

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Michael Postma

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, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Cheryl and Randy Hays

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

Additions to the Agenda:

Additional Backup

(res) 18. Approving an ICM agreement with G & R Truck Wash.

Consent Agenda Addition

4. Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on January 15, 2022 & February 18-19, 2022

Removed from the Agenda

13. Appointing Tyler White as the Honorary Council Member – January 2022 to March 2022.

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

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from December 6, 2021 and December 8, 2021. Carried.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King recognized and thanked the City employees that retired in 2021. They were John T. Mueller, Norbert Eggert, Bill Adams and Cheryl Hays.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving the consent agenda as follows:

### Licenses:

2022 License renewals (complete list in the consent agenda folder)  
Exempt Gambling: United Catholic Schools Foundation on March 12, 2022  
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on January 15, 2022 &  
February 18-19, 2022

### Claims:

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

### Event Applications:

Austin Congregation United Church of Christ 5 mile walk on June 11, 2022

Carried.

## PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was for a proposed 5-year tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction. City Administrator Craig Clark stated a single-family home valued at \$310,000 is proposed to be built at 2100 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. He said the application is in conformance with the City's policy.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a 5-year tax abatement for Bigelow and Lennon Construction. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert presented the document stating that the items for 2022 will be given approval for purchase with Council approval and it serves as a planning tool for future years.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Carried 6-0.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the 2022 tax levy at \$7,940,000 for the 2022 levy. He noted it was approved unanimously at the December 8, 2021 Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving the tax levy for 2022. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the City's budget for 2022 at \$38,949,960.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution adopting the budget for 2022. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies for 2022. He stated the City does not need to levy these funds to the taxpayers because it has other revenue sources.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution authorizing the cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies. Carried 6-0.

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

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council approve 2022 liquor licenses.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution granting 2021 licenses for sale of hard liquor on-sale, Sunday hard liquor on-sale, Sunday wine on-sale, and 3.2 beer on and off-sale. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution granting a wine on-sale license and Sunday wine on-sale license to Everbright, Inc. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed an amended annexation ordinance. She stated the original ordinance was adopted on August 16, 2021 and was submitted to the State. The State requested some modifications to the legal descriptions.

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated the City would like to annex I 90 into the City for planning purposes. The piece that is not in the City is bordered by Lansing Township and the City can give notice to the township of the intent to annex. If no response is received by the Township in 90 days, then the State will allow the City to move forward with the annexation.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving a notice of intent for annexation. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an ICM agreement with Ralph Donkers. The property has a sump pump located on it that the MPCA requires to be discharged into the sanitary sewer because of contaminated groundwater. The owner of the property will be charged for the amount of water that is put in the sanitary sewer.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement with Ralph Donkers. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an ICM agreement with WCI Austin Landfill for the leachate it brings to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement with WCI Austin Landfill. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an ICM agreement with G&R Truck Wash for the strong waste it sends to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement with G&R Truck Wash. Carried 6-0.

Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann stated the Council recently policies in an attempt to increase recruitment for the police department. She stated the Council voted to eliminate the 30-minute response time requirement, offer an employee referral incentive program, a student loan reimbursement program and a relocation reimbursement program. Ms. Wiechmann reviewed the proposed policies and requested Council adoption.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, eliminating the 30-minute response time for police officers. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving an employee referral incentive program. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving a student loan reimbursement incentive program. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a relocation reimbursement program. 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 1206 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Mehling Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, 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 804 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Trzebiatowski and Goodyear Property. Carried.

## REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Superintendent of schools was interested in having a joint meeting with the school district.

The Council wished the city residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and expressed their appreciation for City staff.

Council Member Baskin stated he attended a community growth meeting with the DCA.

Mayor King thanked Marv Repinski for his service on the HRA board.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting to January 3, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:59 p.m.

Approved: January 3, 2022

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_