

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 21, 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, 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, Honorary Council Member Alexander Stoltz Peter Waldman, Laura Helle

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

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving Council minutes from November 7, 2022. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King recognized Randy Overocker's retirement from the Public Works Department. Public Works Director Steven Lang stated he had almost 43 years with the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Catering: Green Mill Restaurant & Bar, Albert Lea
Food: Twice is Nice, 417 North Main Street

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills

b. Investment and Financial Reports.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for the renewal of a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria Guerrero. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the City has not received any complaints about the establishment since last year's renewal and recommended approval of the license.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving the renewal of a currency exchange license for Tienda Y. Taqueria Guerrero. Carried 7-0.

BID AWARD

The City received the following bids for the Riverside Arena siding project:

Contractor	Bid	Contingency Item
Equity Builders & Construction Services, Inc.	\$138,750	\$25
Norse Valley Construction	\$325,000	\$5

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the siding on Riverside Arena will be replaced. He recommended awarding the contract to Equity Builders & Construction Services, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for the Riverside Arena siding project to Equity Builders & Construction Services, Inc. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council certify the results from the November 8, 2022 election. She thanked the City's team of election judges for their service to the community.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution certifying the results of the November 8, 2022 general election. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for December 19, 2022 on the adoption of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Carried 7-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert stated the following grants have been awarded to the City for 2023:

1. CHIP II Loan Expansion / Curb Appeal program - \$125,000
2. Pedestrian Trail, ESL to Highway 218 - \$120,000
3. Business Encouragements/Enhancement Program (BEEP) - \$70,000
4. Delivering the Data: Hotspot Data Plans 2023 - \$61,000
5. Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Education Programs - \$45,000
6. Fire Prevention and Education - \$5,000

The Hormel Foundation also approved an additional \$50,000 grant for a Technology Coordinator for 2023 at the Austin Public Library and the following pass-thru grants: Quality of Life - \$93,826 (this includes \$0 for Leadership Austin; \$23,000 for the 4th of July festival; \$73,253 to the Austin Artworks Center for rent and property tax reimbursement).

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, accepting 2023 Hormel Foundation Grants. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested Council approval of the 2023 liquor licenses.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution granting 2023 off-sale liquor licenses, club on-sale licenses and wine on-sale licenses. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution adopting the 2023 City fee schedule. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an individual control mechanism agreement with International Paper which sets forth the limits for strong waste in the sanitary sewer.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement with International Paper. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven lang requested the Council request the feasibility reports for the 2023 street reconstruction projects.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution requesting feasibility reports for 2023 street projects. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City is planning to replace the existing siphon crossing under the Cedar River is Driesner Park. The DNR is requiring a botanical survey to determine the presence of a state listed endangered, threatened or special concern plant species within a one-mile radius. Mr. Lang recommended awarding a contract to Salix Environmental for the services.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a contract with Salix Environmental for a botanical survey. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City would like soil boring information in 21 locations to prepare for the 2023 street construction projects. He received a bid in the amount of \$14,892 from Chosen Valley Testing, Inc. for the work and recommending awarding the bid.

Council Member Baskin asked why is the testing being completed.

Mr. Lang stated sometimes the testing is done with the project so there isn't a separate proposal approved by Council.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a contract for soil borings with Chosen Valley Testing, Inc. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve the 2023-2025 base pay system for City employees. He also stated that the City has settled a labor contract with Minnesota Public Employees Association. Mr. Clark requested approval of the base pay document along with the MNPEA.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving 2023, 2024 and 2025 base pay schedules. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution approving the Minnesota Public Employee Association 2023-2025 labor agreement. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, appointing Terri Stough to the Austin-Mower County Homeownership Fund, term expiring December 31, 2025. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, appointing Ed Schmitt to the Park and Recreation Board, term expiring December 31, 2022, which is the currently unexpired term that was vacated in October.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, Granting the Planning and Zoning Department authorization to remove junk at 409 12th Street NE, Chavez/Ramos Property. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Peter Waldman, 57834 240th Street, stated he was in an accident on 7th Street and 5th Avenue NW and was concerned about the uncontrolled intersections in the City after he was involved in an accident.

REPORTS

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert reminded the Council of the Truth in Taxation hearing on December 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Council Member Baskin congratulated the Austin Packer Swim Team for making it to State.

Council Member Geoff Baker thanked Tom Dankert for his work on the Hormel Foundation Grants.

Council Member Michael Postma thanked the Austin Enhancement Group for their events on the day after Thanksgiving.

Council Member Poshusta noted the Library Board is grateful to the Hormel Foundation Board for their support.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting to December 5, 2022. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:58 p.m.

Approved: December 5, 2022

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____