

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 2022
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Michael Postma, Joyce Poshusta, Geoff Baker 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, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, City Attorney Craig Byram

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Joan Hanson, Joed Davis, Laura Helle

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Added to the agenda:

4. Licenses: Edible THC: One Stop Food Mart, 902 12th Street SW
Edible THC: Hari Food Mart, 709 21st Street NW

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from September 6, 2022. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Joan Hanson, Executive Director Mower County Senior Center thanked the City for their help with the parking lot project at their facility.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Edible THC: Apollo Superette, 901 West Oakland Avenue
Edible THC: Apollo III, 3011 West Oakland Avenue

Edible THC: Austin Tobacco, 1004 18th Avenue NW, Suite C
Edible THC: Superior Cannabis, 125 North Main Street
Massage Therapist: Serena Hubbell, 1101 Oakland Ave West
Edible THC: One Stop Food Mart, 902 12th Street SW
Edible THC: Hari Food Mart, 709 21st Street NW

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

Homecoming Parade on September 23, 2022
Fire Station Open House on October 12, 2022

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Mayor King welcomed Alexander Stoltz as the new honorary council member.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Fischer, appointing Alexander Stoltz as the Honorary Council Member through December 5, 2022. Carried.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council set the preliminary 2023 tax levy at \$8,283,000. The levy will be certified to the County and cannot be increased after September 30th. He stated the budget is set at \$39,812,447 for 2023. Mr. Dankert requested the Truth in Taxation Hearing be set for December 7, 2022.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution adopting a proposed tax levy and budget for 2023 and setting the Truth In Taxation hearing for December 7, 2022. Carried 6-1 with Council Member Fischer voted nay.

The Council reviewed an amended sidewalk café ordinance. Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert reviewed the ordinance stated the Council approved removing the food requirement for sidewalk cafés at their August 15th work session.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, for preparation of the sidewalk café ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, for adoption and publication of the sidewalk café ordinance. Carried 7-0.

The Council reviewed an ordinance for liquor updates. Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert reviewed the ordinance stating that the legislature recently adopted new laws and the City needs to update their code. One of the laws allows baseball teams to hold on-sale wine

licenses and the other allows breweries to sell additional sizes of off-sale containers. In addition, the Council recently recommended to change the hours of Sunday on-sale liquor from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Mr. Dankert noted there is a separate ordinance which would allow liquor sales at Packer Arena.

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, for adoption and publication of the first liquor ordinance. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, for adoption and publication of the second liquor ordinance. Carried 7-0.

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

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council authorize the City of Austin to be the fiscal agent for the Community Band which would allow them to be eligible for additional funding.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution allowing the City of Austin to be the fiscal agent for the Community Band. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested \$47,600 of 2022 fund balance for pool repairs and painting. The three pool vessels need to be repaired, prepared, painted and caulked this fall so they will not have any additional damage over the winter. In addition, he requested savings from the 2022 CIP be reallocated to a security system monitoring system for the pool.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing \$47,600 of 2022 fund balance for pool repairs and reallocating 2022 CIP funds for a pool security system. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a contract with Austin MN Junior Hockey, LLC. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the public hearing was held at the September 6, 2022 for the municipal consent requirement of the I-90 Austin Bridges Project. He stated there has been a \$25 million federal grant for the project but that will not impact the City's cost for the project. He requested the Council approve the proposed layouts for the bridge projects.

Council Member Baker questioned the cost of a welcome sign as part of the project.

Mr. Lang stated the sign is an estimate and may change as part of the project. He noted that the Hormel Foundation has committed to cover a large portion of the aesthetic improvements.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution providing municipal consent for the I-90 Austin Bridges Improvement Project. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council accept a grant through the State of Minnesota which would allow Federal funds to be routed to the City for the Taxiway joint repair and taxi lane projects at the Austin Municipal airport.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution accepting a MnDot Airport grant for a taxiway joint repair project. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting a grant for a MnDot Airport grant for a taxilane project. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a fence appeal from Madlain Vander who is proposing a 6 foot privacy fence on her corner lot. The City ordinance requires a 12.5 foot setback from the property fence. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter at their September 13th meeting and recommended approval by a 6-0 vote with the condition that the fence be installed at an angle near the driveway to allow for more visibility.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving a fence appeal from Madlain Vander. 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 600 11th Street NE, Alvarez-Babastro 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 1011 4th Street SW, Nystel Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Joed Davis thanked the Council for the adoption of the sidewalk café. She questioned if she can serve business in the alleyway also.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated the ordinance adopted only applies to the sidewalk and the alley would need to be discussed.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated Senators Smith and Klobachar were recently in Austin.

Council Member Poshusta enjoyed the Hormel and KSMQ concerts.

Council Member Postma concurred and also thanked the Human Rights Commission for Welcoming Week.

Council Member Baskin thanked the Austin Fire Department for their school outreach.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting to October 3 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:01 p.m.

Approved: October 3, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____