

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 2, 2025  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Laura Helle, Michael Postma, Jason Baskin, Oballa Oballa 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, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Park and Rec Director Jason Schon, Planning and Zoning Director Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, City Attorney Craig Byram and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, KSMQ representative Laura Archbold, Discover Austin representative Nancy Schnable, Officers from the Austin Police Department, Mary Hagen, Victor Ordonez, and many community members.

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

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert administered the oath of office to Oballa Oballa.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving Council minutes from May 19, 2025 & May 28, 2025 meetings. Carried.

Sergeant Osborne from the Austin Police Department recognized Chaplain Victor Ordonez for the work he has done for the department and the community. Sergeant Osborne presented him with a plaque and a letter of commendation from the police department. He introduced the new pastor, Dan Mielke, who will be assisting the Austin Police Department in place of Chaplain Ordonez.

Mayor King introduced Mary Hagen. Ms. Hagen was at a sporting event a few weeks ago, and there was a medical emergency where she had to perform CPR on a child less than a year old. Her measures helped save the life of the young child. Mayor King presented Ms. Hagen with a Key to the City for her quick action and lifesaving efforts.

KSMQ representative Laura Archbold presented the 2024 local content and service report to the Council. She thanked the Council and citizens of Austin for their ongoing support.

Discover Austin representative Nancy Schnable presented the 2024 annual report to Council.

Mayor King thanked Ms. Schnable for all her work with Discover Austin.

Council Member Helle stated that the year-over-year numbers look good. She asked Ms. Schnable the reason this is happening, if she anticipates this will continue, and does she need any additional support.

Ms. Schnable stated they are bouncing back from COVID and have hotels that have completed their renovations, offering availability to host travelers.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

### Licenses:

Temporary Liquor: Angry Hog Brewery & Taproom on July 3 & 4, 2025

### Appointments to Board and Commissions:

Oballa Oballa to the Human Rights Commission – term expiring December 31, 2026

Oballa Oballa to the SMART Transit Advisory Committee – term expiring December 31, 2026

Oballa Oballa to the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Committee – term expiring December 31, 2026

Oballa Oballa to the Blazing Star Trail Joint Powers Board – term expiring December 31, 2026

Arlen Schamber to the HRA Board – term expiring December 31, 2026

### Claims:

a. Pre-list of Bills

### Events:

Eagles Car Cruise in on Wednesday from June 4, 2025 – September 3, 2025

Graduation Party on June 7, 2025

“No Kings” Rally on June 14, 2025

Childcare Provider Appreciation Picnic on June 23, 2025

Freedom Festival 2025 on July 3 & 4, 2025

Darren Dash 14 5k with Freedom Fest 2025 on July 5, 2025

Vans National Museum Visit on July 8, 2025

Oldsmobile Auto Club on September 12, 2025

Carried.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated they discussed approving this contract at the previous work session, and he is seeking Council approval to move forward with the employee engagement training led by Dave Unmacht and Laura Kurshner.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving a contract with Dave Unmacht and Laura Kurshner for employee engagement training. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated this advance construction agreement allows for MnDOT to serve as the fiscal agent for the City of Austin to allow the acceptance of federal funding in relation to the Oakland Avenue/1st Avenue SW project. This project is scheduled to take place from 2025 to 2027. The federal grants will cover up to 80% of eligible costs. The term of this agreement is five years, but he anticipates this project will be completed before that. He stated a single audit will also be required. He requested council approval of this agreement with MnDOT to allow them to be the fiscal agent for advance construction.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, approving an agreement with MnDOT for advance construction. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated last year, they approved the project to replace the fueling system at the Austin Municipal Airport. This project is scheduled to begin after July 4, 2025. Mr. Lang stated as part of the project, the EPA is requiring a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan. SEH has provided a proposal to complete the required plan at a lump sum cost of \$7,100. He presented a grant that will cover 70% of the cost. He would recommend approval of this grant with MnDOT to cover 70% of the spill prevention plan, as the grant will cover \$4970 of the total \$7100 cost to develop the plan.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a grant with MnDOT for the replacement of the Airport fuel system and development of the SPCC plan. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Brienne Wolf requested Council approve a liquor license expansion for Dusty's Bar and Lounge to an outdoor seating area. Ms. Wolf stated Dusty's has fulfilled all requirements set forth by the City, obtained the necessary insurance, and signed the lease agreement.

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving an expansion of the liquor license at Dusty's Bar and Lounge to the alley area. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Helle, accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 511 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Ullwelling Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 801 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Millam Property. Carried.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

City Administrator Criag Clark stated he has not heard any new information on local LGA funding.

Library Director Julie Clinefelter stated the summer reading program started at the library. They had a foam party on the lawn this afternoon to kick it off. The program will run from June 2, 2025 to August 2, 2025.

Council Member Baskin welcomed Council Member Oballa Oballa. He thanked the candidates that applied for the open Third Ward Council position. He congratulated the recent 2025 graduates. He congratulated Mr. Lang on the recent birth of his granddaughter.

Council Member Postma stated the Housing Redevelopment Authority of Austin (HRA) home that was recently constructed by Riverland students will be up for sale. He stated Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> is Fourth Avenue Festival and encourages all to attend. He stated he is disappointed we do not have a budget from our legislature.

Council Member Helle reiterated 4<sup>th</sup> avenue fest will be held on Wednesday. She stated June is pride month. She also stated the municipal pool is now open but will be closed on Fridays due to a lifeguard shortage.

Council Member Oballa thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve on the Austin City Council.

Mayor King read the June City of Austin employee anniversaries.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Helle, adjourning the meeting to June 16, 2025. Carried.

Adjourned: \_\_\_\_\_ 6:13 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ June 16, 2025 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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