

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, 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, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill, City Attorney Craig Byram, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Alex Bumgartner, Tim Sorgine, Austin Daily Herald

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 with additional backup. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from June 20, 2022. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Food: Wing Bazaar, 3401 West Oakland Avenue

Mobile Business: Country Fresh Farms, Union City, Georgia

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card Report.

Carried.

BID OPENING AND AWARD

The City received the following bids for the 21st Avenue NE street reconstruction project:

Doyle Connor	\$1,114,872.72
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Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the work will consist of sanitary sewer improvements, trail construction, concrete paving and realignment of 21st Avenue NE and 11th Street NE intersection. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Doyle Connor Co.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, awarding the bid for the 21st Avenue NE street reconstruction project to Doyle Connor, contingent upon MnDOT approvals. Carried 5-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

The City held a second reading for a proposed revised tobacco ordinance. The ordinance would eliminate the penalty for underage possession of tobacco and align the language with state statutes.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, for preparation of the ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 5-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Council reviewed the 10th Drive SE and 5th Place SE intersection at their June 20, 2022 work session and recommended the placement of flashing stop signs on the north and south stops. The cost would be approximately \$5,000 for the signs and the relocation of the current rapid flashing pedestrian beacons.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, for the placement of flashing stop signs at 10th Drive SE and 5th Place SE. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a new master partnership contract with MnDOT through June 30, 2027. The agreement would cover lab testing services and cooperation on minor maintenance projects, bridge projects, Highway 105 resurfacing projects and limited use permits.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a MnDOT master partnership contract. Carried 5-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a joint powers agreement with the State of Minnesota and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Carried 5-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the City received quotes to upgrade the remaining lighting in City Hall to LED. He stated that Austin Electric was the lowest bidder at \$21,186 and recommended awarding the work to Austin Electric.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution awarding a contract for City Hall LED lighting replacements to Austin Electric. Carried 5-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a contract with Austin Public Schools for two police liaison officers from August 29, 2022 to June 1, 2023. The school will pay for 80 percent of the Ellis officer's salary and 90% of the AHS officer's salary.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a liaison officer agreement with Austin Public Schools. Carried 5-0.

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 204 12th Street SE, Bedow Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 507 11th Street SW, Diggins Property. Carried.

Alex Bumgartner with Austin Utilities stated there is a high demand for power load this summer and there may be rolling blackouts in the coming future. He stated Austin Utilities has prepared an emergency load shedding plan for the community with three different phases for energy management.

Mayor King asked how to decide which places will be impacted by blackouts.

Mr. Bumgartner stated it would be selected to try to reduce the load as much as possible with the least impact to customers.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Tim Sorgine asked multiple questions about cannabis.

Mayor King stated the League of Minnesota Cities is working on clarification on the issues.

REPORTS

Council Member Postma thanked the organizers of the Freedom Fest.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he also enjoyed Freedom Fest.

City Administrator Craig Clark agreed that it was a great event.

Mayor King provided a summary of the recent City Administrator's review as required from the last closed meeting. He stated Mr. Clark has met the expectations of the Mayor and City Council.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adjourning the meeting to July 18, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:03 p.m.

Approved: July 18, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____