

**Falcon Heights Council Workshop Minutes**  
**February 1, 2012**

**Members present:** Mayor Lindstrom, Council members Long, Harris and Gosline

**Members absent:** Council Member Mercer-Taylor

**Others present:** Administrator Bart Fischer, Assistant to the City Administrator Michelle Tesser

**Update on Hermes Site by Broker Tim Venne (Cushman/Wakefield/NorthMarq)**

Mr. Venne provided an update on the Hermes site. Mr. Venne explained that market rate housing is unlikely on the site as developers are unable to make the numbers work. An affordable housing project would be more likely however time constraints are an issue. An additional idea for the property is for a research/lab company associated with a University of MN Professor. The City will continue to work with Mr. Venne on possible options/uses.

**Presentation and Discussion on Information Relating to a Vacant Building Ordinance**

Fischer presented research from Planner Deb Jones relating to a vacant building ordinance. Fischer presented what other cities who have adopted similar ordinances have created to address vacant properties. Fischer presented possible actions that could be taken such as vacant property registration, a fee for monitoring the property (graduated fee that gets higher the longer it is vacant or higher with more violations) and requiring inspections. After much discussion Council directed staff to work with the City Attorney on possible options that would work best for Falcon Heights and present these options at a future workshop for discussion.

**Discussion on the Upcoming Constitutional Marriage Amendment**

There was discussion regarding the fact that a couple of cities (Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis) had passed resolutions supporting equality for all and support for all families in Minnesota- i.e. supporting a "no" vote on the upcoming constitutional marriage amendment. Council directed staff to work with the City Attorney to see if we could also adopt some type of resolution supporting family and marriage equality for all.

The workshop concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bart Fischer  
City Administrator