

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**January 20, 2026**  
**City Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King, Council Members Laura Helle, Oballa Oballa, Paul Fischer, Michael Postma, Rebecca Waller, and Council Member-at-Large Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Police Chief David McKichan, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Director Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Director Jason Schon, Human Resource Director Trish Wiechman, Finance Director Emily Burns and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON:

Mayor Steve King opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

**Item #1 Home Serve Presentation – Ashley Shiwarski**

Public Works Director Steven Lang gave some background information on the HomeServe Service Line Warranty Program. The HomeServe Service Line Warranty Program provides two voluntary coverage options with no service fees, deductibles, or annual/lifetime limits. Participation is fully optional, and residents may cancel their coverage at any time.

- **Exterior Sewer Service Line:** Includes services to locate, excavate and repair/replace a leaking exterior sewer service line. Covered repairs include, but are not limited to leaks, breaks, corrosion, blockages (due to fats, oils and grease), root intrusion, and other types of damage (such as from freezing) that impair or limit the intended function of the system. Includes restoration of ground surface features after excavation for service line repair, including filling, raking, reseeding, reinstallation of existing soft landscaping and shrubbery, and patching of paved surfaces.

- **Internal Plumbing and Drainage:** Coverage includes the emergency breakdown costs of repairing or replacing interior water, sewer, and drainage pipe materials, valves and other plumbing-related material, including unblocking, repair and replacement. Repair of clogged toilets.

Mr. Lang stated the City would enter into a marketing agreement with HomeServe Service Line Program for a three-year term and they would use the City's logo on educational and

promotional materials. All marketing content will clearly state that the program and the City are separate entities and that participation is voluntary. HomeServe will develop all materials with City input and will submit all marketing and communication materials for final City approval. There would be no financial cost to the City and the City would receive 10% of the premiums collected, paid annually. He stated the point of sale working group endorsed this program as a tool for homeowners to access.

Home Serve Representative Ashley Shiwarski gave a presentation on the product they would like to introduce to the citizens of Austin.

Moved by Council Member Oballa, seconded by Council Member Postma for approval of the agreement with HomeServe. Carried.

The item will be on the February 2, 2026 Council Agenda.

### **Item #2 – SE Trunk Sewer Study Results – Steven Lang**

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated WHKS was contracted to analyze the trunk sewer main in the southwest portion of Austin. They were able to identify three options for the trunk line project:

- 1)Realign the trunkline along 8th Avenue SE - \$3,605,000
- 2)Realign the trunkline along 8th Street SE - \$3,275,000
- 3)Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining the existing trunkline - \$2,395,000

They determined option number three to be the most effective and the project would include the following:

- Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining of the existing trunk line provides improved performance, increased capacity and reduces I&I
- Rerouting sanitary flows on 4th Street SE
- Abandonment of 1860ft of sanitary sewer main, leaking wyes from former food acquisition buyouts on 8th Ave SE and elimination of a siphon under the Cedar River just west of South Main Street
- Grinder pump station installation for restrooms at Rotary Centennial park

Mr. Lang requests Council approval of option number three and will incorporate this into the five year capital improvement plan.

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member Oballa to approve option number three and carry forward into the capital improvement plan. Carried.

### **Item #3 – Parking Fines and Fees – Chief McKichan**

Chief McKichan stated during the last work session, it was acknowledged that the current parking fines in Austin need to be reviewed since they haven't been updated in years and do not accurately reflect associated costs. The existing fines are mostly \$10, with snow emergency violations at \$25 and a \$5 late fee after 5 days.

Chief McKichan stated after comparing cities near Austin and close in population size he would propose new fines for Austin be \$25 for normal parking violations and \$40 for snow emergencies, and a \$10 late fee after ten days.

Council Member-at-Large Austin would like the snow emergencies fees to be increased to \$50 per fine.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Postma to increase parking fines. Carried.

This item will be on the February 2, 2026 Council Agenda.

### **Item #4 – Administrative Report**

None

### **Item #5 – Open Discussion**

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Oballa, to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brianne D. Wolf, City Clerk