

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
February 5, 2024  
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: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon, City Attorney Craig Byram, Human Resources Director Tricia Wiechmann, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KAUS Radio

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 Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from January 16, 2024. Carried.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### Licenses:

- Exempt Gambling (raffle): Mower County Habitat & Pheasants Forever on March 9, 2024
- Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Arts on March 23, 2024
- Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Arts on April 5, 2024
- Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Arts on April 27, 2024
- Temporary Liquor: Mower County Fair/Ag Society on March 1-2, 2024
- Right of Way: Mr. MTC Services, LLC (Medford, MN)
- Massage Therapist: Betsy House (Ellsworth, WI)
- Right of Way: Bustad Dozing & Excavating Inc. (Taopi, MN)
- Mobile Business: Goette Farms (Bricelyn, MN)
- Tree Service: Pat's Tree Service, LLC (Lyle, MN)
- Right of Way: Austin Electric Inc. (1111 5<sup>th</sup> Place SE)

Right of Way: Harty Mechanical, Inc. (1600 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE)

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Investment Report.

Appointments:

Sarv Mithaqiyan to the Culture and Arts Commission – term through December 31, 2026

Carried. 6-0 (Council Member Helle – Abstain)

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Work Director Steven Lang discussed the MnDot Airport Grant for the Fuel System Project. The Fuel System Replacement has been an item in the CIP. It has been a top Airport item and the City became eligible for a grant in late 2023. Overall, this project is budgeted at \$600,000.

SEH is the design consultant service for this project. It will cost \$82,400 for their services. Mr. Lang anticipates the city receiving a state grant to cover 70% of the project design costs. The amount of \$57,680 would be covered by a state grant. Local costs would be \$24,720. We recommend that council approve the state grant to cover 70% of the project design.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta adopting a resolution to accept the state grant for the project design. Carried 7-0

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated that there is an annual requirement to have an audit done. The amount of \$50,715 is the proposed quote from CliftonLarsonAllen to perform the audit. If we want to change auditors, we must do so now so we can do an RFP and start that in late spring. Mr. Dankert is requesting CLA to do the Audit.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin to approve the audit engagement letter and authorize the Mayor and Director of Administrative Services to sign the engagement letter for the 2023. Carried 7-0

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a proposal from Recreation Engineering and Planning. This is a time sensitive item. They would like to install water level loggers in the Cedar River in the late winter to capture flow rates in the spring. This is part of the Whitewater project. The cost to do this is \$7,000. We would use a donation we received from the Fraternal Order of the Eagles to pay for this. Resulting in no cost to the city.

If we didn't do this and waited until the design was done, it would delay the project another year. Council Member Fisher requested information on what the results would provide. Mr. Wenum stated that it would help to calibrate the river model when they go to look at the flood plain impacts of the project.

Moved by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Postma to accept the proposal from Recreation Engineering and Planning and using the funding from the Fraternal Order of the Eagles to pay for the project. Carried 6-1 (Council Members Baker – Nay).

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert spoke of the requirement to establish a resolution appointing the Election Judges for the 2024 Election. Requesting we approve the election judges for the 2024 election.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin to approve the resolution appointing Election Judges. Carried 7-0

The Mayor recognized all who have donated to the Austin Flower Basket Program for 2024. He requested that donations be accepted.

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

#### CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Business Oriental Pearl 506 W. Oakland Avenue – “Jade” and Partner Ping Wang spoke about their property being zoned B-2 Commercial but they consider their property as residential and commercial mixed together. The city sent a letter of refusal for their business due to this reasoning. They ask that City Council work with them on a solution. Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace spoke about the live/work situation. Mayor stated that the city staff would work with the business owners and if a solution could not be found it could be brought back to council.

#### REPORTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang gave a reminder of the February 14th Street Project Open House/Informational Meeting- Informal Setting from 5:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. and on February 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a Public Hearing. Information and feedback will be presented to the council on the 20<sup>th</sup> from the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Helle welcomed Sarv Mithaqiyan to Culture and Arts Commission.

Council Member Baker was happy to see the amount of people from the City that have donated to the Flower Program.

Council Member Baskin welcomed the new City Clerk, Brianne Wolf. He stated that the European Delegation was in town and we should feel good about them visiting Austin and the good work taking place in our community. He urged citizens to volunteer with Hometown Food Security Project.

Council Member Poshusta expressed her condolences to the Family of Roger Boughton and welcome to the new City Clerk.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Austin, adjourning the meeting to February 20, 2024. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:00 p.m.

Approved: February 20, 2024

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

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