

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 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, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAUS, Bob Hartman, Megan Dilley-Jones, Evan Fischer

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 Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving Council minutes from July 17, 2023. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Edible Cannabinoid: Cheers Liquor, 502 12th Avenue NW
Exempt Gambling: Austin Morning Lions on October 27, 2023
Massage Therapist: Betsy House, Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Massage Therapist: Ehler Paw, 506 Wayside Avenue, Albert Lea
Sign Installer: Rose City, Inc, Eagle Bend

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Credit Card Report
- c. Settlement Agreement with Chad Norman

Appointments:

Katie Stromlund to the Pillars of the City Committee, term expiring December 31, 2025

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

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

Public Works Director Steven Lang reviewed an annexation ordinance which would annex portions of Interstate 90 within Austin city limits.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, for adoption and publication of the annexation ordinance. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, for publication of the annexation ordinance. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City entered into a lease in October of 2019 with KSMQ Public Service Media for the City owned KSMQ building. As part of the lease, the City is required to set a lease value based on the cost of construction, term of the agreement and comparable lease rates. The City determined that the lease rate would be \$22,916 per month if the City were to charge, which it does not.

Council Member Baker asked how the lease rate was determined.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the lease rate is determined by the cost of building along with comparable rents.

Bob Hartman, 1003 10th Street NW, stated the total build value was divided by the end of useful life of the lease, which is 20 years, to determine the lease rate. They also compared the building to other commercial properties in Austin.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving an amendment to lease with KSMQ Public Service Media, Inc. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he received a letter requesting the City sign off on a small easement area in Oakwood Cemetery. Mr. Clark stated the City Attorney reviewed the letter and it is unlikely the City has any interest in the property.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a quitclaim deed to the State of Minnesota as part of an eminent domain acquisition. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an ICM agreement with NuTek Biosciences, LLC. The agreement specifies the strong waste charges that the business can discharge into the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The agreement runs through December 31, 2023.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving an ICM agreement with NuTek Biosciences, LLC. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert reviewed the Public Facilities Authority loan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He stated it is a requirement that the Council review the loan each year to ensure that the City has adequate deposits in the debt service fund balance to make the debt service payments. He stated the total loan is proposed to be \$42 million but the City has only drawn \$50,001 on the loan so far. Mr. Dankert stated that no Council action is required.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 922 2nd Avenue NE a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1202 4th Street SE, Anthenat Property. Carried. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he federal government rejected the City's request for funding for the waste water treatment plant.

Council Member Fischer thanked Dave Merrill for his service to the City.

Council Member-at-Large Austin also thanked Mr. Merrill for his service and wished him luck in the future.

Council Member Postma thanked the agencies participating in National Night Out.

Council Member Helle stated the mural on the east wall of the pool building is going up and stated murals are less likely to be vandalized than a blank wall. She complimented the Library and Library Board drag queen story hour. She also thanked Dave Merrill for service to the City of Austin.

Park and Rec Director Dave Merrill thanked the summer seasonal staff for their hard work. He stated the pool managers Megan Dilley-Jones and Evan Fischer did a fantastic job.

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

Adjourned: 5:47 p.m.

Approved: August 21, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2023
AFTER THE WORK SESSION
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert and City Clerk Ann Kasel

APPEARING IN PERSON:

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

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

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member Baker, to close the meeting pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.05, Subd. 3(c)(3) to develop or consider offers for the purchase of real estate identified as 34.001.0580 and 34.001.0590. Carried.

See DVD of Closed Meeting.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Helle, to return to open session.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Fischer, to approve a purchase agreement and associated documents for the purchase of 310 2nd Street NE. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adjourning the meeting to August 21, 2023. Carried.

Adjourned: 8:26 p.m.

Approved: August 21, 2023

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____