

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 21, 2021  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

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

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

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Brian Grogan, Austin Daily Herald, Honorary Council Member Christopher Moore

APPEARING IN PERSON: Talan Medgaarden, Jerry Mohrfeld, Jerry McCarthy

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

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving Council minutes from June 7, 2021. Carried.

#### RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Mayor King recognized Talan Medgaarden as the Mayor for a day.

Mayor King recognized Jerry Mohrfeld as a founding member of the Austin Port Authority in 1987. He recently retired from this position and was part of many important projects through the years. Jerry McCarthy, Port Authority President, thanked Jerry Mohrfeld.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Investment and Financial Reports.

Event Applications:

Faith for the Future Block Party – First United Methodist Church on August 29, 2021

Carried.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a \$1,000 donation to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fest coming from contingency funds. Carried.

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

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the League of Minnesota Cities has recommended that cities pass a resolution applying for the American Rescue Plan Act funds from the Federal Government. The City is estimated to received \$2,873,530. He requested Council adopt a resolution approving the application for the funds and a motion authorizing the City Administrator to sign the supporting documentation.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution applying for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing the City Administrator to sign assurances of compliance with Civil Rights requirements and compliance with award terms and conditions. Carried 6-0.

The Council reviewed an ordinance for the adoption of a cable franchise agreement with CMS-RUS, Inc. dba MetroNet.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, for preparation of the cable franchise agreement ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, for adoption of the ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, for publication of the summary ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving an indefeasible right of use agreement with MetroNet. Carried 6-0.

Council Member-at-Large Austin requested Mr. Clark explain the indefeasible right of use agreement.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the agreement would require MetroNet to run fiber to City facilities and the City would waive the permit installation fees for the City-wide right-of-way project.

Brian Grogan stated the fibers are going to be intermingled with other fibers placed in the ground but the City will have the right to use them.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a flood acquisition grant through the Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency for the purchase of a flood property located at 304 22<sup>nd</sup> Street SW. The grant would cover up to 75% of the costs of the project, up to \$202,937.25.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a FEMA grant award for flood property purchase. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a routine maintenance agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the portion of Highway 105 located in the City of Austin. The City provides routine maintenance such as snowplowing, sanding and patching for the State and the State reimburses the City. The State has proposed a 3.5% increase each year for the two-year contract.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a MN Dot maintenance contract for Hwy 105. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City passed a resolution at the June 7, 2021 Council meeting requesting \$13 million in bonding funds for the Waste Water Treatment Plant from the 2022 proposed bonding bill. Due to an anticipated increase in labor costs and materials he requested that amount be revised to \$14.5 million.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution rescinding resolution 16295. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution in support of a \$14.5 million dollar bonding request for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed the final plat and development agreement for Nature Ridge Third Subdivision. She stated the plat would consist of 26 lots over 11 acres. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their June 15, 2021 meeting and

recommended approval by a 7-0 vote. She stated the development agreement also needs to be approved and has been approved by the Port Authority and Austin Utilities.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving the final plat for Nature's Ridge Third Addition. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a development agreement for Nature's Ridge Third Addition. Carried 6-0.

#### BID OPENING AND AWARD

The City received bids for pavement striping. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid
AAA Striping Service Co.	\$ 8,880.00
Traffic Marking Service	\$10,485.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated work will consist of centerline striping of 25 miles of roadways. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to AAA Striping Service Co.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, awarding the bid for striping services to AAA Striping Service Co. Carried 6-0.

The City received bids for the 10<sup>th</sup> Place NE sanitary sewer extension. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid
Hodgman Drainage Co.	\$ 66,562.50
Alcon Excavating	\$ 69,325.75
SL Contracting Inc.	\$ 99,700.00
Heselton Construction, LLC	\$127,295.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated work will consist of extending the sanitary sewer 700 feet west on 10<sup>th</sup> Place NE. He stated there are two property owners on the road and the City will be able to recoup approximately half of the cost of the project through hook up fees. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Hodgman Drainage Co.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, awarding the bid for 10<sup>th</sup> Place NE sanitary sewer extension to Hodgman Drainage Co. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the County received bids for the 31<sup>st</sup> Street SW road realignment project with the low bidder being Ulland Brothers, Inc. at \$1,197,736.15. The City portion of the work related to pond and storm sewer construction is \$306,886.02 and those costs are eligible for State Aid funding. Mr. Lang requested the Council authorize the use of State Aid funds for the project and support Mower County's intent to award the project to Ulland Brothers, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Oballa, authorizing the use of State Aid funds for the project and supporting Mower County's intent to award the project to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 6-0.

## REPORTS

Council Member Baskin enjoyed the Cedar River Farmer's Market.

Council Member Oballa recognized Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Council Member Postma thanked the Police Department for a ride along.

Police Chief McKichan recognized Officer Derek Ellis and K9 Rudy for their recent accomplishment of winning first place in the region for patrol dog and second in narcotics.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to July 6, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:11 p.m.

Approved: July 6, 2021

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_