

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 2022
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Michael Postma, Joyce Poshusta, Geoff Baker 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, Police Chief David McKichan, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Elizabeth Wefel, Bonnie Reitz, Tom Stiehm Dani Heiny

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 Poshusta, approving Council minutes from August 1, 2022. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King read a proclamation declaring August 26, 2022 Our Austin, Our America day. Dani Heiny thanked the City for the honor and stated the portraits have been made into a book. The book will be debuted at the Austin Artworks Festival.

Elizabeth Wefel from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities provided an update to the Council of the organization's activities. She noted that the Coalition gave Mayor King an award for being active in the Coalition.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Cigarette (transfer): One Stop Food Mart, 902 12th Street SW
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Life Mower County on October 16, 2022
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Morning Lions Club on October 28, 2022
Food: Bakereach, LLC, 1906 8th Street NE, Suite D
Food (transfer): One Stop Food Mart, 902 12th Street SW
Gas Station (transfer): One Stop Food Mart, 902 12th Street SW
Mobile Business: Yarn Mobile, 109 1st Avenue SE – Suite 4

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills

Event Applications:

KSMQ 50th Anniversary Party on September 17, 2022
River Rats Car Show on August 20, 2022

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for a five-year tax abatement request from Cedar City Builders, LLC. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the applicant is proposing to build a single-family home at 1310 18th Street NE valued at \$395,000. Mr. Clark recommended approval of the abatement.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a five-year tax abatement request from Cedar City Builders, LLC. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

City Clerk Ann Kasel presented the primary election results stating Jeff Austin and Oballa Oballa will be moving to the November general election. She noted City voter turnout was 31% and she thanked the team of election judges for their great work.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution certifying the August 9, 2022 primary election results. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the 2023 Hormel Foundation grant requests. The Council ranked them in the following order at the August 1, 2022 work session:

1. CHIP II Program \$200,000
2. (tie) Business Encouragement/Enhancement Partnership \$100,000
2. (tie) Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Education Programs \$45,000
4. (tie) Delivering the Data: Hotspot Data Plans 2023 \$61,000
4. (tie) East Side Lake Trail \$120,000
6. Fire Prevention and Education \$5,000

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving the 2023 Hormel Foundation Grant request rankings. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City has plans to build a 10 unit T-Hangar at the Austin Municipal Airport. SEH, Inc. has provided a proposal in the amount of \$80,700 for design services for the project. He recommended awarding the contract to SEH, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving a proposal with SEH, Inc. for an Airport T-Hangar design. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang reviewed post construction storm water management and salt storage ordinance updates. He stated as part of the City's storm water permit renewal it is required to create a salt storage ordinance and update the post construction storm water ordinance.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, for preparation of the ordinances. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, for adoption and publication of the storm water management ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, for adoption and publication of the salt storage ordinance. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for federal funding for the I-90 bridge projects that will be completed in future years.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter in support of funding for the I-90 bridge projects. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 1019 8th Avenue NE a hazardous structure. Carried 6-0.

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 808 1st Avenue NW. 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 909 3rd Avenue NW. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Tim Sorgine advocated for the legalization of cannabis.

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director Dave Merrill stated there will be a deer hunt meeting on August 18th at 6 p.m. at the Nature Center.

Mr. Merrill recognized Steve Turner for the fantastic operations of the pool, Jackson Marsh and Molly Garry for being the pool managers for the summer and Timothy Bachmeier, who brought up concerns about swings in Northwest Park.

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated there will be a children's writing workshop on August 20th and the flocking flamingoes are back as a fundraiser for the Library.

Council Member Postma thanked the team of election judges and crew for a great election. Also, the Austin Artworks Festival will take place August 27-28th.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to September 6, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:10 p.m.

Approved: September 6, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____