

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
April 15, 2024
City Council Chambers

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Steve King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, Geoff Baker, Michael Postma, and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Council Member Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta, Council Member Laura Helle exited at 6:22 p.m.
- STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, City Attorney Craig Byram, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Parks and Recreation Director Jason Sehon, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf
- APPEARING IN PERSON:** Austin Daily Herald, KAUS Radio, Michael Ruzek, Austin Chamber of Commerce Members Eileen, Chance, and Joe, DCA Member John Garry.

Mayor King opened the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Item No. 1 Mower County Veterans Memorial

Mike Ruzek from the Mower County Veterans Memorial Board presented on the Memorial Renovation project. The project started in 1990 with 319 names of veterans who died in conflict. In 2008, they created the Walk of Remembrance, and this was an opportunity for all veteran to be added to the memorial and to be honored. This also helped to create additional revenue.

Mr. Ruzek stated that over the years the pavers have had maintenance issues and they are running out of room. They are in the process of renovating and within the next week they will have finalized plans. The total costs for this project are going to be around \$175,000-\$200,000. With this project the maintenance needs will be eliminated. They will be able to place around 700 more pavers at this site and this design can carry forward into the future if needed. He stated this would also allow more room for ceremonies. Mr. Ruzek stated that they would appreciate any financial assistance that the City can contribute.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Ruzek, stated that the City should stand behind honoring our veterans and help the cause. He is hopeful that the council can honor them with some financial participation.

Council had no questions. The Mayor stated they were missing a few council members so they would be in touch once they had the opportunity to discuss it with them.

Item will be placed onto next work session agenda.

Item No. 2 Proposal from the Chamber of Commerce to Amend Zoning Use Table Ordinance

The Austin Chamber of Commerce was going to present on a proposal to amend the zoning use table ordinance for the downtown area. Elaine Hansen, President of the Chamber, stated they would like to table this idea for now. The Chamber would request to talk more about this in the future.

Chaunce Stanton, Director of Marketing & Communications for the Chamber, thanked the council for hearing them. He stated that this is a tactical solution to approaching their vision of downtown Austin.

Mayor King thanked them both and stated that the timing is right as the City looks at the downtown comprehensive plan.

Item No. 3 Ice Removal Riverside Arena

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Sehon spoke about removing the ice at Riverside Arena and performing maintenance. He stated the last time the ice was removed was in 2020. The total cost would be \$22,666.94. City staff and City equipment would be used to perform these tasks. The Bruins Hockey team would partner with the City to assist with the removal. They will contribute a maximum of \$12,000 and offer manpower assistance. Mr. Sehon stated the funding for the ice removal is not in the current 2024 budget. He is looking to see if the funding could come from contingency.

Council Member Baker asked Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert what the true incremental costs would be to the City with this proposal. Mr. Dankert stated that it would be costs attributed to extra electricity and if board replacement needs to occur. Also, it would take away from any other projects that the street department may have going on. Public Works Director Steven Lang stated it will cost \$10,000. Mr. Dankert stated they would then split that cost 50/50 with the Bruins.

Mayor King appreciates the meetings that have been going on with staff and the Bruins.

Motion to approve by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma. The item will be placed on the May 6, 2024 City Council Agenda. Carried 3-1(Baker-Nay)

Item No. 4 Uber/Lyft Update

City Clerk Brianne Wolf gave an update on the status of Uber and Lyft to see if they were interested in coming to Austin. Ms. Wolf stated that Assistant Clerk Wanda Hatfield reached out

to Uber and received no response. Ms. Hatfield reached out to Lyft and they responded, stating that they are not taking on any new partnerships at this time.

Item No. 5 Storm Sewer Inventory Project

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum stated they would like to complete a storm sewer inspection and inventory. Mr. Wenum stated they are looking to collect more information on where the catch basins and manholes are, the condition of the sewers, and if they are doing a street project they would know where the storm sewer was located.

They reached out to WHKS for a proposal on how much it would cost to complete this project. Mr. Wenum stated it would be approximately \$850,000 over 4 years. Mr. Wenum stated they have \$250,000 budgeted each year for this project. He stated with this project, City crews would be utilized to assist and we would use the City’s televising trailer. This would be a cost savings of \$140,000 for the first phase.

Year	Quadrant	# of Structures	Length of Pipes	Cost
2024	SE	706	71,100	\$150,000
2025	SW	1,429	127,167	\$255,000*
2026	NE	973	82,954	\$194,000*
2027	NW	1,386	127,736	\$251,000*
	Total	4,494	408,957	\$850,000

*Estimated Future Cost

Motion to approve by Council Member Baker and seconded by Council Member Postma. The item will be placed on the May 6, 2024 City Council Agenda.

Administrative Report

City Administrator Craig Clark gave a reminder that there will be a Kick-Off meeting with Sicora Consulting on April 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Austin Utilities.

Open Discussion

City Clerk Brianne Wolf stated that she placed an election judge brochure on each council members seat. Ms. Wolf dispersed these around the community and was open to suggestions on other locations to place these. Ms. Wolf also stated that they will be offering split shifts this year for election judges.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma, adjourning the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brianne D. Wolf, City Clerk