

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

AGENDA
July 24, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER:
- B. ROLL CALL: Vacant___ LEEHY_X_ HARRIS___
 MIAZGA_X_ GUSTAFSON_X_
- STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH_X___

Mayor Gustafson

Add two items to the Policy Items. First, the Night to Night 2019 Proclamation and Second, consider hiring an interim fire chief.

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 3-0

- C. PRESENTATION
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
1. June 12, 2019 City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved 3-0

- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
- F. CONSENT AGENDA:
1. General Disbursements through: 7/11/19 \$220,855.96
Payroll through: 6/30/19 \$19,620.54
 2. Resignation of Ned Mohan from the Environment Commission
 3. Resignation of Hawa Samatar from the Planning Commission

Mayor Gustafson

I want to thank Ned Mohan and Hawa Samatar for their services and helping the city. We currently have vacancies for Environment, Planning, and Parks Commission. I encourage citizens of Falcon Heights who are interested in becoming more engaged in the community to consider applying and serving on those commissions. It is open for students and adults.

Approved 3-0

- G: POLICY ITEMS:
1. Cultivating a Caring Community: "Grey Area Thinking Engagement Agreement

City Administrator Thongvanh

Ellen Krug will be the third guest speaker in the Cultivating a Caring Community discussions, and the theme is Grey Area Thinking. The event will be on Monday, November 18. This event will replace the Community Engagement Commission meeting. It is a free event, and Ellie will not charge the city for booking her. As a free event, she provided an Engagement Agreement form. The form indicates that if the city decides to cancel the event, we will compensate for her time.

This is a great opportunity for the residents of Falcon Heights to be more involved in the inclusion efforts of cultivating a caring community.

Council Member Miazga Moved, Approved 3-0

2. Night to Night 2019 Proclamation

Mayor Gustafson

The proclamation is passed every year. The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, along with the American Automobile Association, Minnesota and local law enforcement agencies are sponsoring a statewide program called Night to Night on August 6, 2019.

Mayor Gustafson Moved, Approved 3-0

3. Hire an Interim Fire Chief

City Administrator Thongvanh

Mayor Gustafson and I met with the Assistant Fire Chief, the four captains, and individual firefighters. The majority stated that they need a leader to provide assistance. After looking at many different opportunities, we decided to hire a professional service in the interim. It will not be a city employee but a contractor. Mayor Gustafson and I met with two individuals and interviewed them. One was a district chief for the St. Paul fire department and the other one was a former captain for St. Paul. We want to make sure that we bring someone who has experience managing a professional fire department and work with the needs of this council and the needs of the community. Motion to authorize the City Administrator to hire an Interim Fire Chief.

Mayor Gustafson Moved, Approved 3-0

H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Member Miazga

- Councilmember Leehy and I were at a reception for local council members and state representatives and senators to welcome the new president of the University of Minnesota.
- Four metro suburbs recently adopted a local sales tax for five years. City of Excelsior officials petitioned the state for permission to levy a local sales tax so they could capture some of the dollars spent by out-of-towners at their lakeshore and Picture Us downtown. This past spring the legislature gave the city of 2,400 the authority to enact a half-cent sales tax on general purchases starting October 1. It will make Excelsior along with Rogers, West St Paul, and Elk

River the first metro area suburbs to implement a local tax on top of the statewide general sales tax of 6.875%. I will be talking with those cities and see how they did it.

- Environment Commission is continuing to do terrific work for the city.

Council Member Leehy

- The Restoration and Unity Day were fruitful times of people gathering and reflecting on July 6.
- Cultivating a Caring Community - Healing and Understanding event was very successful. There were about 66 people, and they asked great questions. It was a meaningful event. On July 7, the Castile family did their annual family gathering and provided food and music entertainment.
- I was selected to sit on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJC) for Ramsey County. I will be working with a council member from Lauderdale.
- The city was approved with the Good Neighbor grant and will begin having story time in the fall. Story time will involve seniors and youths of all ages. More details to come in the next few weeks.

Mayor Gustafson

- The Community Engagement Commission met on July 22. We discussed Human Rights Day topics and what we want to focus on. CEC wants to host a Neighborhood Liaison event on September 16 to thank our current liaisons and educate the community about the role. We hope to recruit more in the future.
- Filing is open for city council seats on July 30 - August 13. You can apply at the Ramsey County Elections office on Plato Boulevard in St. Paul.
- Tuesday, August 6 is Night to Unite. There are about 10-12 parties in Falcon Heights, and if your block does not have one, feel free to join the closest one to you.
- Saturday, August 10, is the Falcon Heights Fire Department Recruitment Open House. If you are interested in learning about firefighters and be part of a wonderful team, please attend the event.
- State Fair is just around the corner. Please remember Falcon Heights city code and regulations. No vendor stands are allowed in Falcon Heights, but lemonade stand is fine. No parking on the lawn is allowed.

City Administrator Thongvanh

- I want to thank the community for coming to our Ice Cream Social and Hot dog with a Deputy. It was a great event and we had about 250-270 people that attended.
- We are going through the budget process right now. At the July workshop, we talked about debt service, special revenue, and enterprise funds. The next budget workshop will be in August, and we will discuss general funds.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:00 P.M.

Randy Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 24th day of July, 2019

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator