

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 20, 2021
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Oballa Oballa, Michael Postma, Jason Baskin, 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, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald

APPEARING IN PERSON: Laura Helle, Bonnie Reitz, Mary Ann Wolesky, Jeanne Sheehan

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

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from September 7, 2021. Carried.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Bonnie Reitz presented the 2022 Art Purchase Award to the City from artist Tonja Ihenfeldt. She stated Council Members Baskin and Oballa picked out the piece.

Mary Ann Wolesky stated Jeanne and Jim Sheehan also donated a painting to the Austin Public Library as part of the purchase award. Karen Hughton was the artist that created the piece. Jeanne Sheehan stated she picked the piece named "Tranquility" because she thought it represented the library.

Laura Helle thanked the City for all the City support and the community support.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Mobile Business: Just Take the Cake Too, LLC, 25201 880th Avenue
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on October 1 & 2, 2021
Tree Service: Adam B. Meyer Construction, 2907 17th Street SE

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Investment Report

Carried.

BID OPENINGS AND AWARDS

The City received the following bids for residential building demolition:

Contractor	Amount
Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.	\$46,000.00
Fitzgerald Excavating & Trucking	\$65,300.00
Kevitt Excavating, LLC	\$82,326.32
LinnCo., Inc.	\$120,130.00

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated the bids are for the demolition of six properties. She stated one of the properties will be funded with Local Option Sales Tax because it was part of a flood buyout.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for residential building demolition to Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc. Carried 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for a proposed tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction for a proposed property at 2102 14th Avenue NE in the estimated value of \$299,000. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the application met the City's requirements for tax abatement.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving a five year tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for a proposed tax abatement from Justin O'Donnell for a proposed property at 2904 7th Street NE in the estimated value of \$400,000. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the application met the City's requirements for tax abatement.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a five year tax abatement for Justin O'Donnell. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council adopt the property tax levy and proposed budget for 2022. He stated the tax levy is proposed at \$7,940,000 and may not increase after September 30th. The proposed budget was set at \$38,949,960. Mr. Dankert set the Truth in Taxation hearing for December 8, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution setting the proposed tax levy and budget for 2021. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City has evaluated the need for a stop sign at 1st Avenue & 2nd Street SE as part of the recent street reconstruction project. He stated a westbound 1st Avenue stop sign at 2nd Street is not necessary and that a 2-way stop for north and south bound traffic would be sufficient on 2nd Street.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Fischer, removing a stop sign at 1st Avenue & 2nd Street SE. Carried.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a City sponsorship agreement with the Community Band. This would allow the Community Band to apply for additional grant funding from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a fiscal sponsorship agreement for the Community Band. Carried 7-0.

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

City Administrator Craig Clark stated Duane Rasmussen is donating a decorative street clock to the City in the estimated value of \$19,460. The City would pay for half of the installation and electrical work and it would be installed at City Hall.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution accepting the donation of a decorative clock and authorizing its installation at City Hall. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approved an amendment to the contract with SEH for the design and bidding of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The original contract was in the amount of \$3,636,000 but delays will require an additional \$182,871 to complete the project. Funding for the project would be split between the domestic and industrial plant budgets.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution authorizing an amendment to a contract with SEH for the design of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated Bruce and Anita Baudler are requesting a minor lot subdivision for a lot at 1400 4th Street NW to facilitate the sale or development of the lot. The City required an agreement which limits the access off 4th Street NW. Ms. Wallace requested approval of the minor subdivision.

Council Member Postma asked about the agreement on the 4th Street access.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated the City wanted to limit access to the parcels to one single driveway directly across from the existing avenue.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution authorizing a lot split request for Bruce and Anita Baudler. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated the City received an application from William Starman for a variance from the City Code requirement for square footage of accessory structures to allow a 495 square foot solar panel. Mr. Wallace stated the solar panel would exceed the square foot allowance by about 751 square feet. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter and their September 14, 2021 meeting and recommended approval by a 6-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a solar variance request from William Starman. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution declaring the property as 1006 5th Avenue NE as hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1405 28th Avenue NE, Advanced Building Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, 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 1802 3rd Street NE, Andree Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 501 13th Avenue SW, Enfield Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, 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 909 3rd Avenue NW, Greene Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1921 Oakland Avenue East, Ruble Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member Postma stated he attended the Karenni celebration at Todd Park.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he took part in the bike tour of the immigrant businesses in town.

Council Member Oballa appreciated the community support of Welcoming Week.

Mayor King thanked group for putting on Welcoming Week.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to October 4, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:04 p.m.

Approved: October 4, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____