

MINUTES

COUNCIL RETREAT SESSION ONE FEBRUARY 11, 2003 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor and City Council, except Council Member Koch

Also present: Pat McGarvey, Tom Dankert, Jon Erichson, Steve Lang, George Brophy, David Hoversten, Austin Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald.

Jon Erichson reported that a recent fish kill in the Cedar River involving the MPCA was due to Austin Utilities and not the City of Austin as reported in the Austin Daily Herald.

Mr. Erichson presented the proposal development of the Cook Farm for phases I and II. There is \$550,000 from 2002 bond sale proceeds for the phase one sanitary sewer extension to the site from the K-Mart area. Phase II could be up to \$1M and paid out of funds on hand.

Mr. Erichson went over the need for a stormwater utility fee to support mandated greater yearly efforts to control and clean stormwater before it enters our creeks and river. \$193,000 is now covered by the tax levy. The proposed fee would cover all stormwater related costs thus freeing up the \$193,000 for other budget items.

Council agreed to move ahead to implement a stormwater utility fee by July 2003.

Item 2. Mr. Erichson reported on status of airport expansion. The county road work is bid and the contract letting is awaiting for right-of-way acquisition.

The former Hormel hangar has now been bought by the city.

The actual 1000-foot runway extension will be in place in 2004.

Item 3. Mr. Erichson presented his list of 2003 capitol improvement projects and status of each project. Council asked Jon to check on the coverage/need for an additional warning siren for the northwest area.

Mr. Erichson asked about making grant application for future pedestrian trails. Council said no to a grant application for a matching state grant in 2004 due to uncertainty of state LGA support in 2004.

Council gave okay (6-1) for an application for a 2007 federal trail grant.

At this time, James Brimeyer handed out information on the pros and cons of a council addressing its most effective role and responsibilities via the Carver governance model. He presented a slide of how the process works vs. the traditional processes of elected bodies.

Consensus was to move forward with the implementation of the Carver model and use the council as a committee-of-the-whole in monthly work sessions.

The report from the State Auditor on LGA and the CGMC response was handed out. Council asked Administrator and Finance Director to have a budget reduction plan for a review on February 24 based on Governor Pawlenty's proposed reductions.