

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

MINUTES

February 28, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM X LEEHY BROWN THUNDER X
 MIAZGA X GUSTAFSON X
- STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH X
- C. PRESENTATIONS:
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. February 14, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes
 - Amend Council Member Gustafson update of CEC meeting time from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Approved

- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
- F. CONSENT AGENDA:
1. General Disbursements through: 2/14/18 \$114,587.99
Payroll through: 2/15/18 \$19,498.69
 2. First Amendment - Conduit Bond for Saint Paul Academy and Summit School Project
 3. Impound Agreement with the City Saint Paul
 4. Fire Department - Training Officer
 5. Warning Siren
 6. Appointment of Hibo Ali to the Community Engagement Commission

Council Member Gustafson, Approved 4-0

- G: POLICY ITEMS:
1. Update-Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Ramsey County Chief Deputy Steve Frazer provided an update after two months of providing policing services to the community and that things are going well. There was an event that happen on Friday night that created some stir in the community. Chief Deputy Frazer met with community members Saturday evening on that event. He had some conversations on the whys and wherefore. Wanted to reassure the Council and community that the actions of the Deputies was the highest level and done well. There are a number of things that cannot be discussed because it is an ongoing criminal investigation. There no continue threat or immediate danger to the community.

Omar Jamel – Agree with what the Chief Deputy Frazer and would like to thank him for his support. Knowing that the City went through such a tragedy before, this was a close call. Would also like to thank Sheriff Frazer for coming out at night and talking to the family. I am glad tonight because we could have been in a much worse situation. Thank god, we are not. I hope the City will learn from this situation and experience that they will take precautionary steps to make sure in case things like this happen that there is something in place.

Mayor Lindstrom stated that we would like to continue to work with you, residents of Town Square Apartment and immigrants across the City to address the issues you brought up. Just a month and half ago at the community room at Falcon Town Square that the room exceeded capacity during a meet and greet for the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. This is just a start for the learning process of items you discussed. This Spring, the City received a grant to do a pilot program called Rec on the Go, which will have a safety component to it.

Resident of Falcon Town Square – Would like to know if there has been other incidents like this and if there has been any criminal charges for children playing with guns? We could learn from the past to learn for the future. Would like to know rules of safety.

Chief Deputy Frazer – gun related incident, involving realistic copy or a real gun, it is happening every day in the County, not necessary in Falcon Heights. I would ask that parents have some strong guidelines and that it is a supervised activity and not in open public spaces. When you overlay the potential outcomes and the narrative that is going on in our county today and level of gun violence that are real gun violence, it is very hard for the public and police officers to separate.

Hawa Samatar (resident at Falcon Town Square) – Wanted to thank the Sheriff's Office and the Mayor regarding the incident that happened on Friday. I was with the parents all day and wanted to thank the Sheriff's Department for meeting with the family. It did a lot for the family and help the mom because she was able to ask questions and receive answers. It is a very difficult time for the family. We are hoping that this is a situation we can learn from and bring peace and togetherness for the community. I am willing work with the City and the Sheriff's Office to bring the community together.

Council Member Gustafson – The County is working with the property manager to facilitate a time in the evening to meet with the community at Town Square sometime in March. This is a good example of what the community was looking for in a police force. The community spotted a problem, call us and police responded in a thoughtful and correct manner to stop the safety threat and then to resolve the issue and do it in a dignified way that deescalated things. I think that was what we were looking for as we were meeting as a community to try to identify and determine what we value in a police force and inclusion. This was a great example of that. As a parent, I see it as a teachable moment. If we are going to play with guns, some of the critical things are; let's not point them at people and let's not point them at people and shout hate language and let's not do any of that because they are wrong.

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Miazga

- Comprehensive Plan Public Input Session

- If you were not able to attend, you can provide input to paul.moretto@falconheights.org.
- The Hendrickson Senior Housing Project

Council Member Brown Thunder

No Update

Council Member Gustafson

- CEC
 - New member for the CEC
 - Develop action for Council Retreat
 - Spring Together will be on Saturday, May 12th at Curtiss Field
- Attending the Kettering Learn Session in Dayton, Ohio. We were invited because of the work that was done by the community and the Task Force. People from all over the county. I attend with City Administrator Thongvanh, Council Member Leehy and community member John Thompson was Director of Fight for Justice, LLC. Able to share what communities did to engage their communities. Have been invited to more later this year.

Mayor Lindstrom

- Would like to thank the City Administrator, Council Member Gustafson and Leehy, and community member John Thompson for participating in the shared learning for the Kettering Foundation.
- Would like to thank Falcon Heights Elementary for the opportunity to read to students a book call "A Book with No Pictures". It is a good one. It was a pleasure and was the last day for reading month.

Administrator Thongvanh

- Ice Cream Social with Hotdog with a Deputy
- Shared Learning with the Kettering Foundation
 - It was a great experience to not only share our experience with participates from around the country, but to also learn from them of their successes and failures. It was refreshing to hear from them that they were very impressed and surprised about the things we were able to accomplish in Falcon Heights because of our size. One of the things I stressed to them is that we were able to do it because we had such an engaged community and a community that wants and committed to change and working together. One of the main components is that it is a learning process for everyone. We have to learn to keep on learn. Let's keep work together.

Council Member Miazga


- League MN Day at the Capitol is March 22
- League MN Training -Bonding Year
 - Summer 2019
 - Community Park

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:46 PM


Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 28th day of February, 2018


Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator