

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
March 1, 2021
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta, Michael Postma, Oballa Oballa and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Mayor King

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert and Police Chief David McKichan

STAFF APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Library Director Julie Clinefelter and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Honorary Council Member Teresa Lugo, Austin Daily Herald

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Sale of Parking Lot to F & F Properties

City Administrator Craig Clark stated Scott Fox, part owner of the B & J Bar and Grill also known as F & F Properties, is interested in purchasing the City owned parking lot next to his business to expand the patio. Mr. Fox has offered \$36,000 for the property. The parking lot would still have an ingress/egress for traffic and parking on the east side of the lot.

Mr. Clark stated the City had made improvements to the underground of the parking lot and patio area and Mr. Fox paid part of the improvement cost.

Mr. Clark referenced the most recent parking study for downtown Austin stating that there are still plenty of parking spots for the downtown needs.

He stated any sale of City property needs to be approved by a super majority.

Council Member Poshusta asked who Mr. Clark approached about additional parking downtown.

Mr. Clark stated he looked at a lot next to Knauer's owned by Cedar Valley Services. They were not interested in selling the property. He added that he talked to US Bank about acquiring some parking stalls and they were not interested.

Council Member Fischer added that he doesn't believe parking is an issue in the downtown. He spoke in support of the B & J expansion.

Council Member Postma asked how many spots are being sold.

Mr. Lang stated 18 stalls will be sold and eleven of them will be for B&J parking only. The other seven will be for the new patio area. He stated there are in excess of 300 parking stalls in the downtown area.

Mr. Clark noted that the snow from the lot will be moved to the City pile and they will clear the City's portion of the lot.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving a purchase agreement with F & F Properties for the sale of a parking lot. Carried.

The item will be on the March 15, 2021 Council Agenda.

Item No. 2 – Rental Licensing and Inspection Update

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace provided an update on the rental licensing and inspection program. She stated there were 2,928 units registered in 2020 which represent 1,118 properties. She stated the rental department is completing inspections and working with property owners on compliance issues.

No additional Council action needed.

Item No. 3 - Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he has reached out to the federal representation to try to gain more funding for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

He added the retreat will not be on March 30th.

Item No. 4 – Open Discussion

None.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk