

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2017
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Jeff Austin, Judy Enright, Steve King, David Hagen, Laura Helle, Paul Fischer and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, City Attorney David Hoversten, Police Chief Brian Krueger, Park and Rec Director Kim Underwood, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Bonnie Rietz, Mary Ann Wolesky, John Garry, KAUS Radio, Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Additions to Consent Agenda:

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): United Catholic Schools Foundation on November 8, 2017
Taxi Driver: Sophie Wiuff, 1110 10th Avenue SW

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Council Member Helle noted she was in attendance at the August 23, 2017 meeting. City Clerk Ann Kasel noted she would make the correction to the minutes.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving the Council minutes from August 21 and 23, 2017 as modified. Carried.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Bonnie Rietz stated the City Art Award at the Austin Artworks Festival was “Austin Power Plant Early Morning” by Christopher Beebe. She presented the art to the City Council.

Mary Ann Wolesky reported that the Art Festival was very successful.

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation declaring September 15 – 24, 2017 as Welcoming Week.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

3.2 Beer (transfer): Steve's Pizza, 421 North Main Street
Cab Driver: Adam Patton, 1205 7th Avenue NW
Cab Driver: Jolene Welch, 505 2nd Street SW
Food: Knyaw Grocery Store, LLC, 103 1st Street SW, Suite C
Food (transfer): Steve's Pizza, 421 North Main Street
Premise amusement device: (transfer): Steve's Pizza, 421 North Main Street
Tree Service: Skyline Tree Service, 5789 Hwy 9, Riceville, Iowa
Exempt Gambling (raffle): United Catholic Schools Foundation on November 8, 2017
Taxi Driver: Sophie Wiuff, 1110 10th Avenue SW

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card Report.
- c. Joanne Klinger, 605 38th Avenue NE. The matter has been forwarded to the City attorney to protect the City's interest.

Event Applications:

Downtown Fall Fest on October 28, 2017
Share the Heat 5k and 1 Mile Run/Walk on October 7, 2017

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement application from Bigelow and Lennon construction for a home proposed to be built at 2005 12th Avenue NE. The proposed abatement would be for a period of five years and in the amount of \$5,300.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a tax abatement for Bigelow and Lennon Construction. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City is looking for assistance with developing a plan to maintain the City's 120 miles of sanitary sewer. There are many improvements that need to be made to the system due to its age and improvement requirements. Mr. Lang stated he met

with WHKS, SEH and Bolton and Menk and recommends moving forward with WHKS for the development and implementation of the sanitary sewer collection system project.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving working with WHKS for development of a sanitary sewer collection system project. Carried.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a release in regard to an auto accident where a street light was damaged. The City settled on \$3,000 for payment of damages to the street light.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, approving a release for settlement. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a hard liquor on-sale license for 1910 Fresh Mexican Kitchen. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving a transfer of wine on-sale and Sunday wine on-sale licenses for Steve's Pizza. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council adopt a resolution setting the fall assessment hearings for October 2, 2017 to assess junk, weeds, snow, forfeited properties, hazardous housing, administrative citations and miscellaneous sidewalk and driveway projects.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting public hearings for October 2, 2017 for assessments. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the fall yard waste program will once again be available at the Cook Farm Site from September 16 through November 26, 2017 and open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Hagen, authorizing the fall yard waste program for 2017. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested Council approve an airport maintenance and operation agreement. The Minnesota DOT increased the eligible reimbursement amount to \$49,739 per year and the agreement is for 2018 and 2019.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving an airport maintenance and operation agreement with MnDOT. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a contract with SEH in the for a facility piping plan at the waste water treatment plant. He stated there is a network of underground pipes at the facility that need to be mapped out and placed in electronic form. SEH submitted a proposal in the amount of \$10,000 for the work.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving a contract with SEH for a facility piping plan at the waste water treatment plant. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council authorize a Grow Austin business incentives program. The program would pair with incentives from the State of Minnesota to provide financial benefit for creating new jobs in Austin.

John Garry, the director of the Development Corporation of Austin, stated the Austin program will help raise awareness of State programs to create quality jobs in Austin.

Council Member Helle stated she was supportive of the proposal but would like to see additional programs to help retail and restaurants get established in Austin.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated it would be difficult to offer incentives to established or competing businesses.

Council Member Austin noted if Austin attracts large businesses then restaurants and retail establishments will follow.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, authorizing the Grow Austin business incentive program. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, declaring the property at 400 31st Street SW a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1005 3rd Avenue NE, Trevino property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Fischer, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 2119 5th Avenue NE, RMAC property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member-at-Large Anderson stated she was pleased with the Art Festival.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the House bonding committee will tour the 4th Avenue and Ramsey Dams on their tour through the State tomorrow.

Park and Recreation Director Kim Underwood stated the pool and splash pad are closed for the season. Deer hunt applications are due by September 14th and there will be an informational meeting on September 26th.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to September 18, 2017. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:04 p.m.

Approved: September 18, 2017

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____