

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 6, 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, 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, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAUS Radio, Terry Petersen, Honorary Council Member George Thomas

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

Consent Agenda Additions

(mot) 4. Licenses:

Massage Therapist: Christine Stiehm, 401 North Main Street
Exempt Gambling: LIFE Mower County on April 19, 2023

Appointment:

Kelsey Ritchie to the Pillars of the City – term expiring December 31, 2023

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving Council minutes from January 17, 2023. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King recognized Terry Petersen on his retirement from the Fire Department and thanked him for his service to the community. Mr. Petersen stated he enjoyed his career with the City.

Mayor King read a proclamation declaring February 11, 2023 as Michael Ruzek Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Minnesota Deer Farmers Association on March 11, 2023
Food: Windrift Sports Bar & Grill, 2511 11th Street NE
Food: Papa Murphy's Pizza, 402 1st Avenue SW
Food: Pho Kayah Co., 1426 1st Avenue SW # 3
Massage Therapist and Establishment: Daniel Stalkamp and DS Massage
Mobile Business: Chick-fil-A Ear of Corn, 1201 Broadway South, Suite 100, Rochester
Mobile Business: La Borinqua, 205 McArthur Dr, Albert Lea
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on February 17-18, 2023
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts on February 25, 2023
Temporary Liquor: Mower County Ag Society on February 24-15, 2023
Temporary Liquor: Mower County Ag Society on August 8-13, 2023
Tobacco: Kush Clouds, 213 North Main Street
Massage Therapist: Christine Stiehm, 401 North Main Street
Exempt Gambling: LIFE Mower County on April 19, 2023

Appointment to Boards and Commissions:

Kelsey Ritchie to the Pillars of the City – term expiring December 31, 2023

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card and Financial Reports.

Carried 6-0 with Council Member Helle abstaining.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving the reclassifying of the grant funded environmental education outreach coordinator position to a grant funded nature center teacher/aid position. Carried.

City Clerk Ann Kasel reviewed proposed liquor ordinance changes requesting a modification to the residency requirement for a liquor manager. The proposed change would allow the manager to live within 50 miles of Austin. She also requested updated language for temporary licenses to align with recent changes in State laws.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, for preparation of the liquor ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, for

adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel reviewed proposed licensing ordinance changes by requesting the removal of licensing requirements for plumbers, mechanical amusement devices, pool tables and bowling.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, for preparation of the licensing ordinance. Carried.

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

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a \$42 million dollar loan with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for funding the upcoming waste water treatment plant project. He stated the interest rate is 1.912%.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution authorizing a \$42,216,633 general obligation waste water revenue note. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a three-year labor agreement with the International Association of Firefighters. The agreement includes a 4% raise for 2023; 3% for 2024; and 3% for 2025; amongst other contract changes.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a labor agreement with IAFF for 2023-2025. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City agreed to implement a plan for the buy-down of both single and family out of pocket maximums as part of the new health insurance programs. He requested the Council approve the buy-down plan.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution adopting a health reimbursement arrangement buy-down plan. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested a change to the UAW Waste Water Treatment Plant contract modifying the provision requiring them to contribute 100% of their unused sick leave to their HSCP.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving a HSCP contract addendum for the UAW WWTP. Carried 7-0.

Fire Chief Jim McCoy stated the retirement of Terry Petersen resulted in two openings in the fire department. He requested the Council approve the promotion of Josh Kunze to commander and the hiring of Matt Wyse to fill Josh's fire prevention specialist position.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin,

approving the promotion of Josh Kunze as a commander and hiring of Matt Wyse as fulltime fire prevention specialist in the Fire Department. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a \$2,000,000 grant application for the 2027 fiscal year for the reconstruction of 1st Avenue SW from South Main Street to 12th Street SW. The grant would come from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and the grants are highly competitive.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a grant application for 1st Avenue SW reconstruction. Carried 7-0.

Mayor King read the donors to the 2023 flower program and thanked them for their generosity to the City.

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

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve \$3,000 from 2023 contingency for new art on the main floor of City Hall.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, approving \$3,000 from 2023 contingency for photos and framing at City Hall. Carried 4-3 with Council Members Baskin, Baker and Council Member-at-Large Austin voting nay.

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 2010 11th Avenue NE, Jacobsen property. Carried.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Honorary Council Member George Thomas noted he would like to receive more communications and be acknowledged in the roll call.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated the roll call is to document if there is a quorum.

Mayor King stated he would acknowledge that Mr. Thomas is present at the meetings.

REPORTS

Council Member Baskin noted the Accelerate Austin meeting will be held tomorrow.

Council Member Postma stated some of the Council members went to St. Paul recently on legislative action day.

Council Member Helle reported the Culture and Arts Commission is working on diversity training. 4th Avenue Fest will be held on Wednesday, June 14th. There will be another emerald

ash borer meeting on February 15th at 7 p.m. at the YMCA at ACRC. She noted the HRA has funding for daycare forgivable loans for businesses in Mower County.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adjourning the meeting to February 21, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:58 p.m.

Approved: February 21, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____