

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill, City Attorney Craig Byram, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Susan Strandberg

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

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

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baker, approving Council minutes from June 20, 2023. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Mobile Business: Goette Farms, Bricelyn, MN
Temporary Food: American Legion Post 91 on August 19, 2023
Temporary Food: La Senda Antigua on July 2 – 4, 2023
Temporary Food: Salvation Army on August 19, 2023

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

River Rats Car Show on August 18, 2023

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a financing and development agreement for the 1st and 3rd Apartments. He stated the City, HRA and Three Rivers have been working on this project for a 40-unit apartment complex east of the post office. He noted the State legislature reduced the state class tax rate for this type of property from .75% to .25% which will reduce the potential maximum repayment amounts through the TIF district. The resolution further authorizes the Mayor and City Recorder to sign additional project documents. He stated the Council had approved additional financing from the City at previous meetings.

Susan Strandberg with Three Rivers stated they are excited for the project to begin in late July.

Council Member Baker asked if providing insurance is material to the agreement.

City Attorney Craig Byram affirmed there needs to be insurance on the property or they would be in default.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a financing and development agreement for the 1st and 3rd Apartments. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve budget adjustment number 4 which would modify the 2023 budgets for wage increases and health insurance benefits now that all the bargaining groups have settled their contracts.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving budget adjustment number 4. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approved budget adjustment number 5 for the library construction project. The requested adjustment would allocate Library balance for a LED lighting and security camera update in the Library.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving budget adjustment number 5. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a contract with Austin Associates Organization for 2023-2025. The labor agreement is similar to the other settled contracts in regards to wage and health insurance increases. He stated this is the final labor contract to be settled.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a labor contract with Austin Associates Organization for years 2023-2025. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a contract with MnDot for the maintenance of highway 105. The contract is a two-year agreement and accounts for a 4.5% increase annually.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a maintenance agreement for Highway 105 with MnDot. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve MnDNR grant amendment #3 for the construct of a flood levee at the waste water treatment plant. The agreement specifies that the City has matching funds for the completion of the project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution approving flood hazard mitigation grant for a Waste Water Treatment Plant project. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang the City solicited quotes for snow plowing operations route optimization and automated vehicle locating services. C2Logix provided a quote in the amount of \$18,539 for review and optimization of the show plow routes and CompassCom as provided a quote in the amount of \$7,867.20 for automatic vehicle locating services for 11 snow plow trucks. Mr. Lang recommended approval of the contracts with funding coming from 2023 contingency.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a contract for automated vehicle location services with C2Logix and route optimization contract with CompassCom with funding from 2023 contingency. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

Mayor King presented a proposed policy for employee affiliation with outside agencies.

Council Member Poshusta stated she would like to discuss the matter on a work session.

Moved by Council Member Poshusta, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, tabling the policy for employee affiliation with outside entities to a future work session.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, declaring the property at 308 12th Avenue SW a hazardous structure. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 909 3rd Avenue NW, Greene Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1011 4th Street SE, Nystel Property. Carried.

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 1200 4th Street SE, Olson Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1416 7th Avenue NW, McFarland Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member Postma thanked the individuals working on Freedom Fest.

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

Adjourned: 5:50 p.m.

Approved: July 17, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____