

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta, Mike Postma, Geoff Baker and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, and City Attorney Craig Byram

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAUS Radio, Honorary Council Member Denver Ritz

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

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, approving Council minutes from March 20, 2023. Carried.

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

The Mayor introduced Denver Ritz as the new Honorary Council Member for the next six council meetings.

Mayor King read a proclamation in support of the Minnesota Orchestra, Common Chords Orchestra Week

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Commercial Hauler: Harter's Disposal of Minnesota, LLC, LaCrosse  
Food: Compass Group USA, Inc., 1101 Main Street South  
Food: The Sunny Spot, LLC, 107 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE

Residential Hauler: Harter's Disposal of Minnesota, LLC, LaCrosse  
Right of Way: Midwest Diversified Utilities, Ellendale  
Sign Installation: Hutch & Sons Builders, PO Box 632  
Temporary Liquor: Mower County Historical Society on April 25, 2023  
Temporary Liquor: Pacelli Catholic Schools on April 29, 2023  
Temporary Liquor: Gravity Storm Brewery at Nature Center on April 11, 2023

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

Father's Day Bike Show on June 18, 2023  
Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2023

Carried.

## BID OPENINGS AND AWARDS

The City received the following bids for asphalt emulsion oil:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Henry G. Meigs	\$ 54,450
Flint Hills Resources	No bid

Public Works Director Steven Lang noted we have reduced the amount of oil to be used by about half for the chip sealing program based on our review of the 2023 projects.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, awarding the bid for asphalt emulsion oil to Henry G. Meigs. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for bituminous materials:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$ 290,250	\$ 36,000	\$ 326,250
Rochester Sand and Gravel	No bid		

Public Works Director Steven Lang noted we base the total final bid using a mileage calculation since the City hauls this from the vendor's site.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, awarding the bid for bituminous materials to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for asphalt street mill and overlay projects:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$ 338,828.95
Rochester Sand and Gravel	\$ 420,534.10
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 427,287.50

Public Works Director Steven Lang noted the streets included in this project are 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SW, 21<sup>st</sup> Street SW, 22<sup>nd</sup> Street SW and Hormel Drive.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, awarding the bid for asphalt street mill and overlay projects to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for asphalt street reconstruction projects:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$ 1,895,750.82
Rochester Sand and Gravel	\$ 2,084,734.35
Elcor Construction	\$ 2,137,950.50
R.A.W. Construction	\$ 2,173,174.25
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 1,967,790.50

Public Works Director Steven Lang noted the streets included in this project are 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, 20<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, awarding the bid for asphalt street reconstruction projects to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

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

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council adopt a resolution approving the second agreement extension for the fixed-based operator at the Austin Municipal Airport that would run through April 2028.

Council Member Baskin questioned if there are others that do the same fixed base operator overseeing airports. Mr. Lang noted yes, there are several companies/individuals that do this for other area airports including, Rochester, Owatonna, Albert Lea, and Waseca.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the second extension of the agreement for the fixed base operator at the Austin Municipal Airport. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a contract with WHKS for the northwest sector of the I & I program. Mr. Lang noted this is the last sector to be completed in our program, which started back in 2018.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a contract with WHKS for the northeast sector of the I & I program. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a contract with SRF for sanitary sewer design on Hwy 218 & 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Mr. Lang stated this sewer was originally directionally bored underneath Hwy 218/14<sup>th</sup> Street. However, we have had multiple maintenance issues as the sewer line has settled, and now would be the ideal time to fix the problem while the bridge projects are underway.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a contract with SRF for sanitary sewer design for Hwy 218 & 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Clark noted the contract with Director of Administrative Services allows for Council to approve up to 3% of the prior year's salary for exceptional performance pay. Mr. Clark noted the efforts on KSMQ, the PFA loan for the wastewater treatment plant, budget and reduced tax levy as accomplishments this last year and recommends the \$4,140.86 of exceptional performance pay.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving the exceptional performance pay for the Director of Administrative Services. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Clark discussed a proposed resolution in support of the opioid settlement in the multistate settlements with the State of Minnesota. We are requested to approve the resolution in support such that the State of Minnesota can then receive its share of the proceeds. These proceeds are then passed down to Minnesota counties for efforts to combat the opioid crisis.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, adopting a resolution approving the proposed opioid settlement. Carried 7-0.

Motion by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, appointing Geoff Smith to the Austin Port Authority Board with a term expiring December 31, 2026. Carried 7-0.

#### HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Honorary Council Member Denver Ritz thanked Council for the opportunity to learn.

## REPORTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang City noted we have sent out a noise barrier survey to residents in the affected area and have scheduled a meeting at 4:30 in the council chambers on April 12 for any council members that are interested.

Public Works Director noted in Cresthaven Addition we have a leak in the force main (27<sup>th</sup> Street NW) that was constructed about 30 years ago. We have now repaired the force main three different times and it appears rock that had been used to backfill on top of the pipe has created holes. We do not have this budgeted for an estimated \$75,000 repair but wanted to ensure council knew about it in case they receive calls.

Council Member Poshusta thanked Council Member Baker for his work on the noise barrier and the email he sent out. Council Member Poshusta wished everybody a Happy Easter.

Council Member Baskin wished all of the spring sports participants good luck.

Council Member Baker thanked Mr. Lang for his work with the neighbors in the sound barrier area. Council Member Baker noted if the City does get any money from the opioid settlement, let's spend it wisely as Council Member Baker noted he had a sister that died from opioids. Lastly, we approved a much-deserved contractually required payment to Mr. Dankert, which was a good thing, but we shouldn't have to do this in a public meeting for the one employee having to prove his/her worth in a public meeting every year, and we should review this process as this is not fair for anybody that is involved. Let's look at this contract to do this in a more civil manner.

Council Member Postma noted the position Discover Austin received funding from the City of Austin for is paying off with additional success for next year. The HRA met this week, with things still going well on the affordable housing complex. A few minor things exist after the first two environmental study's that we hope to take care of without having to do a third study. Finally, on April 12, the Hometown Food Security Project is working on a community action plan from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Council Member Helle noted the Culture and Arts Commission continues to work on bringing in a group to do justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion training through comedy. Mower County has committed to one training session. City department heads can choose to send their employees or not. The 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fest is being moved to June 7 to take advantage of the usage of the municipal pool. Parks, Recreation, and Forestry have another emerald ash borer meeting on April 13 at 6:30 at Izaak Walton Cabin. There is also another program called Tree Steward Training to be held all day at the Nature Center on Saturday April 15. Finally, occasionally I get comments from citizens about the city finances and is everything above board, and Council Member Helle noted she can resoundingly assure our citizens that we have things really buttoned down and we follow the policies and procedures.

Mayor King noted he joined the board with the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities, noting that he received many positive comments about Craig Clark and his efforts at the Capital

to testify and help the causes of southern Minnesota. Mayor King also noted the meeting last week with a Portuguese delegation.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to April 17, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:00 p.m.

Approved: April 17, 2023

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_