

MINUTES
COMMON COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
January 7, 2002
5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Rietz, Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, Council Members Goodnature, Jorgenson, Christopherson, Poppe, Nordin and Lang.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: News media. Public.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the minutes of December 17, 2001. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Cigarette: Black Barts Golf – Nemitz’s, Gary Quednow, 407 N Main
Jim’s Supervalu, 104 11th Street SE
Ankeny Mini Mart #2, 504 12th Avenue NW
The Steer Truck Stop, 3401 W. Oakland Avenue

Excavation: Twix Construction, RR 4, Box 69

Food: Austin Moose Lodge #1180, 208 S. Main
Ankeny Mini Mart #2, 504 12th Avenue NW
Subway, 1401 4th Street NW
Parkside Pete’s, 2001 4th Drive SW
The Coffee House on Main, 329 N. Main Street, Suite 101
Nemitz’s, 407 N. Main Street
Kenny’s Oak Grill, 307 W. Oakland Avenue
Pizza Hut, 1304 N. Main Street
Jim’s Supervalu, 104 11th Street SE
Subway, 910 W. Oakland Avenue
Sterling Theatre, PO Box 777
Super Fresh Produce, 2101 4th Street NW
Arnie’s Meats & Seafood, 508 22nd Avenue NW
Steer Truck Stop, 3401 W. Oakland Avenue

Gas Station: Steer Truck Stop, 3401 W. Oakland Avenue
Master Plumber: M.J. O'Connor, Inc., PO 606
Harty Mechanical, Inc., 1015 2nd Avenue NE
Voigt Plumbing and Heating, Box 86, Grand Meadow
Jim & Dudes Plumbing & Heating, Inc., 724 W. Clark St., Albert Lea
Novelty Machine Premise: Pizza Hut, 1304 N. Main Street
Taxi driver: Daniel Pumroy for AB Taxi
Theatre: Sterling Theatre, PO Box 777
Tree Removal: Olson Tree Services, Inc., 310 4th Avenue NW, Grand Meadow

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Delorus Jacobs, 1510 Elm Street, Albert Lea. This claim has been referred to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.
- c. Vernon Neitzell, PO Box 802, Austin. This claim has been referred to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

Carried.

The City of Austin has qualified to receive more than \$9,000 from FEMA from some minor costs incurred during the flood of 2001. Costs incurred include overtime and some vehicle usage, mostly with Park and Rec. An agreement must be signed to accept these funds.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a resolution approving the grant agreement. 7-0. Carried.

City Finance Director Tom Dankert presented an annual resolution required by State Statutes which authorizes what businesses the City will use as depositories and investment brokers. Mr. Dankert said all the businesses remain the same, although some businesses' names have changed due to mergers, etc.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting the aforementioned resolution. 7-0. Carried.

Under State Statute, the City must designate an official newspaper. Last year it was decided that the Austin Post Bulletin does not qualify under Minnesota State Statutes to be Austin's official newspaper as the official headquarters for that newspaper is in Rochester, leaving Austin Daily Herald as the lone qualifier.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Nordin, designating the Austin Daily Herald as official newspaper. Carried.

Additionally, the City of Austin must name a qualifying firm to perform the city audit. Larson, Allen, Weishair, & Company has performed the City of Austin audit for many, many years and are asked again to do so for the 2001 audit.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Lang, approving LAWCO to perform the 2001 financial statement audit.

Of eight organized labor groups, the firefighters, I.A.F.F. Local 598, is the first group to reach a contract agreement. This is a 3-year agreement (years 2002 through 2004) which was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee prior to the council meeting. Two significant points in the contract include wage increases: 3.5% for 2002, 3.0% for 2003, and 2.5% for 2004, and changes to the health insurance. The City will offer a Plan A, a plan similar to that in recent years, and a Plan B with lessor premium costs and a higher deductible. For Plan A, family coverage will cost the Local 598 employee \$100 in 2002 (versus a \$25 cost in recent years). Plan B will cost the Local 598 employee \$55. Both plans have the latitude of increasing premium costs in 2003 and 2004.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting the resolution approving the labor contract with I.A.F.F. Local 598 for 2002-2004. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a resolution approving 3.2-beer on-sale at Pizza Hut. 7-0. Carried.

Street projects for 2002 have been identified in the Capital Improvement Program. City Engineer Jon Erichson asked that Council request the feasibility reports to start this process. The feasibility report will provide the project limits; the type of work proposed, the funding sources, including percentages of proposed assessments; the method of assessment; and the schedule of the projects. A public hearing is set for February 4th.

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution requesting feasibility reports. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for February 4th on street improvement assessment hearings that have been continued from previous council meetings. 7-0. Carried.

The City has bid and let for construction services for the Southwest Lift Station. The City is now getting ready to start on this project, and Bolton Menk has a proposal for construction management services. The City will be doing most of the day-to-day work; Bolton Menk will provide consulting management services.

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, approving construction management services from Bolton Menk. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Poppe, setting a public hearing for January 22nd for the preliminary plat review of property to be known as *Fagen Pulsifer Addition*. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution to set a public hearing for January 22nd for rezoning of property from an R-1 Single Family Residence District to an R-2 Multi Family Residence District. His property was previously known as Burr Oak Manor, 400 10th Avenue NW. This item was tabled from the December 17th Council Meeting. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a resolution to set a public hearing for January 22nd for final plat approval of property to be known as *Bustad 2nd Addition*. Said subdivision is located northeast of the intersection of Highway 218 and 21st Avenue. 7-0. Carried.

REPORTS:

DCA – No report

HRA – No report

An Ordinance Committee meeting was set for 4:15 on January 22, 2002.

A Finance Committee meeting was set for 3:00 on January 22, 2002.

CVB: Is expected to move into their new location across from the Spam Museum later this month.

A Fire Committee meeting was set for 3:45 on January 22, 2002.

Council Member Nordin asked to change the Park and Rec Board meeting from 5:15 to 5:45 due to a scheduling conflict with the Board. City Attorney David Hoversten said the meeting must be opened at 5:15 and then continued to 5:45. There is not enough time to legally change the time for this meeting.

The library has received 18 computers for its new lab. The computers will be installed January 24th. The library will then close January 25th for staff training. A grand opening will be in February 2002.

City Administrator Pat McGarvey said Governor Ventura will give his State of the State Address on Thursday, January 10th at which time we will have a clearer notion of his proposed budget and effects on the City of Austin.

The Mayor announced and invited all to her State of the City Report which she will give on Wednesday, January 16, 2002 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, January 22, 2002.

Adjourned: 6:05 p.m.

Approved: January 22, 2002

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____