

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
May 16, 2022  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Oballa Oballa (5:31 p.m.), Michael Postma, Joyce Poshusta and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Police Chief David McKichan, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Nick Schiltz, Kim Schechinger, Curtis Sorenson, Austin FFA Club

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 Baskin, approving Council minutes from May 2, 2022. Carried.

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King recognized the Austin High School FFA group for their awards at state. Nick Schiltz and Kim Schechinger stated the students worked very hard over the last year and were given the highest level of acknowledgment from the State.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

##### Licenses:

Food: Lawlasoe Market, LLC, 208 South Main Street

Mobile Business: Poncho & Mara's Cocinita, 1009 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Mobile Business: Sunny's Ice Cream & Mexican Food, 1013 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Sign installer: Scenic Sign Corp., Sauk Rapids

Temporary Liquor: Pacelli Catholic Schools on June 17, 2022

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

Freedom Festival on July 3-4, 2022.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for the reassessment of tax forfeited property. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the properties were sold at County auction last fall and now the assessments that were cancelled in the forfeiture are being reassessed and put back on the real estate taxes.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution reassessing tax forfeited property. Carried 7-0.

BIG OPENINGS AND AWARDS

The City received the following bids for the Oakland Avenue Trail project:

Contractor	Bid
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$282,845

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the estimate for this project was \$185,350. He recommended the bid be rejected and the project rebid later in the year.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, rejecting all bids for the Oakland Avenue Trail project. Carried.

The City received the following bids for the Senior Center parking lot project:

Contractor	Bid
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$113,945

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the work will consist of a mill and overlay in the parking lot, drainage improvements, replacement of sidewalk panels and the construction of a concrete patio. The Senior Center will contribute funds for the patio improvements. He recommended awarding the bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, awarding the bid for the Senior Center parking lot project to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for pavement markings:

Contractor	Bid
Traffic Marking Service	\$ 8,919.90
Sir Lines-A-Lot	\$10,541.70
Warning Lites	\$14,596.20

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City has hired a new Sign & Traffic position but having the mainlines striped would free up that person to work on other backlogged work. He recommended awarding the bid to Traffic Marking Service.

Council Member Baskin asked Mr. Lang if he could quantify what did not get done while the position was vacant.

Mr. Lang stated the City could quantify that work and the sign area is behind due to the vacancy in the position.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, awarding the bid for pavement markings to Traffic Marking Service. Carried 7-0.

#### PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving an on-sale liquor license for Bicabut, Inc. dba Bakery Lounge dba the Downtown Grill. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution appointing Stephen Juenger as the honorary council member – June to August 2022. Carried.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a resolution in support of I-90 bridges funding. A letter signed by the Mayor would also be sent with the resolution to the US Department of Transportation.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a resolution in support of funding for the I 90 bridge projects. Carried 7-0.

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

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a sign appeal from Blu Water Brew, LLC dba Scooter's Coffee. The City code allows a limited number of signs and requires they face the public right of way. Scooter's proposed two signs on the north and south side of the building that do not face a public right of way and are in excess of the ordinance. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their May 10, 2022 meeting

and recommended approval of the variance by a 4-3 vote.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving a sign appeal from Blu Water Brew, LLC dba Scooters Coffee. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a lot variance request from Michael Arens. Mr. Arens is trying to sell his property and became aware that the neighboring home encroached on his land. He agreed to sell 10 feet of his property to the neighbor but this would leave him with a 50 foot frontage instead of the required 60 foot frontage. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their May 10, 2022 meeting and recommended approval by a 7-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a variance request from Michael Arens. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a deck variance request from Ralph Donkers. Mr. Donkers requested a variance from the City code that requires a 12.5 foot side yard set back on a corner lot. He proposed deck addition is 18' by 8' and would be two feet tall. This would result in an approximate 4 foot setback from the sidewalk. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their May 10, 2022 meeting and recommended approval by a 7-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a deck variance from Ralph Donkers. 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 1019 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Graham Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, 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 1107 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Fernando Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, 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 1309 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Oelker & Jarrett 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 600 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Sletten Property. Carried.

## REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the legislature recently discussed a \$1.4 billion dollar bonding bill which will hopefully will provide funding to treatment plant. He also stated Dave Merrill will start as the Parks and Recreation Director on May 23, 2022.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated filing for public office will open May 17, 2022 and run through May 31, 2022.

Council Member Fischer thanked the City and County employees for their work at the electronics recycling event where 4 semi-trucks were filled.

Council Member Baskin stated he will attend the Community Leaders of America conference in Omaha in the coming week.

Council Member Postma thanked Tom Dankert and the IT team for getting new AV system up and running in the Council Chambers.

Council Member Poshusta noted it is national police week and thanked the Austin Police Department for their service.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adjourning the meeting to June 6, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.

Approved: June 6, 2022

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

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