces. He said this was adequate for his business but if he rents out 1,500 square feet, parking may be an issue.

Taipale then asked when the TH280 Bridge would be replaced. The Council responded that was expected to take place from April to August of 2009. Taipale believes he could build during the bridge replacement so the bridge closure would not impact this business.

The Mayor asked if Taipale considered the look of the building. He responded that he is looking at a rustic, log look similar to the exterior of the Wellness Center. Taipale said he understands the Council's desire to see an attractive building constructed.

The Mayor noted the Council is willing to work with Taipale on the project. In response, Taipale thanked the Council for speaking with him.

Bownik presented the Council with PCIC recommendations for the park slope facing Roselawn Avenue. The committee recommended prairie grass and wild flowers. More research into the type of plants would still need to be done.

Councilors discussed whether new plants were needed or whether public works could find a way to maintain the grass on the steep portion of the hill. Ultimately, the Council decided to maintain what currently exists in the park instead of developing a new gardening project. The Council asked staff to have public works weigh in on the options.

The Mayor asked whether the Council would like to take the police chief up on his offer to meet again. For now, the Council did not feel it was necessary.

Butkowski updated the Council on items of interest.

- The final portion of park fencing would be installed shortly.
- Staff will bring bridge light options to the Council for final consideration at the next meeting. The maintenance company suggested by Mn/DOT offered to present their program and costs to the City Council.
- Erin Laberee took over Dan Soler's traffic engineering responsibilities at Ramsey County. She said the County would not paint the crosswalks previously requested but would consider doing a couple of the Council's priority intersections if she agreed that they would make them safer.
- Six years ago Roseville staff began negotiating with the City for a sewer connection for Paper-Calmenson so they could eliminate their lift station on the east side of highway 280. With access to their lift station being limited by road closures and the sound wall, they would like to discuss this again. Their city engineer is sending over paperwork reflecting previous discussions.
- Staff plans to work on a proposal for working on the inflow and infiltration issue yet this year to meet the Met Council requirements.

**Councilor Hawkinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Christensen seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Butkowski  
Acting City Administrator