

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 7, 2022  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Rebecca Waller

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, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Austin Daily Herald

APPEARING IN PERSON: Bill Budion, Dave Clausen, George Bass

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

Added to the agenda:

(res) 16. Resolving issues relating to property owned by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation.

(res) 17. Dedication of certain property for street purposes.

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving Council minutes from January 18, 2022 and January 24, 2022. Carried.

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

County Administrator Trish Harren presented the City with the food drive award plaque. Both the City and County employees donated food for the local food shelf.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

### Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Area Chamber of Commerce on March 4, 2022  
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Junior All Star Baseball on July 4, 2022  
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Minnesota Deer Farmers Association on March 19, 2022  
Exempt Gambling (raffle): United Catholic Schools Foundation on April 30, 2022  
Food: JoAnn Stores, LLC, 1700 17<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Hotel/Motel: Austin Super 8 Motel: 1401 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Mobile Business: B-Lo Zero Sno Cones, Albert Lea  
Right of Way: Berg's Nursery, 904 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW  
Right of Way: S & S Drainage, 1705 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Right of Way: Jim's Excavating, LLC, 2611 31<sup>st</sup> Street SW  
Sign Installation: Rochester Sign Service, Rochester  
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on March 26, 2022

### Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial and Credit Card Reports.

### Event Applications:

Shamrockin' Run on April 9, 2022  
Taste of Nations on May 21, 2022

Carried.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated Clasen Mortuary, Inc. is interesting in purchasing the City parking lot adjacent to their building known as the Library Lot. He presented a proposed purchase agreement with a purchase price of \$58,000. He stated the Council needs to consider the parking and future development needs in the downtown when selling this lot.

Mr. Clark stated there are concerns from the Engineering department about the parking that may be pushed on street from the sale of this lot.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he spoke with Mr. Clausen before the meeting and stated the lot would be open when there are not services at the mortuary.

Council Member Fischer stated he rarely sees the Methodist lot full and doesn't see a problem with the purchase.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a purchase agreement with Clasen Mortuary, Inc. Carried 6-0.

Mayor King welcomed Bill Budion as the Honorary Council Member.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve \$10,000 in funding to both the Police and Fire Department weight rooms.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving \$20,000 from 2022 contingency funds to the Police and Fire weight rooms. Carried.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the addition of a washer and dryer to the Senior Center. The existing lease requires approval for improvements over \$1,000.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Fischer, authorizing the addition of a washer and dryer to the Senior Center. Carried.

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

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Council discussed traffic on 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW at the January 18, 2022 work session and approved his recommendation that parking on the south side of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue be eliminated and the addition of a dedicated right turn lane.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, eliminating parking on the south side of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW and striping a dedicated right turn lane. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City is receiving funding for the airport from the Airport Improvement Project grants and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. He stated the City has identified projects for the use of these funds including a taxiway joint repair project and a taxilane design project. Mr. Lang proposed contracts with SEH, Inc. for each project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving a contract with SEH, Inc. for taxiway joint repair. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving a contract with SEH, Inc. for taxilane design. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the fire alarm system has failed at Packer Arena and needs to be replaced. He received a quote from Custom Alarm in the amount of \$21,127 for the project. He recommended approval of the contract with Custom Alarm.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a contract with Custom Alarm for the installation of a fire alarm system at Packer Arena. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed miscellaneous provisions that were omitted from the recently an updated zoning ordinance. She requested the Council adopt the ordinance which will provide further details.

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

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution or summary publication of the ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the city adopt a resolution in favor of local controls for housing and land use issues.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated local control of these issues is very important.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution in support of local controls for housing and land use issues. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 713 ½ 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE a hazardous structure. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 609 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Aguilar 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 605 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Bumgarner Property. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated there is a strip of land off 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE that was platted for street purposes but was never used for such. The property owner, Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation, brought a quiet title action against the City and others to make the determination that it is the proper owner of the property. The City agrees with this determination and would also like MERC to allow the City to have a sewer easement as part of the agreement.

Mayor King asked if there is infrastructure to be removed.

Mr. Lang stated the underground infrastructure was already removed.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution resolving issues relating to property owned by Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated Charles and Lois Fawver own a lot in Southgate 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition that has been used as a road for a number of years. The Fawver's executed a deed to the City for ownership of the property. Mr. Lang requested the City accept the deed and dedicate the property for street purposes.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution for the dedication of certain property for street purposes. Carried 6-0.

#### CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

George Bass, 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, stated he was concerned about the recent shooting of an immigrant. He requested that the City leaders work with the minority communities and spoke in support of community policing and creating bridges between the immigrant communities and minorities.

#### REPORTS

Council Member Postma thanked the Parks Department for their help with the plunge.

Council Member-at-Large Austin thanked the Fire Department for help with the plunge.

Council Member Oballa welcomed Honorary Council Member Budion and thanked Mr. Bass for his comments.

Mayor King thanked Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson for his work with the City. He stated he would like to take a different approach to the Council retreat. He would like to get in the buildings of the departments, starting with the Austin Public Library.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated there will be a joint meeting with the school on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated there are lots of programs and classes coming up at the Library.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to February 7, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:42 p.m.

Approved: February 7, 2022

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

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