

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
December 2, 2002
5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jorgenson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Media. Public. Dick Pacholl. George Brophy.

Added to the agenda: Library positions.

Removed from the agenda: Resolution approving orderly annexation, Richard and Penny Lee; Resolution approving orderly annexation, Timothy Sauer; Resolution approving orderly annexation, Peter and Kathryn Green; and Resolution approving orderly annexation, Peter and Vanna Nielson.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member Nordin, approving the council work session minutes of November 12, 2002 and city council meeting minutes of November 18, 2002. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Poppe, seconded by Council Member Nordin, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses: Master Plumber: Premier Plumbing, 1151 Rice Lake Rd., Owatonna, MN
Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.

Carried.

The City of Austin has bid out for employee life insurance. The City has received four bids (See attachment A and B). The low bidder is from Minnesota Life through Ochs, Inc., the City's current carrier for life insurance. These bids were reviewed at the Finance/Personnel Committee; the Committee recommended the bid from Minnesota Life/Ochs Inc.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a resolution awarding the life insurance contract to Minnesota Life through Ochs, Inc. for 2003. 6-0. Carried.

The City of Austin has bid out for employee long-term disability insurance. Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert said this insurance has not been bid for a while, and by state law, must be bid every five years. Five bids were received with Fortis Option 2 through Ochs, Inc. being the low bidder for comparable insurance with what we currently have. The bid from Fortis equals .32% of annual salary, or .32% per covered payroll. Bids are attached to these minutes. The Finance Committee has reviewed these bids and recommends Fortis Option 2.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution awarding disability insurance contract to Fortis, Option 2 through Ochs, Inc. 6-0. Carried.

Jerry Mohrfeld for Sterling State Bank is requesting the use of five parking spots off 1st Avenue SW for sleigh rides during Christmas in the City on December 5th. This was approved by Chief Philipp, City Engineer Jon Erichson and Parks and Rec Director Denny Maschka.

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Lang, approving the aforementioned. Carried.

As part of insurance renewal, Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert said the City must annually sign a tort waiver for limiting its liability. By not waiving the statutory tort limits, a claimant could receive a cap of \$300,000 for a single occurrence. In addition, the maximum total all claimants could receive collectively would be \$1,000,000 for any single event.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Lang, authorizing the City Recorder/Treasurer to sign the waiver indicating the City does not waive the statutory tort limits. Carried.

City Engineer Jon Erichson is requesting the Council approve an agreement with MnDOT. The five-year partnership agreement includes services that the City might request MnDOT to provide. The services would include legal description, mapping, direct purchase, and material testing. There is no retainer involved; rather, costs are based upon services the City requests.

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving the agreement. 6-0. Carried.

The Engineering Department has begun the progress for the Capital Improvement Program for 2003. The following four projects have been identified for reconstruction next year:

- 1) 7th Street NW (Oakland Avenue to 4th Avenue NW)
- 2) 14th Street NE (Todd Park Trail to 21st Avenue NE)
- 3) 8th Avenue SW (4th Street SW to 12th Street SW)
- 4) 8th Street NW (4th Avenue NW to 8th Avenue NW)

Moved by Council Member Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution ordering the feasibility report for the identified projects. 6-0. Carried.

Community Development Director Craig Hoium requested four joint resolutions for orderly annexation. These are the properties – the Lee property, the Sauer property, the Green property, and the Nielsen property – that are left to be annexed under the agreement with the Township of Austin. The State is requiring only the joint resolution be passed.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a joint resolution with the Township of Austin for the orderly annexation of the Richard and Penny Lee property located at 2404 12th Street SW. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a joint resolution with the Township of Austin for the orderly annexation of the Timothy Sauer property located at 1400 16th Avenue SW. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a joint resolution with the Township of Austin for the orderly annexation of the Peter and Kathryn Green property at 1508 16th Avenue SW. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a joint resolution with the Township of Austin for the orderly annexation of the Peter and Vanna Nielson property at 1510 16th Avenue SW, parcels 1, 2, and 3. 6-0. Carried.

Emergency management services will be split between the city and county starting January 1 with Chief Paul Philipp and Sheriff Amazi sharing the director's duties. An agreement has been drawn up between the City and County for the purpose of office support and auxiliary police coordinator services. This position will be 10 hours per week.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Christopherson, adopting a resolution approving the agreement. 6-0. Carried.

Library Director Chris McArdle Rojo is requesting that two positions at the library be filled. One position is the 30-hour Library Assistant I position of Sandy Kjarland who has recently passed away after working for the library for 22 years. The other is another 30-hour Library Assistant I position which is due to Judy Callies' pending retirement on December 31.

Council Member-at-Large Chaffee said he is in approval of replacing these two 30-hour positions. Council Member Nordin said it is important to show support for the library, which, she believes, sometimes is forgotten. The replacements are deserved. Council Member Goodnature said he would respect the feelings of the majority, but he believes the City will receive an "enormous cut in the budget in 2003", which he thinks we need to face now. He said he thinks there may be \$700,000 in budget cuts required. "We are going to have to cut back on services." Council Member Christopherson concurred with Council Member Goodnature. He said this is "unfortunate, but better than hiring and laying off." Council Member Christopherson said it all had to do with the timing with these positions coming open. Council Member Lang said he believes Austin has been progressive and still is. He said he doesn't want everybody to "push panic buttons." We are not going to lay off services at this point, he said. "There are other ways to cut capital expenditures." He would like the next council to be progressive, yet thrifty and prudent. Council Member Nordin said she feels the same as Council Member Lang, saying there is "always a way we can work it out." We will wait and see. We are not cutting back now, not at the library.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, approving the replacement of the two 30-hour Library Assistant I positions. 4-2. Carried. Council Members Goodnature and Christopherson voted nay.

REPORTS:

Council Member Lang said changes have been made to the draft tobacco and alcohol compliance ordinance; the ordinance has been "toned down." He said he would wait until the "change of guard" (new council), and it will be brought up to speed.

DCA: George Brophy reported that QPP is planning some expansion in southern Minnesota or Iowa. He said it is important for Austin to encourage its growth and important for the company to consider expanding here in Austin. Also, Austin Packaging has experienced some layoffs due to a change in customers, but the company is on "sound ground" and is just fine. He said the company would like to hire back as early as possible and is considering capital facility enhancements.

Council Member-at-Large Chaffee announced he had a new granddaughter.

A Finance/Personnel meeting was set for December 16 at 3:30.

The Park and Rec Committee will meet at the Park and Rec offices at 4:15 on Dec. 4; the Park and Rec Board will meet at the Park and Rec offices at 5:30 the same day. A budget

from the Friends of the Nature Center will be presented at the meeting. The Board will also discuss the Izaak Walton cabin contract's closing times, and the 2003 building projects.

Council Member Goodnature reported that County Commissioner Ellingson visited the old Silver Bullet building, but have discounted it for possible jail space due to the building's poor condition. Council Member Goodnature said Council should move ahead with this project. Council Member Goodnature also said that he, Don Tomlinson, Tom Dankert and someone from Rochester have been looking into security cameras for community buildings, such as the Chauncey Apartments.

A Fire Committee meeting was set for December 16 at 4:45.

The City of Austin Truth In Taxation Hearing will be held Tuesday, December 3 at 5:30.

The Police Committee will meet December 9 at 8:00 am.

Council will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Thursday, December 5.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Chaffee, seconded by Council Member Nordin, to adjourn the meeting to December 16, 2002.

Adjourned: 6:06 p.m.

Approved: December 16, 2002

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____