

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 16, 2021
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Oballa Oballa (5:35 p.m.), Joyce Poshusta and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Council Member Michael Postma

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

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

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

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald, Mikela Huot, Nathan Stencil

APPEARING IN PERSON:

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

Added to the agenda:

Consent Agenda

Licenses:

Temporary Liquor: St. Augustine's Catholic Church on August 27, 2021

(res) 17. Approving engineering design services for the 21st Avenue NE project.

Removed from Agenda

13. Granting deed restrictions on Todd Park for a DNR grant.

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 August 2, 2021. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (paddlewheels): Austin Morning Lions Club on October 29, 2021
Right of Way: JJD Companies, LLC, Blooming Prairie
Temporary Liquor: St. Augustine's Catholic Church on August 27, 2021

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Investment and Credit Card Report.
- c. Melissa Baldus, 2000 11th Avenue SW. The matter has been forwarded to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for the review of a proposed establishment of a tax increment financing (redevelopment) district No. 16 and for the proposed adoption of a tax increment financing plan. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the proposal is for a redevelopment of the old YMCA site. He stated the TIF district would allow the Port Authority to recover the cost of acquisition of the property.

Mikela Huot stated that the document provides the authority to use the tax increment to finance the property.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, establishing tax increment financing (redevelopment) district no. 16 and adopting a tax increment financing plan therefor. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, authorizing an interfund loan advance of certain costs in connection with tax increment financing district no. 16 within municipal development district no. 1. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the 2021 Hormel Foundation grant rankings which were ranked in the following order at the August 2, 2021 work session:

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

Also included in the City request, but not ranked, is a Quality of Life grant in the amount of \$93,826.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving 2021 Hormel Foundation grant rankings. Carried.

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.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting a Minnesota Department of Education Construction grant for the Austin Public Library. Carried 6-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the City needs to formally accept the grant from the federal government.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting coronavirus local fiscal recovery fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act. Carried 6-0.

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, appointing Varinh Van Vugt to the Human Rights Commission, term expiring December 31, 2022. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed an annexation ordinance for City owned parcels in Lansing/Red Rock township property. She stated the properties are tax exempt so no future tax payments will be made to the Townships.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, for preparation of the ordinance. Carried.

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

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed an annexation ordinance for Austin Township property owned by Don Richardson. She stated Mr. Richardson has a failing septic system and would like to connect to City sewer. The property is adjacent to the City boundary and less than 120 acres so it can be annexed by ordinance without township approval.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, for preparation of the ordinance. Carried.

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

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council accept an airfield lighting grant for the Austin Municipal Airport. He stated the grant includes the replacement of 58 runway lights and 136 taxiway lights along with design and construction engineering services. The project would involve a federal and state grant.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution accepting a Federal and State airfield lighting grant for the Austin Municipal Airport. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a grant in the amount of \$32,000 from the 2021 American Rescue Plan. The grant can be used for operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services or debt service payments.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting an airport grant from the American Rescue Plan for the Austin Municipal Airport. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Council previously approved evaluation services for the Cedar River Siphons and it was determined a new siphon should be constructed. The next step is to develop plans and specifications and WHKS has provided an estimate in the amount of \$41,200 for those services which would be split between local option sales tax funds and Waste Water Treatment Plant funds.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving engineering design services with WHKS for the Cedar River siphons. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City received proposals for the design of 21st Street NE. The following proposals were received:

	Base Bid	Geotechnical	Section 4(f)	Bidding
WHKS	\$79,500	Not included	Not included	Some included
Bolton & Menk	\$94,830	Included	Included	Included
SEH, Inc.	\$84,930	+\$15,000	+\$3,240	+\$1,790

Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Bolton & Menk due to their strong background in civil engineering. The project is estimated to cost \$1.4 million and is expected to be constructed in 2022.

Moved by Council Member Fischer seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving engineering design services with Bolton & Menk for the 21st Avenue NE project. Carried 6-0.

Fire Chief Jim McCoy stated the Fire Department applied for and received a grant from International Paper in the amount of \$5,500 for the purchase of vapor protection firefighting hoods.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting a grant from International Paper for the Austin Fire Department. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, declaring the property at 709 Oakland Avenue West a hazardous structure. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution Granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 713 4th Avenue NE, Miller Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution Granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1004 5th Street NW, Marquardt Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Waller, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution Granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1206 12th Street NW, Sheehan Property. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark discussed WWTP funding with Senator Klobuchar's office.

Council Member Poshusta thanked staff for all their work to obtain grants for the City. She asked what the Coronavirus grant would be used for.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the funding would be used for police and fire emergency services and other related loss of revenue expenses.

Mayor King stated the Austin Art Works Festival will be the weekend of August 28th and Welcoming Week will be the week of September 10th.

Moved by Council Member Waller, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adjourning the meeting to September 7, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:05 p.m.

Approved: September 7, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____