

CITY OF FALCON HEIGHTS
City Council Workshop
City Hall
2077 West Larpenteur Avenue

MINUTES
Wednesday, July 3, 2024
6:30 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X*_ LEEHY_X__
 MEYER_X__ MIELKE_X__ WASSENBERG_X__

*Gustafson arrived after roll call at 6:39 PM

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X__ NELSON_X__

C. POLICY ITEMS:
1. Pedicab Ordinance

Linehan explains that the State Fair Task Force recommended establishing a Pedicab Ordinance for 2024. Staff worked with the city attorney to ultimately come up with this draft. Linehan wonders if this is put on the agenda for next week, if Council generally supports the idea. And, this is the time to make changes to it.

Linehan says that if the Council approves the ordinance, then Staff would work to get ready to license pedicabs prior to this year's fair.

Mielke says that she talked to a pedicab operator last year and was given a business card.

Linehan says that particular business owner served as one resource when drafting the ordinance.

Mielke understands pedicabs can be noisy and not all residents like them. But, at least they are a green option.

Leehy says it's beneficial but doesn't really like how they flag people down to get their attention and business.

Meyer comments that it's important to negotiate your fare before you get in because they don't have a meter.

Leehy feels like disclosing their rates is important.

Mielke requests that Linehan ask the particular pedicab company how they establish rates and if they disclose them.

Meyer asks if lights are required.

Linehan says that is spelled out on page 9, item 4 in the packet.

Mielke asks Linehan to share this ordinance with RCSO.

Gustafson asks about violations and Linehan explains it would be a petty misdemeanor (\$300 fine).

Gustafson asks if violations have to be expressed in this ordinance and if each vehicle and each driver will need licensure.

Linehan says they are mulling the fees over after looking at how Minneapolis and Saint Paul do it. But, while their licenses may provide more usage throughout the year, it will most definitely be seasonal in Falcon Heights.

Gustafson says that the license would still be valid for the calendar year.

Mielke says that in that case, they'd be smart to apply early in the year.

Gustafson asks if there is a cutoff date that they must apply by.

Linehan says that they initially thought they might have a cutoff date but determined that may not work well if a pedicab driver quit during the fair and another driver needed to become licensed.

Mielke points out that a lot of people don't know where the boundary is between Falcon Heights and St. Paul. She feels it would be a good proactive approach to provide the pedicab drivers a map, showing the boundary between the two cities.

Wassenberg says we could include a map showing the boundaries between the cities with their license application.

Mielke asks if the City has reached out to Roseville to see if they have interest in drafting an ordinance too, as many fairgoers park in Roseville as well.

Wassenberg says there is a provision in the ordinance that says that an inspection is not required if they have had one in either Minneapolis or St. Paul.

Linehan says that we fall under the Noise Pollution Control where loud noises are enforceable before 7:00 AM or after 10:00 PM, although it's hard to enforce.

Meyer says there is a guideline saying pedicabs cannot operate after 11:00 PM. He asks if that should be extended a bit in case a concert runs a bit late.

Wassenberg says "darkness" is defined but does not know that "darkness" is actually used in the ordinance. He says that pedicabs shall not exceed a particular length. Is it defined as a pedicab then if it is over 120" in length? And, does that length include the trailer?

Leehy says that people may construe that as whatever they wish and think they would not need to be licensed then if over 120”.

Wassenberg points out page 5, where it seems that the wording seems to imply that if you own a pedicab but do not operate a pedicab business, then you don't need a license.

On page 6, section 6, it says that a pedicab license in either Minneapolis or St. Paul is acceptable for us to then grant a license in Falcon Heights. Does this cover both the vehicle and the driver?

Linehan says that it does.

Wassenberg says a pedicab number is mentioned. But, it says where the number shall be displayed is not consistent in two parts of the ordinance and should be updated to be consistent.

Linehan says he will update it to reflect that they need a number, but not necessarily a number assigned by us.

