

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 6, 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 APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Council Member Jason Baskin

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

STAFF APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, 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:

(res) 19. Awarding a contract for right-of-way acquisition services.

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving Council minutes from November 15, 2021 and November 22, 2021. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Cab Driver: Michael Skurdahl, 200 25th Street SW, #107

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Whitetails Unlimited Southern MN Chapter at the
Holiday Inn on January 8, 2022

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial and Credit Card Report.
- c. Bonnie Wiste, 2101 Burr Oak Drive, Unit B. The matter has been forwarded to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

Reappointments to Boards and Commissions:

Ron Felten to the Fire Civil Service Committee, term expiring 12/31/2024

Jerry McCarthy to the HRA Board, term expiring 12/31/2026

Miguel Garate to the Human Rights Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

Lia Culbert to the Human Rights Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

An Le to the Human Rights Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

Nitaya Jandragholica to the Library Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Shannon Lysne to the Library Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Helen Jahr to the Park and Recreation Board, term expiring 12/31/2025

Randy Forster to the Pillars of the City Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Mike Ankeny to the Pillars of the City Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Rita Srock to the Planning Commission, term expiring 12/31/2025

Jay Lutz to the Planning Commission, term expiring 12/31/2025

Laura Ramirez to the Police Civil Service Committee, term expiring 12/31/2024

Chuck Moline to the Port Authority, term expiring 12/31/2027

Elizabeth Leyk to the Culture and Arts Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

Miranda Moen to the Culture and Arts Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

Amy Thuesen to the Culture and Arts Commission, term expiring 12/31/2024

New Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Joe Fuhrman to the HRA Board, term expiring 12/31/2026

Kristi Beckmann to the Library Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Taggert Medgaarden to the Pillars of the City Board, term expiring 12/31/2024

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for the renewal of a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria Guerrero. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the business has had a currency exchange license since 2013 with no issues. The State of Minnesota requires cities to hold a public hearing for the license to be reissued.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution establishing license and miscellaneous operational fees for 2022. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated the Hormel Foundation approved \$1,726,826 in grants for 2022 including \$93,826 in pass through grants. Mr. Dankert thanked the Hormel Foundation for their generosity to the community.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting 2022 Hormel Foundation Grants. Carried 7-0.

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

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the State of Minnesota has distributed an additional \$43,718.80 for American Rescue Plan Act funds to the City of Austin in addition to the \$2.6 million that was accepted on August 16, 2021. Mr. Dankert requested the Council an updated resolution for the acceptance of the funds.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution accepting additional American Rescue Plan Act funds. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark presented an agreement with Discover Austin for a three year program with the City funding \$40,000 per year for an additional employee at Discover Austin. The employee would work to increase tourism in Austin, primarily at the Mower County Fairgrounds and City facilities.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving an agreement with Discover Austin. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum requested the Council designate the City's state aid streets in accordance with the updated information for 2022.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution designating 2022 Municipal State Aid Streets. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a bench rental agreement with United States Bench Corporation for benches that advertise in the public right of way. The rental rate is \$36 per bench, per year. The agreement would provide \$1,080 of revenue over the 2-year agreement.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a bench rental agreement with United States Bench Corporation. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum requested the Council adopt a resolution for the 2022

street project feasibility reports.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution requesting feasibility reports for 2022 street construction projects. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a two-year extension for the use of the remainder of the North Main Street Flood Project grant. The original amount of the grant was \$1,125,000 and there is just under \$40,000 remaining.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving an extension agreement for the North Main Street Flood grant. Carried 7-0.

Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann requested the Council set the 2022 seasonal, temporary and part-time wage rates.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution setting 2022 seasonal, temporary and part-time wage rates. Carried 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated in order to qualify for a grant for Todd Park, restrictions need to be placed on the park. He presented a proposed resolution with the deed restrictions and map.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution establishing deed restrictions for Todd Park. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang reviewed a request for a combination of parcels from Mark Lang. He owns three parcels and would like to combine them into one parcel which would make the site more compliant with city codes.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a lot combination for Steven Lang. 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 107 2nd Street SE, Torres Property. Carried.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum requested the Council approve contracts for right-of-way acquisition services on 21st Avenue NE. As part of the planned street reconstruction project the City is receiving a federal grant in the amount of \$400,000. That grant has certain requirements that the City prove ownership of all the property and there appears to be some overlap. The contracts will help determine the overlap and the cost for acquisition of the property.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving contracts for right-of-way acquisition services on 21st Avenue and 11th Avenue NE. Carried 7-0.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the federal funding the City applied for at the Waste Water Treatment Plant was not approved.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the truth in taxation hearing will be held December 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to December 8, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:59 p.m.

Approved: December 20, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____