

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
April 18, 2022
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, 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.

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from April 4, 2022. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Mobile Business: Erin's Street Bistro, Albert Lea
Mobile Business (2): Tienda Y Taqueria Gurrereo, 301D 4th Avenue NE
Right of Way: Heimer Concrete: 19307 State Hwy 105

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

KSMQ Public Television 50th Anniversary on September 17, 2022
VFW Armed Forces Car Show on May 21, 2022

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Fire Chief Jim McCoy stated the City is looking into purchasing a ladder truck in 2025 as set forth in the capital improvement plan. Chief McCoy recently received an update from the manufacturer that the cost is \$1,645,000 with a 7% price increase scheduled for May 1, 2022. There are additional price increases coming with an estimated price of \$2,000,000 for purchase in 2025. The City could sign a purchase contract now with no money down for 2024 delivery and save approximately \$375,000.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a contract for the purchase of a fire truck. Carried 7-0.

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

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for May 16, 2022 for the reassessment of recently sold forfeited properties. She stated the notice of hearing would be published in the paper and mailed to each property owner.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for May 16, 2022 for the reassessment of forfeited property. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the County recently provided the City with a list of properties that forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes. She stated the amounts listed next to each parcel are the City assessments from the unpaid tax years. She requested the Council adopt a resolution certifying those amounts to Mower County.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving the County board classification of 2022 forfeited property and declaring the City's intent to reassess unpaid assessments. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated in preparation for 2023 construction projects, the City would like to complete traffic studies on 1st Street NW and in the downtown area. WHKS provided an estimate in the amount of \$32,800 for the study which would include traffic counts, warrant analysis and intersection control evaluation. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the contract to WHKS.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a contract for a traffic study with WHKS. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a limited use permit agreement with the State of Minnesota for a trail along the south side of Oakland Avenue West

from 25th Street SW to I-90. The agreement is necessary because portions of the trail will be constructed in MnDOT right-of-way.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving a limited use permit agreement with the State of Minnesota. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, declaring the structure at 606 1st Avenue SW as a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, declaring the structure at 204 12th Street SW as a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1208 5th Street NW, Clayton Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1809 4th Avenue NE, Rodriguez Property. 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 904 12th Avenue SE, Franco Property. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator reminded the Council of the League of Minnesota Cities summer conference from June 22-24th. He also stated the DCA is working with Mower County working on the Mower County Resiliency Grant program.

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated the Austin Page Turners will have their annual read starting this week. There are also container gardening workshops coming up. Also, the social justice book club will meet in April and May.

Council Member Postma stated the Rotary group is looking for service award recipients.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting to May 2, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:44 p.m.

Approved: May 2, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____