

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

**MINUTES**  
May 23, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm
- B. ROLL CALL: LINDSTROM   X   LEEHY   X   BROWN THUNDER   X    
                  MIAZGA   X   GUSTAFSON   X
- STAFF PRESENT: THONGVANH   X
- C. PRESENTATION:
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
1. May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 City Council Meeting Minutes

City Administrator Thongvanh

An Amendment update from the League of Women Voters Roseville Area President Rita Mills. Changing African American to Black, referencing that Amendment is representing African Americans and Africans.

- E. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Approved

- F. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approved

1. General Disbursements through: 5/15/18 \$161,754.43  
Payroll through: 5/15/18 \$19, 286.78
2. Lift Station Pumps
3. Proclamation Recognizing June as Immigrant Heritage Month
4. Appointment of Patrick Mathwig to the Environment Commission
5. Increase Petty Cash for Park & Recreation Programs

Patrick Mathwig

Mathwig moved to Falcon Heights for almost a year now. He works in the environmental and energy field. "I heard there was an opening in the Environment Commission and was interested and see what I can do to be more part of the community. Also, put my background in residential energy efficiency and environmental background to use for the city."

Council Member Gustafson Moved, Approved 5-0

- G: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Proclamation for Restoration Day (July 6th) and Unity Day (July 7th)

### Council Member Leehy

The policy was initiated on April 17, 2018, by former Council Member Tony Fischer. Mr. Fischer reached out to Council Member Leehy to assist in the creation of the Proclamation for July 6. The Proclamation is a component of healing, grant respect to the Castile's family and at the same time serve to improve the quality of community engagement within Falcon Heights by residents, businesses, and guests.

The Proclamation for Restoration Day and Unity Day is set to shift about a day of tragedy and provide a redemptive focus for the two days by which everyone can benefit. Restoration Day is about taking personal steps of action and build and restore relationships and mend strained relations within the community. This will help develop healthy relationships. Unity Day means the healing has begun after Restoration Day and connectedness is taking place among the population. This work was continued this year by previous Council Member Tony Fischer.

More information about the Proclamation for Restoration Day and Unity Day can be found at Falcon Heights' homepage in the Agenda.

### Valerie Castile

Introduced herself as Philando Castile's mother and thank the Councils for making the Proclamation for Philando and his honor. "We as a civilization of people have to do better and build relationships with one another. Love each other more and be more compassionate. Look out for one another and mainly not so judgmental just because of someone's skin color. God gave everyone a different skin color for adaptability purposes. Underneath our skins, we are all the same."

"Philando was a martyr, "he gathered different people together that communities never seen together before. "Philando's funeral was held at a Catholic Church by a Baptist preacher and brought all sort of people together." In 2017, Philando brought together people from different backgrounds at the Unity picnic and everyone had a great time dancing, conversations with one another. The Unity picnic has helped people change their hearts and minds.

In honor of Philando Castile, the Minnesota Institute Art (MIA) is doing an art exhibit. Each piece was made by each community members who expressed their feelings during the tragedy. The exhibition is called Art and Healing: In the Moment June 17 through July 29.

### Sue Gehrz (2285 Folwell Ave)

Thank the Councils for making the Proclamation. Before the Philando Castile's case, no one knew where Falcon Heights was located, and now people do when his name is mentioned. The Proclamation will help put Falcon Heights back on track because people are still paying attention to what is going on in Falcon Heights. The Proclamation will also show the world that Falcon Heights has always been a beautiful place to live in and a city who still cares for everyone by finding ways to improve the town than ignoring the problem.

Art helps people heal in many different ways; therefore, MIA created the Art and Healing: In the Moment to help people heal during the tragedy. There are also opportunities for interactives healing, discussions and facilitated. The purpose is to look at how art can help us heal.

### John Thompson

A year ago in July, Falcon Heights had an opportunity to have a spotlight on the city to shine positively. Today, Falcon Heights has a big spotlight on this city, and it is because of the work of the Councils who continue to help improve the city. Thompson thanks the Councils personally for shining the light, "People are not so nervous to travel down Larpenteur Avenue because of the work you continue to do in Falcon Heights. I know my friend is very proud of you as a body, his mother is proud of you. I know my uncle is proud of you and I know his sister is proud of you. I am proud. I will continue to shine that light on the work the City of Falcon Heights has put in."

### Mayor Lindstrom

Mayor thank the Castile family and Councils who put a lot of work into the Proclamation for Restoration Day and Unity Day. "Valerie mentioned that we're all the same inside. We all have a beating heart. I know that is true and I think sometimes some hearts are a little bit bigger than others. I know everybody in this audience has a huge heart and wants to do the right thing."

Mayor is thrilled about restoration day, "The key message is to talk to people who we do not normally talk to or go out of our way to connect with people in our neighborhood. A great example is when Clarence (Philando's uncle) was making friends by flipping hamburgers during the Unity Picnic. It was a special moment."

Council Member Leehy Moved, Approved 5-0

## H. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### 1. City Council Workshop for May 23rd following Regular City Council Meeting

#### Council Member Miazga:

- Planning commission meeting is on May 29th at 7pm and the big focus will be on the Comprehensive 2040 plan. Excited to hear everyone's input on the plan.

#### Council Member Leehy:

- Park and Rec are getting ready for 'Rec on the Go' and will have three summer events at Curtis Field. There are still a lot of opening for the summer programs and registration is due by June 1.

#### Council Member Brown Thunder

- NYFS next fundraising is the Mayors' Challenge Golf Tournament held at Keller Golf Course on Monday, June 11 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. The shotgun is at 12:00 pm and dinner is at 5:00 pm. Individual Player: \$160 each and Foursome: \$600.

#### Council Member Gustafson

- Spring Together was on May 12th, and it was a great turn out with 80 attendees and beautiful weather. Hope next year also have nice weather and bring in more people to meet their neighbors.
- Currently, researching ideas to have residents get involved with the City. Residents can get involved with the City is by volunteering to join commission groups and can contact city staffs for more information.

- Tim Sandvik and the new Administrative Coordinator Amanda Lor will be joining the Community Engagement Commission (CEC) meeting on June 8th at 7:00 pm. Amanda will also be the new staff liaison for the CEC.

City Administrator Thongvanh


- "Rec on the Go" is a free event for Falcon Heights residents and surrounding communities.
- Falcon Heights has been awarded 'Step 5' in the GreenStep Cities Program. This is the highest step you can achieve as a City. This shows the dedication of the City to move forward with our sustainability and quality-of-life goals.
- Attended the Part 2 of the three series of "Shared Learning" with the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio with Council Member Leehy, Council Member Gustafson, John Thomson, and previous Council Member Tony Fischer. In Part 2, people were broken into small groups and exchange ideas, experiences and success stories with each other. The third and final "Shared Learning" will be this fall.

Mayor Lindstrom

- Thank John Thompson for attending the "Shared Learning" and sharing his experience and stories to help Falcon Heights and others across the nation.

I. COMMUNITY FORUM:

J. ADJOURNMENT: 7:28 pm



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Peter Lindstrom, Mayor

Dated this 23th day of May, 2018



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Sack Thongvanh, City Administrator