

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
June 28, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm
- B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM X HARRIS ___ BROWN THUNDER X
FISCHER X GUSTAFSON X
- STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X

Agenda amended to add two policy items: Tree Trimming and Removal Services and Grant Writing Services.

Council Member Gustafson Moved, Approved 4-0

C. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Annual MS 4 Presentation - Public Works Director Tim Pittman

Tim Pittman presented on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Every city in the metro has to have this requirement. This plan takes care of what gets into our rivers and lakes. It is designed or used for collecting and conveying storm water. There are six control measures: public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge, detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post-construction runoff control, and pollution prevention and good housekeeping. There is a lot of progress to date, including newsletters, developing a map, enforcing site runoff, implementing de-icing material controls, reconstruction of the Curtiss Field pond, and the purchase of a street sweeper. Some of the goals for 2017 are to continue utility billing, educational flyers and newsletters, and sweep streets more often. Additional goals are to repair catch basins and monitor Curtiss Field pond after heavy rain falls.

2. 2017 Pavement Management Project - 2017A GO Improvement Bond \$900,000

The bond will be issued for a seven-year term. This will cover the Grove project, and about \$300,000 will go to the 2015 pavement project off Snelling and Roselawn. This is a sale document. Shelly from Ehlers presented the day of sale report, which summarizes the five bids that have been received. Prior to going out to bid, there was a review of the city's credit rating. The credit rating for the city has been affirmed as AAA rating, the highest rating that can be received. This allows for better interest rates and less expenses in regards to interest. Special assessments are also lower since they are based on the cost of the bond. What would cause a downgrade would be if the city began spending down their reserves or not balancing their budget.

The winning bid was out of UMB Bank in Kansas City. The underwriter offered a premium. They were able to reduce the principle and save the city some money. The bond is for \$845,000.

Council Member Fischer Moved, Approved 4-0

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1. June 7, 2017 City Council Work Session Meeting Minutes
- 2. June 14, 2017 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved

Make changes to page five that Council Member Gustafson abstained from the vote regarding the Ramsey County Sherriff's Office, the vote totals were 3-0

Approved

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Falcon Woods – Permitted Parking Restriction Request

City Administrator Thongvanh presented that this parking restriction request was received in 2016, and there was a Council workshop on the subject. The proposal is for permitted parking signs from 8am-4pm M-F. The names included in the petition would have parking restrictions on Howell, Moore, and Garden Ave. Since there is only one access into this development, that reduces the fees to posting signage. After discussions with the attorney, parking signs will be posted where permit parking begins and ends. With cars parking on both sides there were some issues with contractors having access to homes and a tight space for garbage trucks to go by.

Ron Eischen- 1861 Moore St:

His fear is that if the permitted parking is put in place for the south part of the development, then it will push the problem up further. He believes it should be done for the whole subdivision. Due to the amount of kids that live on Moore St., there would be some serious safety concerns if cars are parked out all along the streets, pushing people to walk out in the road. He would also make the parking for residents and their guests only.

Dennis Caywood- 2028 Garden Ave:

There is potential issue of pushing the problem north. The streets are very narrow in that area and filled with parked cars, creating safety issues. Police and emergency services aren't able to access it as needed as well. The ideal situation would be to put parking restrictions in the whole neighborhood.

George Barany- 1813 Prior:

His concern is also that the issue would be pushed north and further to Prior. He is in support of the signage and if it could be extended as well.

Gavin Hart- 1837 Moore St:

The restricted parking should be extended to the whole area.

Duane Nykamp- 1826 Moore St:

He agrees that it should be extended.

Bonnie Olin-

How many permits do you get, and do you have to pay for it?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

He believes permits are \$3-7 and there are annual permits for residents. There is not a limit to permits. The signs would say permit parking only from 8am-4pm. Contractors could also get temporary permits which run about \$3. The annual permits are per vehicle around \$15.

Katie Kohn- 1929 Summer St:

Some of the comments she has heard from the students who have been parking there is that there has been limited parking due to the construction at the Bell Museum. She does not know the pattern of the parking and whether or not this was happening prior to that construction.

Paula Lewis- 2015 Garden Ave:

She moved in in 2001 and has faced this parking problem ever since. This was brought to the Council in 2003, and they are coming forward again and would like a resolution to this.

John Ward- 1811 Moore St:

They are not just University Students, but also staff that work at the University. They have seen the maroon campus van dropping people off at their vehicles. A path goes straight into the park. There used to be a chain link fence that went between the park and the UMN research fields. Now that it is down, there tends to be many people who walk their dogs through his back yard. If it is not all permitted, they will just walk through the park and his backyard.

Christine Chitambar- 1941 Summer St:

She understands the safety issue. She wonders if having a two-hour only parking sign would remedy the issue.

Resident:

There are also seniors in that area. Can the parking signs be put at Roselawn?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

The parking restrictions application was focused on the south area of that development. The Council then discussed that specific area. If additional residents are going to come to the Council for additional restricted parking, then that would come at a later time.

Mary Ward- 1811 Moore St:

Are permits for residents only? When a permit gets issued, will you make sure that person is a resident and not a student, and that others are not multiple permits for their friends?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

Right now staff asks for the license to compare it with the permit, but it's not currently a policy other than an administrative process.

Sarah Nykamp- 1826 Howell:

The parking restrictions go halfway through her property. Had she known of a petition she would have signed it, and she supports having restrictions in the whole area.

Bob Hoium- 1997 Garden:

If it is a holiday, such as Thanksgiving, and he has a lot of family coming over, are they not going to be able to park?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

There are some circumstances that have allowed the city in the past to make exceptions for a specific occasion. In this scenario, a street parking sign would be bagged, but then that would allow anyone to park. Typically it would fall under the need for a temporary parking permit. There isn't a limit on that.

Paula Lewis- 2015 Garden Ave:

Would holidays be exempt?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

In these cases, he would probably ask that the Police Department not give citations to anyone on those days. In regards to amending the resolution, the process is that there needs to be at least 75% of the neighborhood that has signed a petition. If Council wants to amend this, he would advise that they table this agenda item until that process can be fulfilled and residents can have proper notification.

Dennis Caywood- 2028 Garden Ave:

He strongly recommends not amending this item because they have been working on this since 2003. He would be happy to work with the other residents on the other sections to go door to door for a petition.

Gavin Hart- 1837 Moore St:

He agrees that we should pursue this first step.

Janet Caywood- 2028 Garden Ave:

When Paul and she did the petition. They did go up further on Moore and Howell, and it was suggested that the signage would be much more in regards to cost. Those other areas should not be excluded.

Amal Sullivan- Garden Ave:

Her biggest problem is not with only the parking, but the speed of the cars driving through there carelessly.

George Barany- 1813 Prior:

He suggests that they act on the proposal in front of them, but to also give some kind of commitment that they will look into extending the parking restrictions.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

There would be two types of signs. One that says permit parking begins/ends here, and another that says permit parking 8am-4pm on Monday through Friday.

Tatum has a number of signs, but primarily two hour permit parking. Those types of signs are more of an enforcement issue.

Ron Eischen- 1861 Moore St:

The result of parking without a permit would be a parking ticket? How much does that run?

Council Member Gustafson:

Yes, the parking ticket is about \$15 and \$60 for court fines that typically runs around \$45, including the court fees.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

They submitted their application in fall of 2016, and the petition includes 75% of the residents living in that area. With the application, there is a \$200 submission. The Council also has authority to decide on placing signs without 75% of residents' signatures.

Council Member Gustafson:

Having the restrictions during a set time of the day is easier to enforce and clearer for setting expectations.

Council Member Brown Thunder:

He agrees with rectifying this, and if this becomes a problem for the northern part of that development that the Council should address that at a future meeting.

Council Member Gustafson:

Neighbors not covered by this should gather signatures for a petition and submit that to City Hall.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

To clarify, annual parking permits are \$15 for the first two cars each, and \$25 for the following vehicles. A replacement permit is \$5. Temporary parking permits are good for up to three weeks, and they cost \$3 per permit. Temporary parking permits for five or more vehicles for one-day event is \$25 per event. Pending approval, sign installment would be based on the length of time to receive them. He would expect anywhere from 2-4 weeks.

Council Member Fischer, Approved 4-0

F. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through: 6/21/17 \$333,533.85
Payroll through: 6/15/17 \$20,865.03

Approved

G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Tree Trimming and Removal Services

The city had a tree trimming contract with SavATree that expired on December 31, 2016. He sent out notice letters to contractors to provide bids to the city if interested in contracting for services. SavATree did not provide a bid. We received four bids, and staff would recommend a motion to enter into a contract with Upper Cut Tree Services and negotiate contract terms. If the city can negotiate cost per diameter, it would likely cost the city less in the long run.

Council Member Gustafson, Approved 4-0

2. Grant Writing Services

City Administrator Thongvanh stated that there is an opportunity for the city to apply for a grant with the St. Paul Foundation. The deadline for that grant cycle is July 12. With the capacity of staff, it is recommended to authorize entering into a contract with a grant writer. This consultant would be on a 1099 basis. The anticipated cost is around \$1,000-1,500. In addition to this grant, she could offer a service to look at what grants are available with these specific funding initiatives. From there it would be narrowed down to a top five list to focus on. This could potentially cost another \$300. The grant funds that are being sought are specifically to focus on the Task Force recommendations and to hire a temporary employee at three-quarters time.

Melanie Leehy- 1865 Fairview Ave:

Since she was not at the last meeting, she wants to thank Council and staff for approving the recommendations.

Council Member Brown Thunder, Approved 4-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Weekly Police Reports - Can Now Be Found At:

http://www.falconheights.org/index.asp?SEC=75B3E8BB-785B-4048-B543-995BAE0716A5&Type=B_BASIC

Council Member Fischer:

The Council tasked the Community Engagement Commission to look at some of the immediate steps that might be accomplished while the city is setting up some of the longer-term structures. The Community Engagement Commission met last night. There are three topic areas that were discussed and decided on. Education and training was one topic, and there were discussions on bringing in the Science Museum with an educational program about race. Additionally, if there is a way to open up a training to staff and the public on implicit bias, and hosting workshops that can be brought to the community (i.e. legal rights of renters). The second topic was improving resources. One way of doing that is looking at the website and adding helpful information, resources, and the Task Force document of the city values. Additionally, enhancing the New Resident Welcome Packet and Block Party Packet, specifically include the values in the Welcome Packet. The third topic was inclusion, including taking advantage of some of the events that we already have in place: Ice Cream Social, Human Rights Day, Block Parties, and continuing Community Conversations.

Council Member Brown Thunder:

- He attended the Community Conversation last Monday. The entire series was good for everyone who has attended. It was good to be made aware of other viewpoints.
- In regards to NYFS, if there are seniors looking for assistance for chores or lawn work, contact them.

Council Member Gustafson:

- Parks and Recreation will be helping with the upcoming Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 20 from 6-8pm.
- He was also at the final Community Conversation.

Mayor Lindstrom:

- He agrees with the comments on the Community Conversation.
- He was not in attendance at the last Council Meeting due to the League of Minnesota Cities Conference in Rochester. The City of Falcon Heights was presented with the GreenStep Cities Four award. This recognizes the city in its sustainable efforts. Some of those efforts are the use of solar, subscribing to a community solar garden, making government operations more energy efficient, and the availability of a community garden.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

- He thanks the Council, community, and staff for achieving the GreenStep Cities Four award. Community Development Coordinator, Paul Moretto, spent a lot of time working on it and submitting for GreenStep Four.
- He met with the Ramsey County Contract Cities Group in terms of police services. One of the concerns of everyone involved is that Falcon Heights is not contiguous of the cities currently in contract with Ramsey County. There is no requirement of the cities group to approve the city to be a part of it. He is in the process of working with the Undersheriff to determine what those costs would be based on current coverage and contracts. He is

working to develop a plan on how to get the community involved with the contract, which could include one or two open houses. There will be updates on the website, social media, and newsletters.

- The community and the residents will receive notice from Comcast and city news, but they are working to upgrade their system so they will be accessing easements and right of ways.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

Chuck Laszewski- 1713 St. Mary's St:

Are you starting negotiations with Ramsey County Sheriff's Office with all of the Task Force recommendations?

Mayor Lindstrom:

The Task Force recommendations were distributed to everyone at the most recent meeting.

Sarah Chambers- 2170 Folwell Ave:

St. Anthony has not yet officially ended the contract, and this Council has not ended it yet. What are the plans for that process? When negotiating with Ramsey County, maybe the city does not need the same level of services that have been received by St. Anthony. She doesn't believe it's necessary to have a patrol car in Falcon Heights 24/7, but rather have them be available to respond to 911 calls.

City Administrator Thongvanh:

He has been notified from the St. Anthony City Manager that they will look at ending the contract before July 15.

Kirt Schappen- 1447 Iowa Ave:

The police reports aren't being updated online. The last one online is from May 23 and the link in the packet does not work.

Paula Mielke- 1868 Arona St:

How many signatures are needed to get a topic on the Council Agenda? There were 446 signatures, and the item was not added to the agenda.

Mayor Lindstrom:

The percentage of signatures on a petition is specific to parking restrictions application.

Sarah Chambers- 2170 Folwell Ave:

Is there a different process to petition for other agenda items, or is there no process?

City Administrator Thongvanh:

The petition process only addresses the parking restrictions review.

Tom Baldwin- 1716 Albert St:

He congratulates the city and Council on the GreenStep Cities Four award. The talent of the city and its residents has always made us leaders. This is what he expects Falcon Heights to be.

Melanie Leehy- 1865 Fairview Ave:

Since she was not at the last Council Meeting, she wanted to address the League of Women Voters study. The study stated that Falcon Heights has no African American homeowners. Let it


be on record that she is an African American living in Falcon Heights, and she owns her home. There are several other African American Falcon Heights homeowners.

She also wants to extend an invitation for an event remembering the one-year anniversary of the Philando Castile shooting. There will be one event on Thursday, July 6 at Gibbs, and that has reached capacity. There is also an event on Friday, July 7 there will be a peaceful gathering on the City Hall lawn. It begins at 6:30pm, and they ask people to bring their own lawn chairs. She was also hoping to see a declaration of remembrance on the Council Agenda to acknowledge the event that has happened, whether it be called day of unity or restoration. She asks that work be done so it can be put into place for next year and the future.

Bonnie Olin-

Additionally, she is not pleased with the statistic that was quoted at 0% homeownership of African Americans in Falcon Heights stated in the League of Women Voters housing study. Also, it concerns her the comment that was made about not needing 24/7 patrol in Falcon Heights. We would not be able to get fast service for emergencies if we do not have a patrol in the area.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:46 pm



Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 28th day of June, 2017



Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator