M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 16, 2018
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Jeff Austin, Laura Helle, Paul Fischer, David Hagen and Judy Enright and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Council Member Steve King
STAFF PRESENT:	City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, City Attorney David Hoversten, Police Chief Brian Krueger, Park and Rec Director Kim Underwood, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace and City Clerk Ann Kasel
OTHERS PRESENT:	Mark Nibaur, Alex Bumgartner, KAUS Radio, Austin Daily Herald, Public

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

Additions to the Agenda:

4. Licenses:
   Temporary Food: Sun and Sandals, LLC at the Pool on July 20, 21 & 22, 2018
   Taxi Cab Driver: Jessica Gerereo, 907 12th Street NE

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

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the Council minutes from July 2, 2018. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:
Temporary Food: The Iowa Grill, 940 So York Court, Mason City
Temporary Food: Sun and Sandals, LLC at the Pool on July 20, 21 & 22, 2018
Taxi Cab Driver: Jessica Gerereo, 907 12th Street NE

Claims:

a. Pre-list of bills
b. Financial Report.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement request from Daniel and Acacia Wiechmann. They plan to build a home at 3401 6th Street NE and are requesting a five-year tax abatement in the approximate amount of $11,600.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving a tax abatement application for Daniel and Acacia Wiechmann. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated that the City has been working with Three Rivers Community Action on the Fox Pointe Townhome project. Mr. Lang requested the Council approve the previously quoted sewer access charge of $19,000.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving a sewer access charge in the amount of $19,000 for Fox Point Townhomes. Carried.

Mark Nibaur requested the Council approve natural gas prepay ordinances for Austin Utilities. The ordinances would allow Austin Utilities to purchase gas at a reduced price in the future.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member Fischer, for preparation of the short-term gas supply ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for adoption of the short-term gas supply ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, for preparation of the gas supply ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for adoption of the gas supply ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a resolution in support of the Small Town and Regional Vitality Investment Act of 2018. This legislation is supported by Congressman Walz and would help local governments with funding issues.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution in support of the Small Town and Regional Vitality Investment Act of 2018. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a Charter Communications franchise extension through December 31, 2018. The Cable Franchise Committee met on July 11, 2018 and recommended approval of the agreement while cities continue to negotiate with Charter Communications.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adopting a resolution granting Charter Communications a cable franchise extension through December 31, 2018. Carried 6-0.

Park and Recreation Director Kim Underwood requested the Council approve a memorandum of agreement with Hormel Foods and the Southern Minnesota Bicycling Club for the mountain bike trail.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a memorandum of agreement with Hormel Foods for the mountain bike trail. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council authorize the City to be the fiscal agent for the Community Band. This would allow the band to apply for additional grant opportunities.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, allowing the City to be the fiscal agent for the Community Band. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a rezoning request petitioned by Scott Ohm. The petitioner is requesting the property be rezoned from an "A-1" Agriculture to an "R-1" Single Family Residential District for future residential development on the property. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their July 10, 2018 meeting and recommended approval by a 7-0 vote.

Council Member Austin asked how long this property has been zoned agricultural.

City Attorney David Hoversten stated the property was likely purchased from the City with that zoning classification.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for preparation of the zoning ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for adoption and publication of the zoning ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a sign appeal petitioned by Valley Transportation Services, Inc. The petitioner would like to add three signs to identify their newly built hangar at the airport. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their July 10, 2018 meeting and recommended approval by a 7-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member Enright, approving a sign appeal petitioned by Valley Transportation Services, Inc. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a variance request from Kirk and Debbie Thorpe for an additional structure on their property. The Petitioners would combine four parcels to total 1.2 acres and add a 1920 square foot second garage. They would exceed the allowable square footage by 1500 square feet but their total lot coverage would only be 10%, much less than the allowable 40%. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their July 10, 2018 meeting and recommended approval by a 7-0 vote with the condition that four of the lots would be combined.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving a variance request petitioned by Kirk and Debbie Thorpe. 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 903 9th Avenue SW, Sheldon & Halverson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1201 10th Avenue SW, Williamette Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1006 2nd Avenue SW, Vazquez Lopez Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member-at-Large Anderson congratulated the Pillars of the City program for their excellent choices for 2018 and encouraged the public to submit nominations.

Council Member Helle stated she and Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace will be presenting at Rotary on why public art matters.

Council Member Hagen stated the Rec Center groundbreaking will be held on July 25th at noon.

Park and Recreation Director Kim Underwood stated the pool will be closed for a swim meet July 20-22nd. The splash pad will be open to public. The Kiwanis track meet will be held on July 26th at 6 p.m. and July 27th is family fun night at the pool.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated 4th Avenue NE will be closed beginning on July 23rd for the flood levee project. There will be a posted detour and the closure will last about a month.

Police Chief Brian Krueger stated National Night Out is August 7th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the bandshell park. He also stated the City received 18 applications for the police department open position.

Mayor Stiehm stated the Pillars of the City Committee has a vacancy and encouraged citizens to apply.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adjourning the meeting to August 6, 2018. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:52 p.m.

Approved: August 6, 2018

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____