

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 2, 2020
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Council Members Steve King, Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Laura Helle, Jason Baskin and Joyce Poshusta

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, City Attorney Craig Byram and City Clerk Ann Kasel

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald, Honorary Council Member Santino Deng

OTHER APPEARING IN PERSON: Gail Dennisen, Ted Hinchcliffe, Jeff Brinkman, Tim Sorgine, Mark Nibaur

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, approving the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from October 19, 2020. Carried.

Recognitions and Awards

Gail Dennisen with the Hormel Institute honored Mayor Stiehm for his support of the Hormel Institute. Brenna Gerhardt also expressed her appreciation for the Hormel Institute especially the welcoming face he has provided to the scientists. Ted Hinchcliffe thanked the Mayor for his leadership.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

- Exempt Gambling (raffle): Whitetails Unlimited Southern MN Chapter on
January 9, 2021
- Sign Installation: Rose City Sign, Eagle Bend

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial and Credit Card Reports.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for a five year tax abatement request from Bigelow & Lennon Construction for a single family residence being built at 2106 14th Avenue NE. The property is valued at \$265,900 and the estimated abatement over the five years is \$7,475.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving a five year tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the renewal of a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria Guerrero. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the license was issued in 2013 and there have been no complaints.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria Guerrero. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

The Honorary Council Member Santino Deng thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to be an honorary council member.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, appointing Santino M. Deng as the honorary council member, November 2020 to January 2021. Carried

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

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve the three United Auto Workers' contracts with the City of Austin. The contracts and related memorandums of understanding are for three-years and these are the last contracts for the City to settle.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving the UAW Local 867 Street & Sewer Maintenance contract and associated memorandums of understanding. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving the UAW Local 867 Waste Water Treatment Plant contract and associated memorandums of understanding. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving the UAW Local 867 Parks Maintenance contract and associated memorandums of understanding. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the City policy manual to be updated for new policies on bereavement leave, overtime and compensatory time and response time for emergency personnel.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving personnel policy updates. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, authorizing the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1106 4th Avenue NW, Leif Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk at 1206 5th Street NW, Mehling Properties, LLC. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Elaine Hansen from the Chamber of Commerce spoke about the Austin Winter Extravaganza. She stated there will be a light contest for business and residential properties and a santa visit at the fairgrounds on December 5th.

Tim Sorgine and Jeff Brinkman addressed the Council about their opinion on medical marijuana and would like the Council to support it.

REPORTS

The Council encouraged citizens to vote tomorrow.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated that he met with Senator Klobachar about CARES Act funding recently.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated voting will begin at 7 a.m. and run until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to November 16, 2020. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:21 p.m.

Approved: November 16, 2020

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____