

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

MINUTES
August 14, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: 7:03 PM
- B. ROLL CALL: GUSTAFSON_X_ LEEHY_X_ MEYER_X_

WASSENBERG ___ MIELKE_X_

STAFF PRESENT: LINEHAN_X_ VAN DER WERFF_X_ OLSON_X_

- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Mielke moves consent agenda item G3 to Policy Item H2

Councilmember Mielke motions to approve the amended agenda;
Approved 4-0

- D. PRESENTATION

- E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. July 24, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
2. July 24, 2024 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Leehy motions to approve the minutes;
Approved 4-0

- F. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- G. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. General Disbursements through 08/08/24: \$656,010.63
 - a. Payroll through 07/31/24: \$27,879.94
 - b. Wire Payments through 07/31/24: \$16,717.46
2. Appointment of Wesley Goldberg to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- ~~3. Acceptance of Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Act (LCA) Pre-Development Grant Program Award for Amber Flats~~
4. Surplus Public Works F-350 to Midway Ford
5. Fourth Amendment to Joint Cooperation Agreement with Ramsey County Housing and Redevelopment Authority
6. Letter of Support for MetCouncil's Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program Application
7. Final Pay Estimate for the Larpenteur Avenue Lighting Project

Administrator Linehan asks the Council for permission to administratively update the resolution numbers to match consent agenda items after Consent Agenda Item 3 was moved to Policy Items.

Councilmember Meyer motions to approve the consent agenda;
Approved 4-0

H. POLICY ITEMS:

1. Tennis Recycling Contract Renewal

Linehan states Falcon Heights receives great recycling rates from Tennis Sanitation and residents are very educated about recycling. In the last couple of contract extensions, there were small price increases. The contract is set to end on December 31, 2024, and if both parties agree to extend contracted services, there will be an increase of \$0.50 in 2025 and another \$0.50 in 2026. A substantial increase, but not nearly as high of an increase compared to other suburbs, and still very competitive. Staff completed an analysis of city recycling contract costs in other suburban cities and even with the increases, Falcon Heights will have the next-to-lowest price. Therefore, staff recommends approving the contract extension.

Mielke wonders if recyclable items listed in the contract are current, as it does not match Ramsey County's list of acceptable recycling items. Linehan agrees and says this list is from 2016, as that is when the original contract was signed; it does not align with what Ramsey County accepts.

Councilmember Leehy wonders if we should update the language in the contract to not include an itemized list as it changes yearly. Council agrees. It should state that recyclable items accepted should align with Ramsey County's list. Linehan adds there is wiggle room in the contract to update that language. He believes Ramsey County's list would be the default list. Gustafson wants to provide staff authorization to make the language more generic, and not include a detailed list.

Councilmember Meyer motions to authorize the City Administrator to execute all necessary documents, add the changes to the City Fee Schedule and update contract language;
Approved 4-0

2. Acceptance of Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Act (LCA) Pre-Development Grant Program Award for Amber Flats

Mielke explains she moved the item to allow for discussion and to see if awarding the grant could be delayed without losing it. She is aware City Staff is working with Amber Union on City Code compliance. She wants to ensure all residents can live in a safe environment and are treated with dignity and feels this is currently not the case for residents of Amber Union.

Councilmember Meyer agrees, saying he has received emails from tenants and would not feel comfortable awarding this grant. He acknowledges there is not a lot of leverage for the City, but sees this as an opportunity to have a conversation. He wonders if there would be consequences if the grant award gets tabled.

Linehan explains he got the opinion from the City Attorney on this issue and notes this is not given by right or guaranteed and there is some discretionary spending for the City. If this pass-through applicant is not in good standing with the City, we could withhold the money. He provides the Council with two options. They could decide not to award the grant or table the item to allow the developer to make corrections. There is no set deadline for the acceptance of the grant, but he would recommend not to table it too far in advance if there is consideration to accept it in the future.

Leehy wonders if we could accept the grant, but hold the funds until the developer complies. Linehan answers it's possible but he would double-check with the city attorney. He believes a better option would be to table and make a later determination.

Leehy is comfortable with tabling the item as their deadline to comply is in 10 days.

Gustafson agrees. If this gets tabled for 2 weeks, that allows the Buhl time to comply with City Code. He wants to ensure it's possible as Amber Flats and Amber Union are different entities but owned by the same company.

Linehan agrees and says he consulted the City Attorney to ensure this would not cause issues. He explains if the organization receiving the funds is not in good standing with the City, one could make a case as to why funds are being withheld. He recommends tabling it to the first meeting in September to allow enough time for staff to check on compliance. Council agrees.

Linehan will discuss with the MET Council and update the Council if there is a set deadline.

Councilmember Mielke motions to table the Acceptance of Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Act (LCA) Pre-Development Grant Program Award for Amber Flats to The Council Meeting of September 11, unless staff learns otherwise;
Approved 4-0

I. INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mielke gives a shout out to Nicole Porter, a resident on the State Fair Task Force for helping design the State Fair Neighbor Guide. She had a great time at Night to Unite. The Environment Commission did not meet last Monday because there was no quorum.

Meyer thanks Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for coming out to Night to Unite. He thanks Public Works for stopping by as well. He is looking forward to the State Fair.

Leehy was pleased to see the State Fair Neighborhood Guide. She also had a great time at Night to Unite. She enjoyed chatting with young residents and encouraged participation. The Community Engagement Commission will next meet in September.

Gustafson also had a great time at Night to Unite. He was thankful for Public Works stopping by with ice cream. He thanks the staff for their work with the State Fair Neighborhood Guide. Lastly, he encourages assisting with school supplies.

Linehan echoes comments for Night to Unite. Staff and Councilmembers were allowed to ride along with RCSO deputies. He apologizes for the surprise ice cream from Public Works, but staff felt like it was a nice way for them to get involved. City Staff is getting ready for the State Fair, they got the guide out, and Public Works will be staking signs and putting up barricades. New this year, there will be more markings and "no parking in between signs" in front of driveways. This was a big issue and inconvenience for everyone in the neighborhood. This could be expanded if successful. State Fair will put out extra garbage cans and they are also offering "Be Nice to the Neighborhood" signs again. They will also add portable restrooms to Curtiss Field. Staff has issued 20 pedicab licenses. There are also new parking permits. Instead of dash passes there will be hanging tags from the rearview mirror. This is per recommendation from the traffic enforcement officer. Public Works is shaving trip hazards in the Northome neighborhood and trimming low-hanging branches. The contractor was sandblasting monument signs and then they will get painted throughout the city. Staff is hopeful they will be ready before the State Fair. The Planning Commission will be having a public hearing on City Code updates at their next meeting. The State Fair Task Force will meet next week. Mielke notes the gazebo at Curtiss Field is used for smoking a lot, despite the no smoking signs, and wonders if there could be an extra garbage can.

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: 7:43 PM

Councilmember Leehy motions to adjourn the meeting;
Approved 4-0



Randall C. Gustafson, Mayor

Dated this 11th day of September, 2024



Jack Linehan, City Administrator