Wassenberg wonders if we are prohibiting them from having products containing THC. Right now, it just says “alcoholic beverages.”

Councilmembers feel “intoxicating beverage” might be more appropriate to state.

Wassenberg questions whether we need to license the company as well.

Leehy thinks having the company name on the license application is helpful, but licensing companies may not be necessary.

Wassenberg wonders if the insurance is tied to the driver or to the pedicab.

Leehy wants to make certain there is language in the ordinance that states pedicab drivers need to follow traffic laws.

Wassenberg helps point out where this language is stated in the ordinance.

Certain fee schedule changes require a public hearing, but this particular one does not.

Meyer wonders if the maximum passenger number stated is too restrictive. Or, how that number was determined?

2. Streetlight Banner Contest

Linehan says that Staff is looking for direction on the next steps. The City held a contest but only received one submission and it wasn't submitted in digital form. One thing they would have to do is reach out to the banner company and ask if the art could be digitalized. Two banner brackets have already been hit by trucks and damaged. In part, probably because they are less noticeable without banners on them.

Leehy asks if the brackets could be spun to face the sidewalk.

Linehan says that would come at a significant cost. He adds that one option is to order a shorter banner bracket or have Public Works trim them. That would result in a skinnier, custom-sized banner.

Linehan asks if Council wants to relaunch the contest or what the next step is.

Leehy says that maybe people can submit a concept rather than actual artwork.

Gustafson says that the City could sprinkle in four of the custom art designs so they can be viewed when traveling in each direction.

Wassenberg says that the contest submission has a lot of symbolism and residents will probably enjoy trying to interpret it as they walk by.

Linehan will get an estimate on converting the artwork into a digital format.

Leehy asks if we'd want to reach out to Gibbs Farm, for example, and ask if they'd like to sponsor any banners.

Linehan says that Public Works will remove the banner brackets until banners are installed to help protect them. Then, Council can determine if the brackets still should be trimmed down.

3. State Fair Task Force Liaison

Linehan says that the task force met in June and are overall in favor of adding a council liaison.

Mielke expresses a willingness to be the council liaison.

Councilmembers agree to add it to the agenda next week.

4. Staff Updates:
a. Community Park

Linehan shares with councilmembers that the City was noticed that we did not receive the DNR Outdoor Grant. Staff has reached out to obtain feedback from the DNR to strengthen a future application. Without the \$350,000 in grant funds, the City could still do a new playground but it would be without the rubberized surfacing. Or, we could wait.

Linehan received a plumbing and mechanical report today and is awaiting additional reports along with the packaged estimate that it would cost to rehab the current building.

b. Law Enforcement Services

Linehan shared the latest information on contract discussions with St. Anthony Village, as well as finding interim coverage if SAPD can't start a contract until 2026.

Linehan says that St. Anthony Village and Falcon Heights will plan to hold separate workshops to review a draft of the contract later this month.

5. Future Agenda Items

Linehan says that we're about to launch into budget season and that August will be filled with a lot of budget workshops. He will try to do budget workshops after Council meetings as much as possible.

Staff is working on a renter's ordinance.

In the fall, we will begin the 2025 PMP public hearing process.

Linehan is having engineering look at alleyways in Northome.

D. ADJOURNMENT: 8:25 PM

The Mayor motions to adjourn;
Approved 5-0.

DISCLAIMER: City Council Workshops are held monthly as an opportunity for Council Members to discuss policy topics in greater detail prior to a formal meeting where a public hearing may be held and/or action may be taken. Members of the public that would like to make a comment or ask questions about an item on the agenda for an upcoming workshop should send them to mail@falconheights.org prior to the meeting. Alternatively, time is regularly allotted for public comment during Regular City Council Meetings (typically 2nd and 4th Wednesdays) during the Community Forum.

Dated this 24th day of July, 2024



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor



Jack Linehan, City Administrator