

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 21, 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, 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, Bonnie Reitz, Dani Heiny, Lanell Sunde, Joel Schieck, Public

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

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from February 6, 2023. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Edible Cannabinoid: Dragon Smoke Shop, 803 18th Avenue NW, Suite 1
Lodging Establishment: Matira Balsley, 411 1st Street SW
Massage Therapist: Patrick Whalen, 401 North Main Street
Right of Way: Jordan Drilling Solutions, LLC, Inver Grove Heights
Right of Way: Lamont Concrete, 56837 180th Street
Tobacco: Dragon Smoke Shop, 803 18th Avenue NW, Suite 1

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills

b. Investment and Financial Report.

Event Applications:

Shamrockin' Run on April 15, 2023
Taste of Nations on May 20, 2023
Kids Fishing Contest on July 1, 2023
Freedom Festival on July 3 & 4, 2023

Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Frechno Boko to the Parks and Recreation Board – term expiring December 31, 2026
Marsha Podein to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority – term expiring December 31, 2027
Matthew Talmadge to the Culture and Arts Commission – term expiring December 31, 2023
Megan Burroughs to the Planning Commission – term expiring December 31, 2026

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 5th Avenue NW (20th Street to 22nd Street NW), 6th Avenue NW (22nd Street NW to Dead End) and 20th Street NW (4th Avenue NW to Dead End), Project 18105.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated there was a public open house the week prior for all the proposed street projects. He stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk and curb. Sidewalk will also be extended to areas that do not currently have sidewalk. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will be completed in two phases beginning in July. The total project is estimated to cost \$900,000.

Mr. Wenum noted adjacent property owners will be assessed per the City's street assessment policy at an interest rate of 5%. Property owners will have the option to pay the assessment in full, pay 50% of the assessment and have the remainder go on their real estate taxes or have all of the assessment go on their real estate taxes. The payment options would apply to every street project.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 18105. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 1st Street NW (Oakland Ave W to 1st Drive NW), Project 23101.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new concrete street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will be completed in three phases beginning in May. The total project cost is projected to be \$1,825,000.

Mr. Wenum noted the intersection at 4th Avenue and 1st Street will be changed from a stop light to a 4-way stop.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23101. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held 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.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. There will be sidewalk added on City property to connect to a current bike trail. The project will be completed in two phases beginning in May. The total project is projected to cost \$1,115,000.

Council Member Baskin asked why all the sidewalk is being replaced on the project.

Mr. Wenum stated it is the City policy to replace all of the sidewalk if over 50% of the sidewalk is deficient. The City surveys the sidewalks to determine if they meet the ADA requirements. He noted some of the sidewalk is stamped from 1939. He added that if there are areas that were recently replaced then it's a possibility for them to be removed.

Lanell Sunde, 1004 2nd Drive SW, asked if the road is going to be widened on 10th Avenue.

Mr. Wenum stated the street is currently very narrow but they do plan to widen the roadway by a foot.

Joel Schieck, 300 10th Avenue SW, asked why they are going to install curb along 10th Avenue SW.

Mr. Wenum stated the City wants to have curb and gutter on all streets to protect the roadway because the watershed will damage the roadway and cause erosion.

There were no additional public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23102. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held 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.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new asphalt street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. Sidewalk will be installed where it is not currently. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will be completed in three phases beginning in May. The total project is projected to cost \$1,175,000.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23103. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 8th Street NE (16th Avenue to 18th Avenue NE) and lift station construction at 16th Avenue & 8th Street NE, Projects 23104 & 23201.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will remove the existing road and curb and replace with a new concrete street along with removing and replacing the deficient sidewalk. Underground utilities will be repaired or replaced. The project will be completed in two phases beginning in late 2023 and the street reconstruction in 2024. The total project is projected to cost \$2,400,000.

Mr. Wenum noted that the assessments would be removed for 2023 and the City would redo the assessments in 2024.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23104. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on Hormel Drive (4th Street to 8th Street NE), Project 23105.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will mill and overlay the roadway. The project will be completed in June or July. The total project cost is projected to be \$275,000.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23105. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for street improvements on 3rd Avenue SW (20th Street to 21st Street SW), 21st Street SW (22nd Street to 6th Avenue SW) and 22nd Street SW (Oakland Avenue to 3rd Avenue SW), Project 23106.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated the City will complete a mill and overlay on the roadway beginning in June or July. The total project is projected to cost \$230,000.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution ordering improvement, approving plans and specifications, and ordering advertisement for bids on Project 23106. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution setting public hearings for March 20, 2023 for street improvement project assessments. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, dedicating the Michael Ruzek Tree Trek. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a paving assessment policy and a sidewalk assessment policy. Carried.

Mayor King requested the Council adopt Juneteenth as a 2023 as was brought up by Council at the February 6, 2023 work session.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting Juneteenth as a 2023 holiday. Carried.

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

Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann requested the Council adopt revisions to the travel policy including increases for meal allowances and reducing the overnight lodging mileage from 125 miles to 75 miles.

Council Member Baskin asked what the financial impact would be.

Ms. Wiechmann stated it doesn't appear it will be a large expense.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting revisions to the travel policy. Carried.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated Bonnie Reitz requested \$1,000 toward funding the costs of having the Our Austin, Our America exhibit at the State Capital from March 13th to June 30th.

Bonnie Reitz thanked the City for their participation in the project so far and invited the Council to the opening of the gallery on March 13th.

Dani Heiny stated the funding would go toward additional framing and additional book printing.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a \$1,000 funding request for Our Austin, Our America from 2023 contingency. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Dave Merrill requested the Council add a January 1, 2023 effective date to the recent reclassification of the Nature Center teacher/aid position.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the reclassifying of the grant funded environmental education outreach coordinator position to a grant funded nature center teacher/aid position effective as of January 1, 2023. Motion failed 4-3 with Council Members Poshusta, Postma, Baker, Baskin voting nay.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, granting a gambling premise permit for Austin Youth Hockey. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 510 3rd Avenue SE, Lindahl Property. Carried.

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 1008 13th Avenue NE, Dieser Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City declared a snow emergency beginning at midnight for 72 hours with no parking downtown from 1 am until 8 am and even/odd parking in residential areas.

Council Member Helle reported that the Culture and Arts Committee also supported the Our Austin, Our America project.

Council Member Baker congratulated City leaders for good fiscal 2022 year.

Council Member Baskin stated he recently went to state capital with the local legislators and congratulated the Austin Packer Dance Team on making it to state.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting to March 6, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:37 p.m.

Approved: March 6, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____