

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 17, 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, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Randy Hofner and City Clerk Ann Kasel

PUBLIC PRESENT: Austin Daily Herald, John Mueller, KAUS Radio, Laura Helle, Alexander Stoltz

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

Addition:

Consent Agenda License

Food: Windrift, LLC, 2511 11th Street NE

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving Council minutes from October 3, 2022 and October 10, 2022. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): United Catholic Schools on November 2, 2022

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Whitetails Unlimited Southern MN Chapter on January 7,

2023

Food: Scooters Coffee, 1400 14th Street NW

Food: Windrift, LLC, 2511 11th Street NE

Claims:

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for the assessments of sanitary sewer assessments. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated letters were mailed to each property owner and notice was published in the paper of the assessment.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution declaring the cost of the assessment. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution adopting the assessment roll for sanitary sewer assessments. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for the assessment for tree removal. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the public hearing was a continuation of the October 3, 2022 public hearing for tree removal.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution for the assessment roll for tree removal. Carried 6-0.

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement application from New Horizon Homes, LLC. City Administrator Craig Clark stated a single-family home with the proposed valuation of \$495,000 is being proposed to be built. He added that the application is in conformance with the City's tax abatement policy and requested approval of the abatement.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a tax abatement for New Horizon Homes, LLC. Carried 6-0.

BID AWARDS

The City received bids for demolition of the building at 408 4th Avenue NW. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid
Hansen Hauling & Excavating	\$18,560
Jim's Excavation, LLC	\$30,250
Jensen Excavating & Trucking	No bid

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the property is the former Mayo office that the City acquired. The commercial building will be demolished and the garage will be relocated the Kaufman Park to be used as a warming house and storage area. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Hansen Hauling & Excavating.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution awarding a bid for building demolition at 408 4th Avenue NW to Hansen Hauling & Excavating. Carried 6-0.

The City received bids for the Austin Public Library construction project. The following bids were received:

BIDDER	TOTAL BID	LESS: CANOPY	NET BID
The Joseph Company	\$1,716,000	\$165,000	\$1,551,000
APX Construction	\$1,619,770	\$55,965	\$1,563,805
Met-Con Construction	\$1,934,100	\$161,600	\$1,772,500
Project One Construction, Inc.	\$2,012,500	\$175,000	\$1,837,500

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated the bids came in more than anticipated and the scope of the project is being reduced by removing the canopy from the project. The project is being funded from multiple sources including a Minnesota Department of Education grant, Wienke Estate funds, City Building Fund and General Fund dollars and donations. She noted that part of the funding from the City will be paid back via fundraising. Ms. Clinefelter recommended awarding the bid to The Joseph Company.

Moved by Council Member Waller, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting the resolution for the Library construction project to the Joseph Company. Carried 6-0.

The City received bids for LED street lighting. The following bids were received:

Contractor	Bid
Austin Electric	\$34,786
Fox Electric	\$38,795
Egan	\$39,930

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City is planning on converting 91 street lights to LED with the bid. He recommended awarding the bid to Austin Electric.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for LED street lighting to Austin Electric. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing on November 7, 2022 for the assessment of sanitary sewer. Carried 6-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the City has used LOGIS for its financial software since 2010. The software is in need of an upgrade and LOGIS has provided Austin with an estimated implementation cost of \$252,555 and \$141,692 for each year thereafter, with annual increases. The annual cost is approximately \$58,000 more than the current contract. LOGIS is asking for a ten-year commitment from the City.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a contract with LOGIS. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested a stop sign at the intersection of 27th Avenue NW and 11th Street NW in Creekside Business Park due to the addition of Nu-Tek.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving a stop sign at 27th Avenue and 11th Street NW. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City is preparing for a large sanitary sewer collection system project in the summer of 2023. The project will be completed in three phases in 2023, 2024 and 2027. Mr. Lang requested engineering services from WHKS due to the complexity of the project. WHKS provided an estimate in the amount of \$12,500 for the services.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a contract with WHKS for design engineering services on the Institute lift station project. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Turtle Creek Flood Control project was constructed in 2020 and consists of three project areas at a cost of \$5 million. FEMA requires the City to adopt the Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Preparedness Plan as part of the project. Mr. Lang recommended the adoption of the manual.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution adopting the Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Replacements & Rehabilitation Manual for the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. Carried 6-0.

Police Chief David McKichan stated the City operates nine emergency sirens which over the City of Austin. It was recently discovered that the sirens do not reach the recently annexed NW areas of Austin and an additional siren will be needed for this area. He requested \$40,000 from 2022 contingency funding for the project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving \$40,000 from 2022 contingency for the addition of an emergency siren. Carried.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve budget adjustment number five which would reallocate City funds for recently approved projects.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving budget adjustment number 5. Carried 6-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Dave Merrill requested that the Council adopt a resolution giving the public access to ride snowmobile on a trail on the north side of Interstate 90 near the Nature Center. The trail was formerly on the south side of the interstate but is no longer accessible due to airport and armory improvements. He stated the Spamtown Sno-Drifters Snowmobile Club will be responsible for additional signage, snow fencing, grooming and enforcement. This authorization would be allowed for one year for Public Works to evaluate any physical impact on trail and intersection surfaces.

Moved by Council Member Waller, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving trail use for the Spamtown Sno-Drifters. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Council previously authorized the agreement needed a formal resolution on it.

Council Member Baker asked how does the City know that none of the Council Members have a conflict of interest in the project.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated each Council Member should use the honor system to disclose if there are conflicts on any item.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving TIF agreement for the Stencil project. Carried 6-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the Windrift was recently annexed into the City and therefore the property will fall under the City's jurisdiction for licensing. The Windrift will now be a City licensed property and she requested that the Council approve liquor licenses for the establishment.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving hard liquor on-sale and Sunday hard liquor on-sale licenses for the Windrift, LLC. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, 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 803 8th Avenue SW, Fuentes Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, granting the

Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1202 9th Street NE, New Remodeling Property. 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 1819 1st Avenue NE, Hanson Property. 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 503 8th Avenue SE, Wakefield Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member Baker noted the boys' soccer team plays for the section championship on Tuesday.

Council Member Postma thanked Discover Austin and the snowmobile club for their work on the trail agreement.

Mayor King noted the Council accepted the jug of root beer from Gravity Storm at a previous meeting. He noted that City officials are not allowed to accept gifts so he paid for the jug.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adjourning the meeting to November 7, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:56 p.m.

Approved: November 7, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____