

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
June 16, 2025  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Laura Helle, Jason Baskin, Oballa Oballa and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Michael Postma

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Police Chief David McKichan, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann, City Attorney Craig Byram and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, approving the agenda as amended removing item number 6: Receiving bids for Oakland Ave/1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW project and removing item number 9: Approving an agreement with WHKS for construction administration for the 2025 Oakland Avenue project. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving Council minutes from June 2, 2025. Carried.

The new Human Resource Generalist Terri Derouin was introduced to Council.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Tree Service: Johanns Tree Service & More, Osage, IA

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of Bills
- b. Credit Card Report
- c. Investment Report

Events:

## Cruising for Christ on July 11, 2025

Carried.

### PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement requested by the Austin, Minnesota Housing & Redevelopment Authority. They are proposing to build a single-family home on a vacant lot located along 25<sup>th</sup> Street SW, parcel number 34.786.0010, valued at approximately \$350,000.00. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the application is in conformance with the City's policy for tax abatement.

There were no comments from the public.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving the tax abatement. Carried. 6-0.

### BID AND AWARDS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City of Austin received two bids for the connection of concession stands and restrooms in the North ball fields and the restrooms near the pavilion. Work will consist of excavating, sanitary sewer and service construction, and turf restoration. The lowest bidder was JJD Companies, LLC. He would recommend awarding the bid to this company.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, awarding the bid to JJD Companies, LLC. Carried. 6-0.

### PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested approval of work change order 8. Mr. Lang stated the directive is in the amount of \$79,704, which includes five work change directives valuing a \$51,930.88 cost increase to the Domestic budget and a \$27,773.12 cost increase to the Industrial budget.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, approving work change order number eight. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang request approval for a contract with SEH for the engineering, planning and design related to the WWTP Levee project. They are now moving into the construction phases of work planned for 2025-2027 and have received a proposal from SEH for engineering construction services. The SEH proposal is an hourly rate with a total estimated fee of \$420,700.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a contract with SEH for engineering services. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated MetroNet has requested an easement across City property for the installation of underground wire, conduit and junction boxes. The easement would be five feet in width and traverse along the west property line of the library and the south property line of the pool parkland. The goal of the easement is to get MetroNet service to the backside of the Paramount Theater. Staff has reviewed the easement documents, and they are consistent with standard agreements.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving an easement with MetroNet on a parcel behind the library. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving an easement with MetroNet on a parcel behind the Municipal Pool. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, approving funding for a HRA housing project. Carried 5-0. (Council Member Helle Abstaining)

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Planning Commission recently reviewed a request for a fence appeal. The request was for an eight-foot fence located at 2011 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. The Planning Commission recommended denying the request. The request is now being brought to Council.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, denying the fence appeal. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Planning Commission recently reviewed a variance request for a green space appeal from Astrup Pharmacy. The request is to reduce the green space from 20% to 11%. This would allow the business to increase their parking. The Planning Commission recommended approving the request. The request is now being brought to Council.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving the variance request. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

## REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Council Member Oballa stated his thoughts are with the families of the State Representatives who were affected in the shooting this past weekend. He thanked the police officers who assisted and the work they did.

Council Member Helle thanked all the partners who assisted with Fourth Avenue Fest. She thanked the Parks & Recreation Department for all the work they are doing during this time of year to keep the parks maintained, given the amount of rain the City is receiving. She expressed her sympathies to the families affected by the shooting this past weekend.

Council Member Baskin expressed his sympathies to all impacted by the recent events in Minnesota this weekend. He condemned all political violence. He thanked all law enforcement locally and statewide for all their efforts.

Mayor King stated there is a potluck for employees on June 24<sup>th</sup> and this is a great time for employees to come together.

Representative Patricia Mueller gave a brief update on the legislative session and thanked the Council for all their concerns and comments they had extended to her. If they have any additional questions or would like to discuss other topics, they are welcome to reach out to her.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated he may need to request a Special Council meeting once he receives an update on the Oakland Avenue/1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SW project to obtain approval for the bids. He will keep Council updated.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, adjourning the meeting to July 7, 2025. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:59 p.m.

Approved: July 7, 2025

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

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