

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**June 1, 2026**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Interim Police Chief Michael Hartman, Interim Fire Chief Troy Tigner, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Director Jason Sehon, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Finance Director Emily Burns, Human Resource Director Trish Wiechmann, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald

Mayor Steve King opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

**Item #1 Ellis Ditch & 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE Feasibility Study – Steven Lang**

Public Works Director Steven Lang gave an update on the Ellis Ditch and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE feasibility study. Mr. Lang stated this project builds on previous study work and grant funding to address recurring flooding, sewer backups, and drainage issues in the neighborhood near Ellis Ditch, especially following the June 22, 2024 flood that brought many affected residents to City Council. The Public Works Department believes several drain connections into the sanitary sewer system may be contributing to backups, and the current stormwater system is not designed to handle the type of rain events the community now experiences regularly. The project will evaluate and improve water conveyance along Ellis Ditch and 6th Avenue Southeast, including crossings at 18th, 19th, and 20th Streets, with goals of handling a 10-year storm in the neighborhood area and a 25-year storm near 4th Avenue. The project will also explore stormwater ponding options to reduce flows through the city and help prevent future flooding and sewer backup issues. The project is set to begin in 2027, and they will start planning this year.

**Item #2 WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project, Change Order #12 – Steven Lang**

Public Works Director Steven Lang gave an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Lang presented Change Order No. 12 to Council. He stated Change Order No. 12 includes seven work change directives related to electrical vault modifications, site work and grading changes, equipment tariffs, concrete removal, water line pressure modifications, monitoring additions, and pipe encasement. Overall, staff are requesting approval of Change Order No. 12, which results in a total project credit of \$323,434, including a \$175,301.23 credit to the Domestic budget and a \$148,132.77 credit to the Industrial budget.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle to move this item to the June 15, 2026 Council agenda. Carried.

**Item #3 – Administrative Report**

None

**Item #4 – Open Discussion**

None

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Brianne D. Wolf, City Clerk