

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
December 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, Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill, City Attorney Craig Byram and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAAL TV, Alex Baumgartner, Representative Patti Mueller, 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. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from December 5, 2022 and the Truth in Taxation hearing on December 7, 2022. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the proposed consent agenda. Motion failed 3-4 with Council Members Waller, Poshusta, Baker and Council Member-at-Large Austin voting nay.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, tabling the boards and commissions appointments on the consent agenda to the January 3, 2023 work session. Carried 4-3 with Council Members Postma, Baskin and Fischer voting nay.

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

Licenses:

2023 License renewals (*complete list in the consent agenda folder*)

Exempt Gambling (raffle): NWTF Cedar River Longbeards on January 28, 2023

Claims:

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for the adoption of the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert presented the document stating that the items for 2023 will be given approval for purchase with Council approval and it serves as a planning tool for future years.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the 2023 tax levy at \$8,283,000. He stated that is a 4.23% tax levy increase. Mr. Dankert noted it was approved unanimously at the December 7, 2022 Truth in Taxation Hearing.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving the tax levy for 2023. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the City's budget for 2023 at \$39,811,892.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution adopting the budget for 2023. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies for 2023. He stated the City does not need to levy these funds to the taxpayers because it has other revenue sources.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution authorizing the cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council reject the proposed loan with PFA on the agenda. He stated the market has gone down and the City will reprice

their rate and come back with a new loan agreement. He stated that the City is hopeful of receiving an approximately 2% interest rate for the loan.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution rejecting a \$42,216,633 general obligation wastewater revenue note. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve an amendment to the City's 457(b) plan to allow for a Roth IRA conversion. This has been requested by an employee and most 457(b) plans already allow it.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution approving an amendment to the City's 457(b) deferred compensation plan to allow for a Roth IRA conversion. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council approve 2023 liquor licenses.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution granting 2023 licenses for sale of hard liquor on-sale, Sunday hard liquor on-sale, Sunday wine on-sale, and 3.2 beer on and off-sale. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated the Austin Daily Herald is the only eligible newspaper for official City publications. They have increased their rate by 3.1% for 2023.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, designating the Austin Daily Herald as the official newspaper for 2023. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve the union contracts with Austin Employees Association and Law Enforcement Labor Services.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving the Austin Employees Association 2023-2025 labor agreement. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving the Law Enforcement Labor Services 2023-2025 labor agreement. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council renew the ICM agreements for the domestic and industrial plants with Hormel Foods. The agreements set the limitations for sanitary sewer discharges and run through 2025. He stated that with the new industrial plant in 2025 the domestic agreement will expire at the end of the construction as the space for the industrial waste water will not be needed anymore in the domestic area.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement for the domestic plant with Hormel Foods. Carried 6-0 with Council Member Baskin abstaining.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement for the industrial plant with Hormel Foods. Carried 6-0 with Council Member Baskin abstaining.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council renew the ICM agreement with Nu-Tek Biosciences. The agreement sets the limitations for sanitary sewer discharges and runs through June 30, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving an ICM agreement with Nu-Tek Biosciences, LLC. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approved a delegated pass-through agreement with the State of Minnesota. The agreement allows the State of Minnesota to disburse Federal funding to the City for construction projects.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a delegated contract process agreement with MnDOT. Carried 7-0.

Alex Bumgartner requested the Council approve the sale of a 50-foot strip of land adjacent to the Windrift Restaurant. The business is being sold and it was discovered that the external cooling system encroaches onto the Austin Utilities' property by 9 feet. He stated the Austin Utilities' board approved the sale at their last meeting.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution consenting to the sale of Austin Utilities property. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert noted the donation is from Hormel Foods not the Austin Area Foundation.

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution appointing George Thomas as the Honorary Council Member – January 2023 through March 2023. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City will be reviewing the Local Option Sales Tax Funding.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Ramsey Dam is owned by the Hormel Foods Corporation and has decided to make minor improvements to the dam and it will not be transferred to the City.

Representative Mueller stated she will be advocating for bonding dollars for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Council Member Poshusta stated she was excited to hear about the 40-unit affordable housing project. She wished Council Member Waller the best and thanked her service on the Council.

Council Member Postma also was excited for the 40-unit housing project and thanked Council Member Waller.

Council Members Baskin and Council Member-at-Large Austin thanked Council Member Waller.

Council Member Waller stated she enjoyed working with the Council over the last 4 years.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting to January 3, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:06 p.m.

Approved: January 3, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____