

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 22, 2022
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Oballa Oballa, Michael Postma, 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, Public Works Director Steven Lang

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Tom Woodhouse, Kevin Schammel, Marian Clennon, Julia Everson

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

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving Council minutes from February 7, 2022. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King read a proclamation declaring April 29, 2022 and May 2022 as Arbor Month.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Mobile Food: Evan's Eatery, New Richland

Right-of-Way: Bruce Bucknell Construction, Inc., Racine

Right-of-Way: Elcor Construction, Inc., Rochester

Taxi Driver: Nathaniel Olson, 1916 4th Avenue NE

Claims:

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 21st Avenue NE (8th Drive NE to 14th Street NE) Project 22-101.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road, median and curb and replace with a new concrete 40 foot wide street along with a ten foot bike path on the north side of the road. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The road is going to be rerouted at the intersection with 11th Street NE to improve safety. The project will begin in early July. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.75%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$1,400,000 and \$111,865 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners. There is also a federal grant for \$400,000 on the project.

Kevin Schammel, 1200 21st Avenue NE, questioned if the assessment is fair due to wear and tear on the road. He stated the damage is due to semi-truck traffic from other businesses.

Mr. Wenum stated the assessments are based on the lot frontage and the type of road, not the traffic on the street. The size of the frontage dictates the assessment cost.

Mayor King stated the City tries to be fair to all property owners.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated that road is over 50 years old and it is time for replacement.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 22-101. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 9th Street NW (10th Avenue NW to 12th Avenue NW) and 10th Street NW (8th Avenue NW to 13th Avenue SW) Project 22-102.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. The streets will be widened to 34 feet wide. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The

project will begin in early May is expected to be completed in September. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.75%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$930,000 and \$252,390 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners.

Tom Woodhouse, 1205 9th Street NW, questioned what the assessment rate was for a commercial property versus residential.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the commercial rate is \$80.25 per foot and the residential rate is \$56.18 per foot.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 22-102. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 3rd Avenue NE (Oakland Place NE to 19th Street NE) Project 22-103.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will be completed in two phases beginning in May. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.75%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$1,010,000 and \$226,047 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 22-103. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 3rd Street NE (16th Avenue NE to 18th Avenue NE) Project 22-104.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. The project will begin in May and is expected to be completed in June. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.5%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$500,000 and \$145,940 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners.

Marian Clennon, 1711 3rd Street NE, stated she heard semis go by recently and is concerned about the semi traffic on the road. She requested signs be placed in the neighborhood to eliminate truck traffic. She stated she is opposed to paying the full price if the semi traffic is going to continue in the neighborhood.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated there is no outlet once the turn is made into the neighborhood.

Council Member Poshusta stated she has seen very little truck traffic in the area.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 22-104. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 5th Avenue SW (27th Street SW to 19th Street SW) and 16th Street SW (16th Avenue SW to 19th Avenue SW), Project 22-106.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will mill and overlay the existing roadway. The project will begin in June and will take 2-3 weeks. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.5%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$125,000 and \$42,421 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners.

Julia Everson, 2903 5th Avenue SW, stated there has been a lot of water on the street. She questioned why there isn't a storm drain on the street.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated they looked at installing the storm sewer and stated it wasn't the time to do that.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 21103. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 7th Avenue SW (23rd Street SW to 24th Street SW), 11th Avenue SW (10th Avenue SW to 18th Street SW) and 23rd Street SW (9th Avenue SW to Dead End), Project 22-107.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will have a full depth reclamation and overlay project. He stated one block of project will be eliminated due to design issues. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will begin in June and will take 2-3 weeks. Adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 3.5%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the

assessment go on their real estate taxes. The total project is \$250,000 and \$98,337 will be assessed to the adjacent property owners.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated public informational meetings were held the previous week too. He noted that there may be material delays with the projects.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 21107. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution setting public hearings for March 21, 2022 for street improvement project assessments. 6-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated Spruce Up Austin is planning a project at Honor Guard Park which is estimated at \$25,000. They are requesting \$4,500 from the City for the project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a donation to Spruce Up Austin in the amount of \$4,500 from 2022 contingency funds for a project at Honor Guard Park. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve the sump pump inspection program in the NE sector of Austin. The contract is in the proposed amount of \$127,280 and is with WHKS. The company has completed sump pump inspections in the other sectors of town in previous years.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a contract with WHKS for sump pump inspections in the NE sector of town. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a grant agreement in the amount of \$34,090 for a rezoning project at the Austin Municipal Airport. The grant would cover 70% of the total project cost of \$48,700 and the other 30% would come from local funds.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a MnDOT grant for an airport zoning update. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City received a grant in the amount of \$32,000 and it will go towards operations at the Airport.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving an American Rescue Plan agreement for airport maintenance and operations. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve exceptional performance pay for the Director of Administrative Services. He stated Mr. Dankert has met the criteria for this additional compensation.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving exceptional performance pay for the Director of Administrative Services. Carried 6-0.

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

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 902 9th Avenue SW, Kniefel Property. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City of Mankato recently bid a waste water treatment project and it came in much higher than expected.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated Street Superintendent Joe Sunderman will be retiring at the end of the week.

Director of Administrative Services stated MIS Director Don Tomlinson will be retiring at the end of the month.

Council Member Waller congratulated the Austin High School Dance Team.

Council Member Postma stated Sara Wilson will be helping Discover Austin.

Council Member Poshusta congratulated the retirees and thanked Kevin Nelson for his time with the City. She added that 4th Avenue Fest will take place on June 8th.

Mayor King congratulated Kevin Nelson for his time with the City.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting to March 7, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:48 p.m.

Approved: March 7, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____