

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
May 2, 2022
City Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert and Police Chief David McKichan, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace and Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Dave Nelson and Jai Kalsy

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Item No. 1 – I-90 Bridge Replacement Project

Public Works Director Steven Lang introduced Dave Nelson and Jai Kalsy with MnDot. They provided an overview of the upcoming bridge projects in the City of Austin.

Dave Nelson and Jai Kelsey reviewed each project and the specifics of each bridge. The 4th Street project is anticipated to begin in 2024. They also reviewed the municipal consent process. The Council will need to pass a resolution to approve the right of way plan and construction project for the bridges. He stated they are working on applying for federal funding for the bridges.

For Council information only; no Council information needed at this time.

Item No. 2 – 1704 4th Street SW Appraisal Review

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City was approached about purchasing the property at 1704 4th Street SW as a flood buyout. He stated the homeowners turned down an offer from the City via grant in the amount of \$182,000 in 2014. The only year it flooded was 2004.

The property is currently valued at \$328,000. There is no grant funding available from the DNR at this time so it would be 100% funded with Local Option Sales Tax. Mr. Lang recommended not purchasing the home at this time due to the high cost, no availability of a grant and limited flooding impact to the property.

The Council agreed with Mr. Lang's assessment of the situation. No additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 3 – Airport Zoning Board

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated the zoning needs to be updated around the Austin Municipal Airport. The consultant on the project has recommended the establishment of a joint zoning board with the County and the townships. The Council will need to appoint someone to represent the City of Austin on the board.

Anyone interested should let the Mayor know.

Item No. 4 - Administrative Report

None

Item No. 5 – Open Discussion

Council Member Poshusta stated she has a work conflict and needs to get off the Culture and Arts Commission.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk