

**Lauderdale City Council
Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2002**

1. **Meeting called to order at 8:00 P.M.**

2. ROLL

Council present: Giannetti, Christensen, McCloskey, Gill-Gerbig and Mayor Dains

Staff present: Getschow

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A. Approval of Agenda. Motion by McCloskey, second by Christensen to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL

A. Approval of Minutes. Motion by Giannetti, second by Gill-Gerbig to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of the August 27, 2002. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Claims totaling \$46,657.64. Motion by Christensen, second by Gill-Gerbig to approve the claims totaling \$46,657.64. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Pay Request #3 for the 2002 Street and Utility Improvements for \$263,629.56. Motion by Giannetti, second by Gill-Gerbig to approve Pay Request #5 for the 2002 Street and Utility Improvements for \$263,629.56. Motion carried unanimously

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

6. CONSENT

7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS/RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

8. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. 2002 Street and Utility Improvements Update. The City Engineer updated the City Council on the 2002 improvement project. The sanitary sewer and water main work is 80% complete. The storm water work is currently underway on Ryan Avenue, and the street construction work has begun with Eustis Street.

The Engineer and City Council also discussed the 2001 improvement project, which has its final paving scheduled for next week.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

10. ACTION

A. Resolution 091002A: A Resolution Levying Taxes for 2002 Payable in 2003 (2003 Preliminary Levy). The City Administrator presented the City Council with two options for the 2003 preliminary tax levy that included:

Option A - keeping the tax levy the same as 2002 at \$480,000;

Option B - keeping the net levy (accounting for fiscal disparities) the same as 2002 with the resulting 2003 levy being \$454,996;

It was stated that the Option A may be the preferred option, especially with the uncertainty of the state's fiscal deficit and the possibility of state aid cuts. Option B does not give the City any room in the budget or the levy if major cuts are made at the state level. Option A also lowers the city tax rate, and subsequently the property tax bills of the residents. For example, with a 0% levy increase for 2003, the owner of a median valued home in Lauderdale (\$112,250) will see a 4.3% decrease in the city portion of their property tax bill.

The Mayor stated that almost every other Ramsey County city that he talked to plans on raising their tax levy in 2003, especially with the uncertainty surrounding the state fiscal situation. The Administrator stated that this is why Option A is receiving more consideration than Option B. We were able to lower the levy last year by approximately \$8,000, but in 2003 this may not be prudent.

Motion by Christensen, second by McCloskey to approve Resolution 091002A: A Resolution Levying Taxes for 2002 Payable in 2003 for \$480,000. Roll: Yes: all. Motion carried.

B. Resolution 091002B: A Resolution of Reconveyance of Tax-Forfeited Lands (PIN#17-29-23-33-0045) To The State Of Minnesota "Trust Exempt" And Approving The Purchase Of Said Land For Use As City Of Lauderdale Park And Recreation Space. The City Administrator stated that the Council previously discussed these use deed parcels on the corner of Ione and Walnut Streets at a July meeting. At that time, Ramsey County had completed a comprehensive analysis of use deed properties throughout the county that are tax-forfeited properties and that were awarded to cities several years ago if they served a public purpose. These use deed parcels near Walnut and Ione in Lauderdale had been identified as a mini-park, but the county tax-forfeited lands division felt that this designation and the current state of the property did not meet their criteria of "recreational use".

The City discussed two options with the County that included the purchase of the property for its current market value or submitting another application for a new use deed with a new public use. The consensus was that even though a good argument could be made for these parcels to retain their recreational use deed designation, the cost and effort of making this argument would outweigh the benefit of the outright control and ownership of the parcels. The purchase price of the parcels would be \$3,200.00. The total cost of this undertaking including reconveyance and deed/recording fees would be \$3,460.85.

Motion by McCloskey, second by Gill-Gerbig to approve Resolution 091002B: A Resolution of Reconveyance of Tax-Forfeited Lands (PIN#17-29-23-33-0045) To The State Of Minnesota "Trust Exempt" And Approving The Purchase Of Said Land For Use As City Of Lauderdale Park And Recreation Space. Roll: Yes: all. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 091002C: A Resolution Of Reconveyance Of Forfeited Lands (PIN # 17-29-23-33-0046) To The State Of Minnesota "Trust Exempt" And Approving The Purchase Of Said Land For Use As City Of Lauderdale Park And Recreation Space.

Motion by Gill-Gerbig, second by Giannetti to approve Resolution 091002C: A Resolution Of Reconveyance Of Forfeited Lands (PIN # 17-29-23-33-0046) To The State Of Minnesota "Trust Exempt" And Approving The Purchase Of Said Land For Use As City Of Lauderdale Park And Recreation Space. Roll: Yes: all. Motion carried.

D. Resolution 091002D: A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Forfeited Lands (PIN # 17-29-23-32-0047) for use as Part of the Lauderdale City Hall property. The Administrator stated that the county tax forfeited lands division has been approaching land owners that border small or non-buildable parcels requesting that they purchase the parcels. The ultimate goal is to get these tax-forfeited parcels back on the tax roll. The parcel in this case is a 6-foot strip of land that runs across the rear of the City Hall property immediately west of the City Hall parking lot.

The County is offering a purchase price of \$50.00, with total costs amounting to \$103.15.

Motion by Giannetti, second by Christensen to approve Resolution 091002D: A Resolution Approving The Purchase Of Forfeited Lands (PIN # 17-29-23-32-0047) for use as Part of the Lauderdale City Hall property. Roll: Yes: all. Motion carried.

E. Resolution 091002E: A Resolution Ordering the Preparation of Feasibility Report on the 2003 Street and Utility Improvements.

Motion by Gill-Gerbig, second by McCloskey to approve Resolution 091002E: A Resolution Ordering the Preparation of Feasibility Report on the 2003 Street and Utility Improvements. Roll: Yes: all. Motion carried.

11. DISCUSSION

12. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

13. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

14. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

1. 2001 Street and Utility Improvements Assessment Roll: Public Hearing and Approval of the Assessment Roll
2. Zoning Amendment Request and Public Hearing

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Christensen, second by Gill-Gerbig to adjourn at 8:52 P.M. Ayes: All.