### **CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS**

Regular Meeting of the City Council City Hall 2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

#### **MINUTES**

September 23, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

### NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD BY WEB CONFERENCE

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL: ANDREWS \_X \_ GUSTAFSON\_X \_\_ LEEHY\_X \_\_

MIAZGA \_X\_ WEHYEE\_X\_

STAFF PRESENT:

THONGVANH\_X\_\_

FREIHAMMER\_X\_ WALTER\_\_X\_

# C. PRESENTATION

1. Ramsey County Sheriff's Office Annual Report-Sheriff Bob Fletcher

### Sheriff Fletcher

Body cameras have been implemented. The death of George Floyd has caused us to reevaluate everything we do in law enforcement. We are trying to reduce the amount of lethal force and deadly encounters. We've always had a Duty to Intervene policy, and have always banned chokeholds unless there's a deadly force threat by the suspect and we've done de-escalation, diversity and mental health training. During COVID-19, some of our deputies took on food distribution and public health responsibilities after COVID-19 began.

### **Undersheriff Ramacher**

We have seen an increase in violent crime in St. Paul, and we expect this to expand to the suburbs, especially carjacking.

### Council Member Miazga

Is St. Paul paying for your patrols like Falcon Heights is? What are your plans for the election to ensure voters are protected from intimidation?

#### Sheriff Fletcher

St. Paul does not pay for our patrols, they pay for my salary and the salaries of some of the deputies. We haven't received a direct request from any of the polling places. Uniforms don't belong at the polls unless there is some request or indication of the need. We would respond to a call if needed.

## Council Member Wehyee

What strategies are being implemented to eliminate racial disparities with respect to traffic stops?

#### Sheriff Fletcher

I'm also concerned by those disparities. I would like to see a policy that requires a moving violation in order for a stop to be made. We see that defective equipment such as broken taillights are tied to income level.

I would like to bring up one big issue. I don't believe that having one deputy working in Falcon Heights with back up deputies responding from 3 miles away is the best practice. This lack of contiguous service area is a problem because we need to have backup in a timely fashion. St. Paul, Ramsey County, Roseville, and St. Anthony are on different radio frequencies. I don't want to suggest that we don't want your contract. Roseville and St. Pauls' common borders with the city are significant. My recommendation is that Falcon Heights court Roseville or St. Paul to provide policing services at a cheaper rate. Otherwise, in 2022, we need to have a conversation about adding a second deputy to the city which would significantly increase cost by \$350,000.

# Administrator Thongvanh

This is the first time I or the council have heard about this. We can have a conversation about that but I don't know that this is the place to discuss those details.

2. Receiving the Feasibility Report and Ordering Public Hearing for the 2021 Pavement Management Program (PMP)

## Administrator Thongvanh

I sent an updated resolution to council via email that we request your consideration on tonight.

## City Engineer Freihammer

The current pavement is on average 28 years in age. Mill and overlay would solve many of the shallow pothole problems that can't be fully fixed with patching. We are proposing 3.86 miles of street improvements at an estimated cost of \$1,165,700. The optional storm water improvements on Lindig Avenue would add an additional \$90,000 in cost. The City's assessment policy allows an assessment of \$405,000, MSA funds would cover \$308,000, the Sanitary Sewer Fund would cover \$90,000. The remainder of \$308,000 could be covered by the City's Street Infrastructure Fund, or bonded.

Tonight, staff recommend adopting the resolution to accept the feasibility report and order a public hearing for October 28. This would trigger a mailing on the public hearing and information about the project including any assessments for properties.

The Lindig portion of the project could be decided at the meeting with the public hearing, or the meeting when plans and specs are included.

Council Member Wehyee motioned to accept the Resolution 20-35 regarding the Feasibility Report and Order a Public Hearing for the 2021 Pavement Management Program.

Mayor Gustafson seconded. Approved, 4-0.

Council Member Miazga was not present for the vote.

## 3. Ramsey County Ditch 4 Project Update

## City Engineer Freihammer

The county will assess benefiting jurisdictions Falcon Heights property owners. The Falcon Heights portion is around \$400.

## Administrator Thongvanh

This would not require a vote, it would be considered an administrative action to execute the payment.

## City Engineer Freihammer

We will be creating a website for the pavement management project so that we can include a link for more information about the proposed project.

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. September 9, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 4-0. Council Member Miazga was not present for the vote.

#### E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

### F. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. General Disbursements through: 9/15/20 \$321,568.12 Payroll through: 9/15/20 \$19,083.41
- 2. City Council and Advisory Roles and Procedures
- 3. Title Change for Community Development Coordinator to Planner/Community Development Coordinator
- 4. Request for Interest (RFI) for Fire Services
- 5. Accept the Resignation of Community Development Coordinator Justin Markon
- 6. Met Council Livable Communities Act

Council Member Wehyee mentioned a grammatical edit to item F5.

Council Member Andrews Moved, Approved 4-0. Council Member Miazga was not present for the vote.

#### G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Adoption and Certification of the 2021 Preliminary Levy

### Administrator Thongvanh

We are required by the State to adopt the preliminary levy by the end of September. After adoption, the levy cannot be increased but it may be decreased in the final levy. The discussion with the Sheriff tonight may have an impact on the budget and therefore the levy, so I will need to have a conversation with him about policing services.

The final 2021 levy hearing will be on December 9, 2020. The resolution for action tonight is to accept the preliminary levy and to set the final levy hearing date.

Council Member Miazga was not present for the vote.

## H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### Council Member Andrews

The beekeeping ordinance was recommended by the Planning Commission so I look forward to council taking action next month.

# Council Member Leehy

I am looking forward to the celebration at Curtiss Field this Saturday. I also want to acknowledge the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

## Council Member Wehyee

The Community Engagement Commission met this week. We also learned that the chair of the CEC, Kim Johnson, has submitted her resignation

## Mayor Gustafson

We will be looking at speed reduction or traffic calming issues in the context of the recent request for stop signs. The fire department will be included in upcoming discussions with the letter of interest.

### Administrator Thongvanh

The Curtiss Field event will be broadcast live on Facebook and we will be sharing the link through social media and our website. Fall street sweeping will be happening soon, residents are reminded to not sweep leaves into the street and cooperate with requests to move vehicles. The community conversations planning group that includes Council Members Wehyee and Leehy as well as Julie and Dena from the CEC has been meeting to plan 3 conversations. We hosted a meeting with the fire department last night to share information.

### I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

Please limit comments to 3 minutes per person. Items brought before the Council will be referred for consideration. Council may ask questions for clarification, but no council action or discussion will be held on these items.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 9:25 p.m.

Kandy Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 23rd day of September, 2020

Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator