

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 3, 2023
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, 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 and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAUS Radio, Katie Baskin, Gary and Nancy Quednow, Tim Sorgine

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

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert administered the oaths of office for Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin, Council Member Laura Helle, Council Member Jason Baskin and Council Member Joyce Poshusta.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, moving the Boards and Commissions appointments from the Work Session agenda to the Consent Agenda with the exception of the two Parks and Recreation appointments. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving Council minutes from December 19, 2022. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King welcomed the Honorary Council Member George Thomas. Mr. Thomas stated it is an honor to be working with the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Food: Aldi, 1700 17th Street NW
Food: Dollar General, 101 4th Street SW
Food: Grinders Deli, 604 3rd Avenue NW
Food: KFC, 1401 18th Avenue NW
Garbage Service: Waste Management of So. MN, Clarks Grove
Lodging Establishment: Greenwich Guest House
Massage Therapist: Jennifer Hatfield, 1802 5th Avenue NW
Right of Way: Consolidation Communications Enterprise Services, Mattoon, IL
Taxi Driver: Irma Diego Pedro
Temporary Liquor: Pacelli Catholic Schools on January 28, 2023

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card Report.

Appointments and Reappointments to Boards and Commissions:

- a. Peggy Young to the Fire Civil Service - term through December 31, 2025
 - b. Tim Ruzek to the HRA Board – term through December 31, 2026
 - c. Carole Granholm to the HRA Board – term through December 31, 2027
 - d. Dylan Kaercher-Berthiaume to the Human Rights Commission – term through Dec. 31, 2023
 - e. Stephanie Holtorf to the Human Rights Commission – term through December 31, 2025
 - f. Varinh Van Vugt to the Human Rights Commission – term through December 31, 2025
 - g. Denver Ritz to the Human Rights Commission – term through December 31, 2025
 - h. Kellie Ann Schmidt to the Human Rights Commission – term through December 31, 2024
 - i. Stephanie Postma to the Library Board – term through December 31, 2025
 - j. Sue Grove to the Library Board – term through December 31, 2025
 - k. Gema Alvarado-Guerrero to the Library Board – term through December 31, 2025
 - n. Milly Burroughs to the Pillars of the City – term through December 31, 2025
 - o. Peggy Benzkofer to the Pillars of the City – term through December 31, 2025
 - p. Aaron Stewart to the Planning Commission – term through December 31, 2026
 - q. Solomon Paul to the Police Civil Service Commission – term through December 31, 2025
 - r. Trish Harren to the Culture and Arts Commission – term through December 31, 2025
 - s. Molly Maschka to the Culture and Arms Commission – term through December 31, 2024
 - t. Steve King to the part-time Fire Relief Trustees – term through December 31, 2023
 - u. Tom Dankert to the part-time Fire Relief Trustees – term through December 31, 2023
 - v. James McCoy to the part-time Fire Relief Trustees – term through December 31, 2023
 - w. Jason Duffy to the Pillars of the City – term through December 31, 2025
 - x. Tom Stiehm to the Pillars of the City – term through December 31, 2023
 - y. Jason Duffy to the Planning Commission – term through December 31, 2026
 - z. Frank Spartz to the Planning Commission – term through December 31, 2026
- Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated SRF recently completed a noise elevation study in the Pasture Heights neighborhood which is adjacent to Interstate 90. The study collected noise levels in the 14th Place NW and 2nd Street NW area. Upon review of the study, Mr. Lang recommended the construction of a 17-foot tall and 910-foot long wall to mitigate the noise in the area. The City would be responsible for 10% of the cost of the project which is estimated to be \$100,000 to \$125,000 which could be assessed amongst the 7 benefited parcels or paid for via tax levy. Mr. Lang stated additional planning would be undertaken if the grant is awarded.

The Council stated they would like to wait for the grant results to see how the local portion would be paid for.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a MnDOT Standalone Noise Barrier Program application. Carried 7-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve public checking, savings and investment accounts for the City for 2023.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution designating depositories for checking and investment of public funds for 2023. Carried 7-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve budget adjustment number 1 for 2023. The adjustment includes the 2023 Hormel Foundation grant awards.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving budget adjustment number 1. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 5th Avenue NW (20th Street to 22nd Street NW), 6th Avenue NW (22nd Street to Dead End) and 20th Street NW (4th Avenue to Dead End) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$900,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 5th Avenue NW (20th Street to 22nd Street NW), 6th Avenue NW (22nd Street to Dead End) and 20th Street NW (4th Avenue to Dead End), Project 18105. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 1st Street NW (Oakland Avenue West to 1st Drive NW street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,825,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Council Member Baskin asked if the costs will bid out similar to the estimates.

Mr. Wenum stated he is pretty confident in the pricing.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 1st Street NW (Oakland Avenue West to 1st Drive NW), Project 23101. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 2nd Street SW (10th Avenue to 12th Avenue SW), 10th Avenue SW (2nd Drive to 4th Street SW) and 11th Avenue SW (2nd Drive to 4th Street SW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,115,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 2nd Street SW (10th Avenue to 12th Avenue SW), 10th Avenue SW (2nd Drive to 4th Street SW) and 11th Avenue SW (2nd Drive to 4th Street SW), Project 23102. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 7th Avenue NE (19th Drive to 21st Street NE) and 19th Drive NE (6th Avenue to 7th Avenue NE), street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,175,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 7th Avenue NE (19th Drive to 21st Street NE) and 19th Drive NE (6th Avenue to 7th Avenue NE), Project 23103. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 8th Street NE (16th Avenue to 18th Avenue NE), street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$2,400,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 8th Street NE (16th Avenue to 18th Avenue NE), Project 23104. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for Hormel Drive (4th Street to 8th Street NE) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$275,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on Hormel Drive (4th Street to 8th Street NE), Project 23105. Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for 21st Street SW (22nd Street to 3rd Avenue SW) and 22nd Street SW (Oakland Avenue West to 3rd Avenue SW), street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$ 160,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 21, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 21, 2023 for street improvements on 21st Street SW (22nd Street to 3rd Avenue SW) and 22nd Street SW (Oakland Avenue West to 3rd Avenue SW), Project 23106. Carried 7-0.

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

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Tim Sorgine spoke in favor of the legalization of cannabis.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City will propose \$21 million as the proposed bonding figure for the legislature for the waste water treatment plant expansion.

Council Member Baskin noted Don Fox and Len Schulte passed recently.

Council Member-at-Large Austin also stated Mr. Fox will be missed.

Council Member Helle reported on the Culture and Arts commission that they received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for a mural. She also stated the AAUW story show is this coming Saturday at the college. She stated she is aware of conflict and problems at the City and she stated she would like to view people in the light of wanting the best for the City.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting to January 17, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:21 p.m.

Approved: January 17, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____