

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 2, 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, Library Director Julie Clinefelter and Police Chief David McKichan

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Human Resource Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald

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

Added to the agenda:

(res) 15. Approving a 2020 bonding bill appropriation revision for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from July 19, 2021 and July 23, 2021. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Temporary Food: The Lemon, 1027 S. Ramsey Street, Blue Earth
Temporary Liquor: VFW Post 1216 on August 21, 2021 at Lafayette Park

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills

Event Applications:

River Rats Car Show on August 21, 2021

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for the review of a tax abatement application from Bigelow & Lennon Construction for the property at 2104 14th Avenue NE. The proposed home has an estimated value of \$328,500 and meets the requirements of the tax abatement program.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a five-year tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction for the property at 2104 14th Avenue NE. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson requested the Council approve a one-year lease with Austin MN Junior Hockey, LLC/Austin Bruins for the use of Riverside Arena.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a lease with the Austin Bruins. Carried 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson requested Council authorization to deed Sterling Park to Mower County. The parcel abuts the Mower County Fairgrounds and is mostly a landlocked parcel that couldn't be developed. The play equipment has been removed due to its poor condition and the County would use it for fair activities.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving the transfer of Sterling Park to Mower County. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve a lot split petitioned by Hal Henderson. Mr. Henderson had the lots combined for a potential sale in February of 2021 and the deal fell through. He would like the lots split apart again.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a lot split for Hal Henderson. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve a lot consolidation requested by Kristen Heichel. She would like an empty adjacent lot combined with her homestead placed for the construction of accessory structures.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a lot combination for Kirsten Heichel. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve a lot consolidation requested by Gregory Hovland.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving a lot combination for Gregory Hovland. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve a lot split request from Eric Jensen for the purpose of selling off a piece of property.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a lot split for Eric Jensen. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, appointing Sylvia Hernandez to the Culture and Arts Commission, term ending 12/31/2023. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 1409 4th Street SE a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Waller, 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 605 10th Drive SE, Guzman Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 707 6th Avenue SW, Batikare Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 110 12th Street NE, Patel Property. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council modify the bonding bill agreement with the State of Minnesota for the \$7.45 million the City was awarded from the 2020 bonding bill. The funds were not eligible for engineering costs prior to October 20, 2020 so the language is being modified so some of the engineering costs can be used for construction costs to maximize the grant.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a 2020 bonding bill appropriation revision for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Carried 7-0.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated there may be a special Council meeting on August 23rd. He stated he recently attended the CGMC meeting.

Police Chief David McKichan stated the National Night Out is August 3 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Bandshell.

Council Member Baskin thanked the Austin Police Department for their recent work.

Council Members Oballa and Poshusta also thanked the Police Department for their work.

Council Member Postma thanked the Southern Minnesota Association of Realtors for their donation to the Cedar River Farmer’s Market.

Mayor King stated he attended the CGMC conference and thought it was very valuable.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting to August 16, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:51 p.m.

Approved: August 16, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____