

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 19, 2021  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Nature Center Director Luke Reese and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald, Taggert Medgaarden

APPEARING IN PERSON: Honorary Council Member Christopher Moore

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

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from July 6, 2021. Carried.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Elizabeth Weifel with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities provided the Council an update.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Temporary Food: Smokin Tailgate, 400 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

30 For Freedom on August 14, 2021

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for the review of a tax abatement application from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for a property proposed to be built at 807 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. The proposed home has an estimated value of \$275,000 and meets the requirements of the tax abatement program.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a five-year tax abatement for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the property at 807 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW. Carried 7-0.

BID OPENING AND AWARD

The City received bids for 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW street extension. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$159,888.25
Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$165,041.88

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the project will consist of consist of curb & gutter, asphalt paving, drain tile installation and street lighting adjacent to the Nu-Tek Facility. The project will be funded 50% by the Port Authority and 50% by Nu-Tek. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the project to Ulland Brothers, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, awarding the bid for the extension of 27<sup>th</sup> Street NW to Ulland Brothers, Inc.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested \$30,000 from contingency funds to complete a housing study with Consulting Corps Services. She stated the company is proposing the assist the City in way to generate additional housing in the City.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution

approving a consulting contract with CRE Consulting Corps with funding coming from 2021 contingency. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council satisfy resolution 6772 for deferred sewer and water that was passed on December 7, 1981. She stated the original resolution had 174 parcels for work that was completed in the 1960's and 1970's. The Council reviewed this matter at their April 5, 2021 and recommended satisfaction of the resolution.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution satisfying resolution 6772. Carried 7-0.

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

Police Chief David McKichan requested the Council approve a contract for school resource officers with the Austin Public School District. He stated two officers are dedicated to the district at Austin High School and Ellis Middle School. The school reimburses the City for 80% of the Ellis officer's contract and 90% of the High School officer's contract.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving an agreement for School Resource Officers with Austin Public Schools. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel presented the application for a community festival for the Austin Artworks Festival. She stated the event is similar to the 2019 event wherein an alcohol zone was authorized by the Council and participating bars were required to use special cups and wristbands.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a community festival application for the Austin Artworks Festival. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve the renewal of an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a pedestrian trail at Hwy 218 and I-90. The renewal would extend the trail connection for another ten years.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving the renewal of a limited use permit for a pedestrian trail. Carried 7-0.

Hormel Nature Center Director Luke Reese requested the Council adopt an agreement with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission for funding at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving an agreement applying for funding at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center from the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution Granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk

and/or illegally stored vehicles at 707 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Batikare Property. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Charles Mills, stated he disagreed with the Council on the removal of Dan Mueller from the Human Rights Commission.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Community Rec center will receive an award for architecture.

Council Member Baskin stated Oballa Oballa received an outstanding refugee award in Minnesota.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adjourning the meeting to August 2, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.

Approved: August 2, 2021

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

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