

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

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
7:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_ MEYER_X_

WASSENBERG_X_ WEHYEE_X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Leehy motions to
approve the amended agenda; approved 5-0

D. PRESENTATION

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. June 28, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Meyer motions to
approve the meeting minutes; approved 5-0

F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 7/6/23: \$214,989.96

Payroll through 6/30/23: \$24,336.72

Wire Payments through 6/30/23: \$14,490.99

2. Address Assignment for Community Park – 2050 Roselawn Avenue W.

3. **Active Living Ramsey Communities Be Active! Be Green! Bench Initiative Grant Application**

4. 2023 Data Practices Officials

Councilmember Wassenberg motions to
approve the consent agenda; approved 5-0

Councilmember Wehyee asks for more information regarding consent agenda item 3. Active Living Ramsey Communities Be Active! Be Green! Bench Initiative Grant Application.

Administrator Linehan explains that the City was informed about this grant by Active Living Ramsey Communities. Their goal is to ensure people of all abilities are provided with a place to sit on trails within all of Ramsey County. Staff reviewed City parks and noticed opportunities for additional benches. Staff already submitted the grant application for one bench for placement near the basketball court at Curtiss Field and (up to) two benches to be

placed within Community Park around the pond. The benches provided through the grant will be made from composite material which is very durable.

Councilmember Wehyee asks if the benches will be in addition to existing benches at Community Park or if they will replace existing ones.

Administrator Linehan explains the requirement of the grant is that they are in addition to existing benches and will not be replacing any.

Councilmember Wassenberg asks if the concrete pads, that the City is responsible for, will be completed by Public Works.

Administrator Linehan answers yes. The City has some costs associated with placing the benches, namely the concrete pads. Public Works is able to complete this in house.

Administrator Linehan continues to explain agenda item 4. 2023 Data Practices Officials. Typically, this is done at the beginning of the year. Due to staff turnover a new Data Practice Policy needed to be adopted to include the newest staff member. He also addresses agenda item 2. Address Assignment for Community Park – 2050 Roselawn Avenue W. Prior to the City purchasing Community Park, the parcel was shared with the adjacent farm field. Now that the City officially owns the park, the parcels are being split. The City wants to include the University in this decision and is awaiting a response before moving forward.

H: POLICY ITEMS:

1. Approval of Scheduling Public Hearing for July 26th to Consider State Fair Task Force Recommendation to Modify Fee Schedule Ordinance

Administrator Linehan states that the State Fair Task Force (SFTF) discussed parking violations during the State fair. The current uniform parking violation is \$50. Lot parking in commercial lots near the State Fair reached \$50 in 2022. The City is trying to stay ahead of parking fees at commercial lots. The proposed ordinance change would be to include language that parking violations double from August 15th to September 15th. For transparency, it is proposed to have a Public Hearing regarding this topic on Wednesday, July 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Wassenberg added a note to the proposed fee schedule, to show the fine amounts:

Uniform parking fine

September 16 th – August 14 th	\$50.00/violation
August 15 th – September 15 th	\$100.00/violation

Mayor Gustafson asks if this will be an annual public hearing for fees or if that requires additional publications to the public.

Administrator Linehan answers, the City can do both. According to state regulations, the public needs to be notified of Public Hearings 10 days prior to the Public Hearing through a newspaper publication. The City wants to compare its fee schedule with other municipalities before reviewing it in December of 2023.

Councilmember Wassenberg wonders if the fee schedule changed recently.

Administrator Linehan answers yes, it was reviewed in January of 2023 through a fee ordinance.

Council and staff discussed fees that would need modification, such as right of way obstruction fees. Work including obstruction is disruptive to residents and reviewing the permit applications takes up more staff time than other permits. Administrator Linehan believes the current right of way obstruction fee does not match the amount of work imposed on staff.

Council is in favor of increasing the fee of obstruction and including this fee as part of the Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 26. Council also authorizes staff to research fee modification of the obstruction fee and compare with other municipalities. They also amended the resolution to include the right of way obstruction fee

Councilmember Wehyee motions to approve resolution 23-48 ordering a public hearing to consider amending uniform parking violation fee and right of way obstruction fee; approved 5-0

I. INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Meyer has no announcements.

Councilmember Wehyee attended Unity Day on July 7, 2023 and he had a great time.

Councilmember Leehy attended Restoration and Unity Day on July 6 and July 7, 2023. The Castile family organized two great events for the 6th time. Minnesota Night to Unite is also coming up and Councilmember Leehy wants to encourage as many residents to organize a block party. It is great opportunity to connect with neighbors.

Councilmember Wassenberg agrees with Councilmember Leehy's comments regarding Night to Unite. Block parties are very low-key events and are a great way to reconnect with your block. He adds that the band that played at Unity Day was excellent.

Mayor Gustafson explains that the Governor's office provided the City with a copy of the Governor's proclamation for Restoration and Unity Day. Last year, Ramsey County made the two days standing dates. He also encourages residents to register their block parties. He expresses his appreciation for the work City staff has been doing. Lastly, Ice Cream Social will be on July 20, 2023 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM at Community Park. Everyone is encouraged to attend, especially now that the City officially owns Community Park.

Administrator Linehan informs residents that the 2023 PMP is going along very well. Currently, the majority of the heavy work is being done. Such as installing catch basins. Then they will be doing pavement removal. Impacted residents were notified by the City. The contractor will also get started on Ruggles Pathway. Administrator Linehan is confident the end result will be worth it. Garden Avenue will also have their curbs installed. The registration for the Citywide Garage sale is open. It will take place on Saturday, September 16. Budget season is also starting soon. In order to get ready for this process, Council and staff discussed adding extra Council Workshop meetings.

J. 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.

K. ADJOURNMENT: 7: 40 PM

Councilmember Wehyee motions to adjourn the meeting; approved 5-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 12th day of July, 2023



Jack Linehan, City Administrator