

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

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, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald,

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

Additions to the agenda:

Consent Agenda

4. Licenses:
Right of Way Contractor: Morrison Well and Plumbing, Freeborn

Additional Backup

- (res) 9. Approving a purchase agreement with Troy Cunningham.

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 February 22, 2022. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Dutchtown Jumpers on June 18, 2022
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Mower County Pheasants Forever on April 30, 2022
Right of Way Contractor: Morrison Well and Plumbing, Freeborn

Claims:

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

City Clerk Ann Kasel held a public hearing for redistricting from the 2020 census. She stated the official census population of Austin was 26,174 people and the City needs to be divided as “equal as practicable” according to state law into three wards. Ms. Kasel reviewed different proposals for the division of the wards that she and the redistricting committee had worked on. The recently annexed Turtle Creek areas are switching from Ward 1 to Ward 2 due to township lines and the County’s mapping requirements.

She stated the State has completed their redistricting and now the City needs to adopt an ordinance reestablishing the wards and a resolution defining the precinct lines and polling places.

Council Member-at-Large Austin noted the change on the west side of town where the Turtle Creek area changed from Ward 1 to Ward 2. He stated he would prefer this area stay with Ward 1 but understood the need to work with the County.

There were no public comments.

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 Oballa, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution defining precinct lines and polling places. Carried 6-0.

BID OPENING AND AWARD

The City received the following bids for bituminous materials:

Contractor	Bid	Mileage	Total
Ulland Brothers	\$247,500	\$35,820	\$283,320
Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$297,000	\$50,400	\$347,400

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the bid would be for the seasonal supply of asphalt supplies plus the cost of hauling the materials to Austin from their plant. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Ulland Brothers.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, awarding the bid for the seasonal supply of asphalt to Ulland Brothers. Carried 6-0.

The City received the following bids for asphalt emulsion:

Contractor	Bid
Henry G. Meigs	\$100,847.25
Flint Hills Resources	No Bid

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the bid would be for approximately 42,000 gallons of asphalt emulsion oil to be used with rock chips on asphalt roadways. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Henry G. Meigs.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, awarding the bid for asphalt emulsion to Henry G. Meigs. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Fire Chief Jim McCoy requested the Council approve an agreement with the Austin Fire Association for the City of Austin to provide fire protection and emergency services to Austin and Lansing Townships for three years.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution approving a contract with the Austin Fire Association. Carried 6-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City needs to purchase a piece of property from Troy Cunningham as part of the 21st Avenue NE street reconstruction project. The property is located on the east sign of County Road 16 and is valued at \$6,400. Funding for the purchase would come from the State Aid street funds and 2022 contingency funds. Mr. Wenum requested Council approve the purchase agreement.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving a purchase agreement with Troy Cunningham. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City recently received three proposals from architectural firms to assist staff with the Austin Public Library remodel. Mr. Lang reviewed the proposed project stating it would be the goal to begin construction within 9 months. He stated the City received three proposals – CRW Architecture, Armon Architecture, Inc. and Stantec Architecture, Inc. He reviewed the bids from each company and noted that with CRW the mechanical and electrical engineering will need to be bid by the contractors. He asked the Council for input as to what their comfort level is whether having a set price with Armon Architecture or maybe saving a little money up front with CRW Architecture.

Mayor King stated he would prefer to go with the set pricing on Armon Architecture.

Council Member-at-Large Austin asked if the City could limit the amount that they spend for mechanical and electrical as part of the project.

Mr. Lang stated normally the City does not provide what the budget is but he thought it was important for this project for the architects to have that information.

Council Member-at-Large Austin recommended going with Armon Architecture.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a contract for Library design services with Armon Architecture. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the pedestrian bridge at Todd Park is in need of repairs due to being damaged by high water events. The City has received a Hormel Foundation Grant in the amount of \$100,500 to support the bridge replacement project. He stated he received a proposal from Erickson Engineering in the amount of \$19,500 for design and permitting services for the project. Mr. Lang recommended moving forward with the contract for design services on the project.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving a contract with Erickson Engineering for the Todd Park pedestrian bridge. Carried 6-0.

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 201 3rd Street SE, Pizano Property. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he will be testifying about the \$7 million cap on PSIG.

Council Member Baskin stated he enjoyed legislative action day.

Council Member Oballa stated the Riverland basketball team is going to nationals.

Council Member Postma stated he also went to legislative action day.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adjourning the meeting to March 21, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:07 p.m.

Approved: March 21, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____