

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
January 3, 2005
5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Rietz. Council Members Koch, Jorgenson, D. Pacholl, Christopherson, Nordin, Chamberlain, McAlister, S. Pacholl, and Hecimovich.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin and Austin Daily Herald. Elaine Hanson, Red Cross. Major Wilds, Salvation Army. Alice Holst – US Bank. Amy Baskin – United Way. Janet Anderson – Hubbard Broadcasting.

Added to the consent agenda: Cab Driver License: Robert D. Day, 1402 4th Avenue SW
Added to the agenda: A resolution appointing the following persons to their respective offices for a term of two years commencing January 1, 2005: City Recorder/Treasurer – Tom Dankert, City Administrator – James C. Hurm, City Attorney – David Hoversten, City Engineer – Jon Erichson.

Removed from the agenda: A resolution for orderly annexation, petitioned by Brian and Kathleen Dolan.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson., seconded by Council Member Pacholl, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the minutes of December 20, 2004. Carried.

Mayor Rietz asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia. Five people were asked to speak regarding disaster relief assistance.

Elaine Hanson, director of the Red Cross, said people may give a gift to the International Disaster Relief organization by giving to the local county chapter, calling 1-800-HELPNOW, or by using the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.

Major Wilds said the main focus of the Salvation Army is to help restore people's homes and livelihoods and to help with spiritual counseling. Citizens may help by writing a check to the Salvation Army at PO Box 480, Austin or by sending a check to the Minneapolis Salvation Army headquarters or the national headquarters.

Alice Holst from US Bank said the bank has set up a special fund, a Disaster Relief Account, which 100% of the money will be donated.

Janet Anderson from Channel 6 whose parent company is Hubbard Broadcasting said they are using the Disaster Relief International agency. Citizens may donate by going to the station's website or by calling the station.

Amy Baskin, director of the United Way, said that agency is concentrating on the long-term recovery of people's homes and businesses. People may contribute to the United Way International online at www.unitedway.org and going to a link for the tsunami relief or by sending a check in the mail.

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

Additional 2005 license renewals:

Food: Super Fresh Produce, 2101 4th Street NW, Austin
Food: Shopko, 1200 18th Avenue NW, Austin
Master Plumber: Prestige Plumbing, LLC, 2356 Collinswood Court SE Rochester
Master Plumber: Williams Plumbing & Heating, 303 5th Place NW, Austin
Master Plumber: Master Plumbing, 71710 County Rd 46, Albert Lea
Concrete: Roger & Sons, PO Box 756, Austin
Concrete: Hutch & Sons Builders LLC, PO Box 632, Austin
Excavation: Roger & Sons, PO Box 756, Austin
Excavation: Hunter Electric, 407 Grove Street NE, Brownsdale
Cigarette – transfer: Bell Liquor, 200 S. Main St., Austin
Cab Driver License: Robert D. Day, 1402 4th Avenue SW

**Claims:*

- a. Pre-list of bills.

Carried.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Koch, adjourning the meeting.

Mayor Rietz introduced the newly elected members of the Common Council.

Oaths of Office were taken by Mayor Bonnie Besse Rietz, Council Member-at-Large Pete Christopherson, First Ward Council Member Brian McAlister, Second Ward Council Member Scott Pacholl, and Third Ward Council Member Norm Hecimovich.

All council members recited "The Athenian Oath."

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the agenda for the new council. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution approving the appointments of Tom Dankert, Jim Hurm, David Hoversten, and Jon Erichson to their respective offices for two years. 7-0. Carried.

Tom Dankert, Jim Hurm, David Hoversten, and Jon Erichson took their oaths of office.

Finance Director Tom Dankert requested Council approve depositories for checking and investments for 2005. This list is the same as 2004.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution designating depositories for checking and investments of public funds for 2005. 7-0. Carried.

The Austin Daily Herald has offered the same rate for legal announcements for 2005.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution designating the official newspaper for the City of Austin for the year 2005. 7-0. Carried.

The City Council must approve the auditors for the annual audit. The proposal from Larson Allen is for \$35,000. This is slightly less than the 2003 audit due to the implementation of GASB 34 and fraud standards which were put into place prior to that audit.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Recorder to sign an engagement letter with Larson Allen for the 2004 audit. 7-0. Carried.

The City Council must annually pass a resolution required by the League of Minnesota Cities if they wish to limit tort liabilities. The City has always *not waived* the limits.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution authorizing the City Recorder to sign a League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust waiver stating that the City of Austin does not waive statutory tort limits. 7-0. Carried.

The City Council was presented with a resolution to extend agreement with Shawn Martin for the videotaping of council meetings for 2005. This comes with a .50/hour increase.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving the contract agreement. 7-0. Carried.

The Capital Improvement Program for 2005 has begun with the identification of projects for reconstruction. The City Council will need to request feasibility reports for the following projects.

- 1) 1st Avenue SW (Main Street to 12th Street)
- 2) 1st Avenue SE (2nd Street to 4th Street)
- 3) 4th Street NE (Oakland Avenue to 2nd Avenue)
- 4) So. Main Street (Oakland Avenue to 1st Avenue)
- 5) 1st Street SW (Oakland Avenue to 1st Avenue)
- 6) 4th Avenue SW (4th Street to 8th Street)
- 7) 5th Avenue SW (4th Street to 8th Street)

- 8) 5th Avenue NE (19th Street to Hwy 218)
- 9) 8th Avenue SW (23rd Street to 24th Street)
- 10) 21st Avenue NW (4th Street to 5th Street)
- 11) Sidewalk Program SE Quadrant

The feasibility reports would provide description of the project, how the project will be funded and any assessments applied.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, adopting a resolution approving the feasibility report for the 2005 street projects. 7-0. Carried.

The following council members are recommended for the following appointments.

CITY/COUNTY HEALTH BOARD (County Appointment)

Meets the 4th Thursday of January, and the 3rd Thursday of March, May, August and November – 7:00 pm, Austin Public Library

1. Brian McAlister

HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month – 4:30 pm, HRA

1. Gloria Nordin
2. Dick Pacholl
3. Pete Christopherson
4. Mickey Jorgenson

JOINT AIRPORT ZONING BOARD – AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY

No set meeting times

1. Dick Pacholl
2. Pete Christopherson

LIBRARY BOARD

Meets the 2nd Monday of the month – 3:00 pm, library

1. Gloria Nordin

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month – 5:15 pm, Park & Rec office

1. Pete Christopherson

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month -- 9:00 a.m, Mower County Board Room

1. Norm Hecimovich

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY TRANSIT (AMCAT) BOARD

No set meeting times

1. Mickey Jorgenson
2. Scott Pacholl

CABLE TV COMMITTEE

No set meeting times

1. Dick Pacholl

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Meets the 4th Tuesday of the month – 1:00 pm, various business locations

1. Scott Pacholl

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF AUSTIN

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month – noon, Town Center Conference Room

1. Mickey Jorgenson

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

Meets 1st Tuesday of the month – 7:30 am, Chamber of Commerce

1. Norm Hecimovich

PORT AUTHORITY OF AUSTIN

Meets 4th Wednesday of the month in March, June, September, December (plus several special meetings) – 4:30 pm, Council Chambers

1. Brian McAlister
2. Mickey Jorgenson

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY HOMEOWNERSHIP BOARD

Meets January, April, September – 6:30, City Hall Conference Room

1. Gloria Nordin
2. Scott Pacholl

MOWER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

No set meeting times

1. Gloria Nordin

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meets Tuesday, February 8, 2005; April 12, 2005; June 14, 2005 – noon, Woodson School Community Education Office

1. Norm Hecimovich

LEAGUE OF MOWER COUNTY CITIES

Meets quarterly – 6:30 pm, various cities throughout Mower County

1. Dick Pacholl
2. Everyone

SENIOR CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meets 2ND Thursday of the month – 9:00 am, Mower County Senior Center

1. Mickey Jorgenson

Q-TV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No set meeting times

1. Brian McAlister

BLAZING STAR JOINT POWERS TRAIL

No set meeting times

1. Gloria Nordin
2. Scott Pacholl
3. Norm Hecimovich

LEC COMMITTEE

No set meeting times

1. Bonnie Rietz
2. Brian McAlister
3. Pete Christopherson

CITY-COUNTY COMMITTEE

Meets the third Wednesday of the month – 3:15 pm, HRA

1. Bonnie Rietz
2. Everyone

Moved by Council Member McAlister, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, approving the appointments. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 823 4th Avenue NE, Korfhage property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member McAlister, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1001 23rd Avenue SW, Tellinghuisen property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member McAlister, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 910 11th Avenue SW, Petersen property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich, adopting a resolution granting transfer of off-sale liquor license to CARS Enterprise, LLC dba Bell Liquor. 7-0. Carried.

REPORTS: Jim referred to a memo regarding a 2004 property tax survey. The City of Austin's property tax appears comparatively low.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is hosting a series of meetings regarding future transportation for the State of Minnesota. Our area meeting will be Wednesday, January 5 at 4:00 at the library.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation is sponsoring a luncheon meeting on economic success. This is scheduled for January 18 at noon at the Austin Country Club.

The next Mower League of Minnesota Cities meeting will be in Sargeant on January 20 at 6:30.

Jon Erichson reported on the condition of the icy roads. On Sunday, (January 2) over 500 tons of salt was used. This is 20% of the annual average amount (2500 tons).

The next work session will be on Tuesday, January 18 after the council meeting.

Wednesday, January 19 is the date for the State of the City Report.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adjourning the meeting to January 18, 2005.

Adjourned: 6:37 p.m.

Approved: January 18, 2005

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____