

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 15, 2021
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

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

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, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, City Attorney Craig Byram and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Honorary Council Member Kris Heichel, Austin Daily Herald

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

Additions to the Agenda:

(mot) 15. Approving up to \$19,500 in contingency funds for carpeting and a dais remodel in the City Council chambers.

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from November 1, 2021. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Right of Way: Choice Heating and Air Conditioning, LLC, Racine

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card Report.

Carried.

BID OPENINGS AND AWARDS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated an EQ/Digester cover failed in January of 2021. An agreement was reached with Hormel Foods for the replacement of the cover. Mr. Lang presented the agreement and stated that Hormel Foods agrees to pay for 100% of the costs of the replacement of the cover which is in the estimated amount of \$2,133,800.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving an addendum to the Waste Water Treatment Plant agreement with Hormel Foods. Carried 5-0 with Council Member Oballa abstaining.

The following bids were received for the replacement of the EQ/Digester cover at the Waste Water Treatment Plant:

	Wapasha Const. Co. Inc.	Rubin Const.	The Joseph Company, Inc.	Staab Const. Corporation
Base Bid	\$ 898,800	\$1,400,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 700,000
Alternate #1	\$1,075,000	\$ 667,000	\$1,793,000	\$1,927,000
Alternate #2	\$1,032,200	\$ 750,000	\$1,751,000	\$2,100,000
Base Bid + Alt 1	\$1,973,800	\$2,067,000	\$2,133,000	\$2,627,000
Base Bid + Alt 2	\$1,931,000	\$2,150,000	\$2,091,000	\$2,800,000

Mr. Lang stated the City would like to award the base bid plus alternate #1 to Wapasha Construction Company, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, awarding the bid for the replacement of EQ/Digester cover #2 to Wapasha Construction Company, Inc. Carried 5-0 with Council Member Oballa abstaining.

Mr. Lang requested the Council approve a contract with SEH, Inc. in the amount of \$120,000 for construction services on the project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, awarding an engineering construction services contract to SEH, Inc. for the EQ/Digester replacement project. Carried 5-0 with Council Member Oballa abstaining.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for December 20, 2021 for the adoption of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council authorize the signature of a waiver stating the City does not waive statutory tort limits for liability cases.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing the City Recorder to sign a waiver stating the City does not waive statutory tort limits. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution granting 2022 off-sale licenses, club on-sale licenses and wine on-sale licenses. Carried 6-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the legislature requires cities to set polling places by December 31st of each year and requested the Council approve the proposed resolution for 2022 polling places.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution setting polling locations for 2022 elections. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, reappointing Mary Lindgren to the Austin-Mower County Homeownership Fund, term expiring December 31, 2024. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City assessed a project on 4th Drive SW in 2016 and Gregory and Cynthia Low objected to the assessments on three parcels that they own. One of the properties that covers two parcels was recently sold and the assessments were paid in full. The other property has 245 feet of frontage which resulted in a higher than normal assessment amount. Mr. Lang stated he identified the north 104 feet as unbuildable due to it being in the flood plan and requested the Council authorize dropping the assessment on that portion of the property. Mr. Lang requested the Council approve billing Mr. and Mrs. Low \$7,906.64 for the project work.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing billing Gregory and Cynthia Low \$7,906.64 for 2016 street improvements. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated the playground surface at Lions Park was replaced in 2018 and is failing. The company has offered a warranty refund in the amount of \$17,987.37 to be applied to a different company's product for replacement. Mr. Nelson requested the Council authorize the use of \$20,000 budgeted for Parks equipment to be used for the replacement surface.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing \$20,000 of Parks equipment capital dollars for a replacement playground surface. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve a lot split for First United Methodist Church. The Church would like to split a vacant lot into two

pieces, one of which will be sold to Clasen-Jordan Mortuary and the other will be retained by the Church and combined into their existing lot.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a lot split request from First United Methodist Church. Carried.

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 204 4th Street SE, Hernandez Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving up to \$19,500 in contingency funds for carpeting and a dais remodel in the City Council chambers. Carried 5-1 with Council Member-at-Large Austin voting nay.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Senate capital improvement committee will be at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

He noted there may be a special meeting on the EDA grant for Creekside Business Park on November 22nd at 4 p.m.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated the truth in taxation information is on the web.

Council Member Oballa Oballa stated he appreciated the visitors from St. Joan of Arc church from St. Paul.

Moved by Council Member Waller, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to December 6, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:00 p.m.

Approved: December 6, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____