

LAUDERDALE CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 24, 2006

7:30 P.M. CITY HALL

Members present: council member Karen Gill-Gerbig; council member Karen Doherty; council member Denise Hawkinson; council member Clay Christensen; Mayor Jeff Dains.

Staff Present: Dave Hinrichs, Public Works coordinator; Heather Butkowski, Deputy City Clerk; Jim Bownik, Assistant to the City Administrator; Brian Bakken Heck, City Administrator.

Council member Doherty moved and Gill-Gerbig seconded the approval of the agenda with items 6 A – Snow'comotion update and 11 B – Nuisance Trees at 1840 Eustis Street. Motion carried.

Council member Christensen moved and Hawkinson seconded approval of the January 10, 2006 City Council meeting minutes with the following additions, page 3 committee and commission list add "*Park and Community Involvement Committee designee Karen Doherty alternate Denise Hawkinson*" and Page 3, last paragraph insert "*tree*" between "the" and "commission." Motion carried.

Council member Gill-Gerbig moved and Hawkinson seconded the payment of claims totaling \$35,148.39. Motion carried.

Council member Gill-Gerbig moved and Christensen seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda approving 2006 mechanical contractor's licenses, approving compensation increase for the City Administrator as provided in the agreement and acknowledging the upgrade of the city's phone system. Motion carried.

Council member Doherty provided an update on the Snow'comotion city winter celebration. She said the event will take place on Saturday, January 28, from 3 to 6 p.m. with events at the community park and city hall. She said there will be a horse and carriage going between the park and city hall sponsored by the Falcon Heights / Lauderdale Lion's Club. There is also a book sale to raise funds for future community events.

Mayor Dains introduced the public hearing item and administrator Bakken Heck stated the purpose of the public hearing is to give the homeowner at 1842 Eustis an opportunity to respond to the situation involving a diseased tree on the owner's premises. Bakken Heck informed the council the city tree inspector marked the tree as diseased in July and the owner was given until August to abate the nuisance. The owners failed to abate the nuisance thus the city is now faced with acting on the removal.

The public hearing opened at 7:43 p.m. Homeowner Sandra Brown, 1842 Eustis Street, addressed the council. She stated that she is not going to pay someone to remove the tree nor is she going to pay the city to have the tree removed. She continued to tell the council she will remove the tree in the spring when the weather gets warmer. She stated her neighbor has two (2) diseased trees that have been standing for two (2) years and the city has not taken

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action to remove them. She wants the same consideration given to her that was given to her neighbor.

There being no further comments from the public, the mayor closed the hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Council member Gill-Gerbig said that she felt the city provided the homeowner adequate time to remove the tree. She commented on the timeline stating the homeowner received the initial notice of the problem on July 25, 2005 and was given until August 20, 2005 to remove the tree. She felt the city provided a reasonable time for them to remove the tree and concurs with staff recommendation to continue the abatement process.

Mayor Dains asked Dave Hinrichs when the tree needs to be removed to prevent any disease from spreading. Hinrichs stated before April.

Gill-Gerbig moved to give the owners until March 19, 2006 to remove the tree and if it is not removed by that date, staff is to arrange for its removal as soon as practicable on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Doherty seconded the motion and it carried on a roll call vote with council members Gill-Gerbig, Doherty, Hawkinson, Christensen and Mayor Dains all voting yes.

Bownik presented the tractor mower item to the council for consideration. He stated the city requested quotes for the purchase of a larger mower with added attachments including a brush and cab. John Deere and Toro submitted quotes and the low quote was submitted by John Deere at just under \$28,000. Bownik informed the council the city's purchasing policy requires sealed bids for purchases exceeding \$25,000. He said one option is for the council to waive the requirement in this case and authorize the purchase.

Council member Christensen moved to purchase the John Deere tractor mower with the stated attachments and to waive the requirements for sealed bids in this case. Motion was seconded by Hawkinson and carried with council members Gill-Gerbig, Doherty, Hawkinson, Christensen and Mayor Dains all voting yes.

Council member Gill-Gerbig took up the issue of the trees located at 1840 Eustis Street. She stated that this past fall, a public hearing was held on these trees and the homeowner appeared before the council requesting time to remove the bark from the trees. It was decided by the council at that meeting to give the homeowner until December 31, 2005 to remove the bark from the trees. As of this date, the bark is still on the trees and the homeowner has not made an attempt to contact the city regarding issues relating to this subject. Based on this, she suggests the city have the trees removed.

Mayor Dains felt the city already addressed this issue and is not sure why this issue is back before the council.

Bakken Heck stated there is a question of what should be done, have the city remove the bark or remove the tree trunks all together.

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Mayor Dains suggested staff contact the city attorney and inquire if there is any legal problem with the city removing the tree trunks based on the action that was taken at the public hearing. If there is no legal issue, remove the trees, otherwise have them debarked.

Moved by Gill-Gerbig to have the tree trunks removed unless there are legal issues that prevent this in which case the trunks are to be debarked. Motion seconded by Hawkinson and carried with council members Gill-Gerbig, Doherty, Hawkinson, Christensen and Mayor Dains all voting yes.

There being no further business to present before the Council, the council entered their work session at 8:16 p.m.

WORK SESSION:

Bakken Heck provided some background on the rental housing license ordinance. The council members then began to go through the draft ordinance with comments and questions.

Following this process, Mayor Dains asked if there is still the consideration for a public meeting on the ordinance. Bakken Heck said staff recommends the council hold a public informational meeting at an upcoming council meeting. He said the ordinance draft needs to be reviewed by the city's attorney and put in proper form but he felt it could be ready for the second meeting in February. Mayor Dains suggested the first meeting in March.

Heather Butkowski presented information and background on the comprehensive plan project. She went over the aspects of the comprehensive plan that are included in the Metropolitan Council plan. She then took the council briefly through the items that make up the entire plan and provided the council with a draft outline for consideration.

The council will talk to possible residents who may be interested in serving on a task force or committee to look at the comprehensive plan update.

Motion by Christensen, Second by Gill-Gerbig to adjourn and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

**CITY OF LAUDERDALE**  
**Claims for Approval**  
**February 14, 2006 City Council Meeting**

Payroll

1/27/06 Payroll:	Direct Deposit # 500074-500086	\$7,629.49
1/27/06 Payroll:	Check Number 7873	\$272.32
1/27/06 Payroll:	Payroll Liabilities, Checks 29E-32E	\$6,720.11
2/10/06 Payroll:	Direct Deposit # 500087-500095	\$6,469.56
2/10/06 Payroll:	Payroll Liabilities, Checks 33E-35E	\$5,548.10

Vendor Claims

2/14/06 Claims:	Check # 17935-44, 46-48, 50-60, 62-67 (2006 claims)	\$43,314.11
2/14/06 Claims:	Check # 17945, 17949, 147961 (2005 claims)	\$4,957.72

**Subtotal of Claims From Above** **\$67,281.92**

<b>Total Claims for Approval</b>	<b>\$67,281.92</b>
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