

MINUTES
COMMON COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2000
5:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Rietz, Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, Council Members Fedson, Jorgenson, Poppe, Nordin and Lang.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Boughton.

OTHERS PRESENT: News media. Nancy Clingman.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Fedson, adopting the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the minutes of November 20, 2000. Carried.

Mayor Rietz welcomed Kevira Mertha, a new reporter with the Austin Daily Herald.

The Mayor also asked for a moment for two spouses of city employees who have recently passed away: Dave Quinlan, husband of Annette Quinlan; and Linda Granle, wife of Gary Granle. Council Member Poppe noted that Dave Quinlan should be remembered for many contributions within the community, including his work with Community Circle and Mower County Connections. Council Member Poppe said Dave was a wonderful person who brought people together – both rural and urban, and he will be long remembered.

Nancy Clingman, representing the Mower County Employee Relations committee presented the traveling plaque to the City of Austin for the annual Mower County/City of Austin Food Drive. 888 pounds of food was collected by the City; 810 pounds by the County bringing the total to 1698 pounds of food.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Sign: Leroy Signs, 6325 Welcome Avenue N., Brooklyn Park, MN

Food transfer: From Mark Nagle dba Buzz' Coffee Café & Lounge, 412 3rd Avenue NE to Kristin and Adam Ansorge dba The Brickhouse, same address.

Temporary Gambling: Mower County Pheasants Forever at Austin Country Club, 1202 28th Street NE on February 24, 2001.

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Property of Duwayne Anderson, 906 16th Street SW, Austin. This claim has been referred to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

The City of Austin with Hormel Foods Corporation will be upgrading the Waste Water Treatment Plant next year. The improvements will include new equalization tanks, a new pump station and related improvements. Hormel Foods requested, and the Council authorized the issuance of \$4,200,000 General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2000B for the improvements. The bonds have a 20-year life. Hormel Foods are selling the bonds through the City to receive exempt status which will save approximately 2% on the loan, a figure amounting to millions of dollars over the life of the loan. On Wednesday, December 6th, Council will pass a resolution to approve the issuance of the bonds.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$4,200,000 General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2000B. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, moving the ordinance to the first reading. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting the first reading. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, moving the ordinance to the second reading. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, moving the ordinance to the third reading. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Poppe, adopting the ordinance. 6-0. Carried.

The Truth in Taxation Hearing was held November 29, 2000. The proposed 2001 tax levy is \$150,000 over 2000. The total tax levy is \$2,313,795, an increase for the first time in nine years. Council Member-at-Large Chaffee stated this tax levy/budget represents a lot of work. Council Member-at-Large Chaffee said Council and staff tried to reduce the budget and went as far as they thought they could.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, adopting the resolution approving the tax levy for the year 2001. 6-0. Carried.

The total budget for year 2001 is \$22,007,206, which reflects all the operating expenses for next year and no unusual capital outlay.

Council Member Poppe, noting that this would probably be her last year as Council Finance Committee Chair, praised the Committee for its spirited, deliberate and thorough discussion. Poppe said the Committee disagreed at times, but agreed more than disagreed. Poppe also thought that the Committee showed that they were fiscally responsible yet future-oriented and brought the budget/tax levy to a level which they felt most comfortable with. Ms. Poppe thanked City Administrator Pat McGarvey and department heads, especially Tom Dankert.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, adopting a resolution approving the budget for 2001. 6-0. Carried.

A cancellation of principal and interest on certain bond issues is needed due to alternate source of funding.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member Lang adopting a resolution authorizing the cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies. 6-0. Carried.

The City has completed the updated Repetitive Loss Plan for Austin's Flood plain area. This plan is required as part of Austin's Community Rating System which helps reduce flood insurance rates for flood plain residents. Community Development Director Craig Hoium said that Austin is one of approximately 100 communities in the program. Austin's rating is at 7 on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the best. Mr. Hoium said Austin has a good rating and is in the top 20%. Council Member-at-Large Chaffee noted that this document should be read, especially by those affected by the flooding. Council Member-at-Large Chaffee said this document shows that Austin is working on its flooding situation. The Plan includes a list of 26 identified properties for acquisition.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting the resolution approving the repetitive loss plan. 6-0. Carried.

City Engineer Jon Erichson gave an update on flood control. On November 21, City staff met with a representative from the Army Corps of Engineers who laid out different programs the City could use. City staff will meet again with the Corps of Engineers in January.

The City has received a request to annex approximately 12 acres in relation to a proposed 72-unit multi-family housing development. The development would include 32 units for assisted living care. The property is located 4-5 blocks west of Highway 105, south of Casey's and southwest of Southgate school. The land will be rezoned, platted and will

include a developer's agreement. Council Member-at-Large Chaffee praised the private developer, saying this is what the City of Austin needs. Developer Clark Thayers added that these will be quality rental apartments geared for independent living for residents 60 and over. The apartments will be attached to a commons building. Council Member Lang also complimented and praised the new proposed development.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving a joint annexation between the City of Austin and Austin Township. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving the Richard Lickteig orderly annexation. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Nordin, setting a public hearing for Monday, December 18, 2000 for a 620-square-foot variance from City Code limiting accessory structures to no more than 1000 square feet an an "R-1" Single-Family Residence District requested by Steven Carroll, 2406 12th Avenue SW.

Moved by Council Member Lang, seconded by Council Member Nordin, setting a public hearing for Monday, December 18, 2000 for a variance from the City Code open-area requirement of the minimum twenty percent in a "B-2" Community Business District requested by Jon Boyer.

REPORTS:

No HRA report.

No DCA report.

A Finance Committee will meet Monday, December 11 at 4:30 p.m.

The Bike Committee will meet at 5:15 on Wednesday, December 20, 2000.

The Public Works Committee will meet at 4:15 on Wednesday, December 20, 2000.

The Council Park and Rec Committee will meet at 4:00 on Thursday, December 6, 2000.

Council Member-at-Large Chaffee noted a letter speaking highly of Fire Chief Dan Wilson which was received from the former fire chief of Albert Lea.

Chief Paul Philipp said the three new officers are in their third week of field training. The Department will not begin a search for another officer until these three new officers complete their training. Additionally, Community Service Officer Chris Crayne has accepted employment with the Stillwater Police Department. Chief Philipp also thanked Finance Director Tom Dankert for his work on the 2001 budget.

The final quarterly Port Authority meeting will be December 20th at 4:30 p.m.

Discussion was held on the disbanding of the Access Austin committee. The Committee was formed prior to various disability laws and City staff currently answers related issues. The Committee has not met for over 1½ years. City Attorney David Hoversten said the Ordinance Committee would have to approve an ordinance draft to repeal the Access Austin ordinance.

An Ordinance Committee was set for December 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adjourning the meeting to December 6, 2000. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:10 p.m.

Approved: November 6, 2000

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____