

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
August 2, 2021
City 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 and Library Director Julie Clinefelter

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

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Austin Public Library Grant

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated the Library applied for and was awarded a construction improvement grant in the amount of \$319,800 for improvements to the current building and the construction of a project room on the west side of the library which will open to the outdoors. She stated there will also be additional conference and study rooms.

The grant awarded is in the amount of \$319,800 and requires a fifty percent local match. The City would fund \$250,000 of that amount and the other \$69,800 will come from donations.

Ms. Clinefelter reviewed the proposed construction plans with the Council.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Postma, recommending approval of the Library Grant. Carried.

The item will be on the August 16, 2021 Council Agenda.

Item No. 2 – Hormel Foundation Grant Requests for 2022

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert presented the rankings for the 2022 Hormel Foundation Grant requests. The Council ranked the items in the following order:

1. I 90 Bridges	\$630,000	
2. Affordable Housing Grant	\$600,000	
3. Nature Center Bridge Replacement	\$ 50,000	
4. Wildwood Park Playground	\$ 65,000	
5. Oakland Avenue West Trail	\$100,000	
6. JC Hormel Nature Programs	\$ 45,000	
7. Hot Spot Plans	\$ 38,000	
8. Fire Prevention & Education	\$ 5,000	
9. Curb Appeal Project	\$ 75,000	
10. Hormel Family Statute	\$150,000	Tie
10. Flashing Crosswalk	\$ 25,000	Tie

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, recommending the rankings for the 2022 Hormel Foundation Grant Requests. Carried.

The item will be on the August 16, 2021 Council Agenda.

Item No. 3 – I-90 Bridges Update

Public Works Director Steven Lang presented a MnDOT bridge presentation for the Austin I 90 bridges project. He stated there will be there will be a lot of bridge construction in the next years in Austin. He specifically reviewed the options for the 4th Street NW bridge. He stated the Council can fill out a survey to provide information to MnDOT.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City has been involved with input for the project.

Council Member Postma stated he attended the MnDOT meeting recently. He stated he likes the single point interchange the best due to the flow of traffic.

Mr. Lang stated Council could put a recommendation as to which option they prefer. Mr. Lang stated he doesn't have accident history for each type of intersection.

Council Member Poshusta asked if the pedestrian impacts could be resolved on the single point intersection.

For Council information only; no Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 4 - Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the next work session will be on the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Item No. 5 – Open Discussion

Council Member Postma brought up the issue that on-sale liquor licenses cannot be issued to more than one entity.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated she will review the code and present to Council at a future work session.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk