

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING**  
**December 5, 2005**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Rietz. Council Members McAlister, Baker, Dick Pacholl, Nordin, Scott Pacholl and Hecimovich. Council Member-at-Large Christopherson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin and Austin Daily.

Removed from the agenda: Receiving of a finance award.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, approving the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Dick Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich, approving the city council minutes of November 7, 2005 and November 21, 2005.

Mayor Rietz and Fire Chief Dan Wilson recognized Chris Grunewald, who was recently hired as a firefighter.

Licenses:

Cab Driver: Samuel McDonald, 302 37<sup>th</sup> Street SW

Cab Driver: Donald Sprandel, 303 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Carol Jean Kohn, RR 1, Box 11, Spring Valley, MN. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.
- c. Loren Allas/City of Austin. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, approving the consent agenda. Carried.

On November 29, the Truth In Taxation public hearing was held as was required by state statute. The recommended tax levy is \$3,000,000. This will be forwarded to the county auditor for the 2006 tax levy.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving the tax levy for the year 2006. 7-0. Carried.

The proposed expenditures for the year 2006 is \$28,511,957.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution approving the budget for the year 2006. 7-0. Carried.

Certain bond issues have alternative sources for payment and do not need to be levied in 2006.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adopting a resolution authorizing cancellation of certain ad valorem tax levies. 7-0. Carried.

A joint meeting with the Austin Port Authority has previously been held to discuss the transfer of \$250,000 from the City to the Port Authority for Austin Main Street purposes. This action was unanimously recommended for approval at that meeting.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich, adopting a resolution transferring funds to the Austin Port Authority for the Austin Main Street Project purposes. 7-0. Carried.

A minor subdivision of property is being petitioned by the Austin Port Authority. The existing boundaries would be realigned to accommodate a proposed redevelopment at 112-114 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, aka the Silver Bullet/Arcade building. The proposed development includes a private sidewalk on the east side of the building, and this action would accommodate that sidewalk.

Council Member Dick Pacholl questioned how many entrances there would be to the building. Community Development Director said there would be two off of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and four off of the east side of the building. Four apartments are planned for the second floor.

Council Member Scott Pacholl said this is going to be a “very nice improvement” and hopes to see it “come to life.”

Council Member Dick Pacholl questioned what types of businesses would there be. Mr. Hoium said there are apartments planned for the second floor, and on the Silver Bullet side of the building, a restaurant is planned. On the east or Arcade side, there could be a combination of office or retail or restaurant.

Mayor Rietz questioned accessibility. Mr. Hoium said the State exempts handicap accessibility for living quarters which do not exceed four units.

Andre Stouvenel, the developer of the project, spoke to Council. He has been doing historical restoration in St. Paul and Minneapolis since 1995. The intent is to set back the

façade to the 1930 era. The second floor is planned for living and working studios – for technical work, art studio or a small business. The lower level would be restored back to 1930s architecture with lots of glass and lighting reminiscent of the era. This restoration would be historic in nature and would be a kick-start for the downtown to follow historical guidelines.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich adopting a resolution approving minor subdivision of property. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Nordin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution authorizing the transfer of title of property on the east side of the building formerly known as the Silver Bullet building from the City of Austin to the Austin Port Authority. 7-0. Carried.

The proposed buyer of the Silver Bullet building is requesting a review of parking in the public parking lot east of that building. The request is to change the west row of parking from 12-hour to 2-hour and to convert four of the new 2-hour stalls to leased parking. The lease rates would be the same as the other public parking lots. Mr. Hoium noted that the 12-hour parking has decreased. The effective date is January.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member McAlister, approving the time limitations for permitted parking in the municipal lot east of the Silver Bullet building and converting four lots to leased parking. Carried.

Council Member Dick Pacholl questioned how the leased parking would work with the city snow emergency policy. City Engineer Jon Erichson said those tenants would be directed to park at the North Main parking lot adjacent to the municipal pool during snow emergencies. Mr. Erichson said the plan for the parking fits in with the project and with the current use of the lot.

The Planning and Zoning Department has requested authority to contract for removal of junk at three properties. Council Member Dick Pacholl noted that one of the properties is now mostly cleaned up. Mr. Hoium said that according to the city ordinance, after notification to the property owner, the owner has 10 days in which to clean up their property. Taking action now helps to move the process along so there is no delay.

Moved by Council Member McAlister, 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 809 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Veraza property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, 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 1017 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, Ernst property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Dick Pacholl, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 709 18<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Vaughn property. Carried.

Council must pass an annual resolution laying out what health insurance plans the non-contract employees are eligible for.

Council Member McAlister noted a memo he has received on this subject and that there is "continued confusion." He would like to see this addressed.

City Administrator Jim Hurm has talked with the author of the memo; a chart will be distributed. The issue will be addressed that way.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Hecimovich, adopting a resolution adopting health insurance plans and required employee contribution for said plans for non-bargaining unit employees of the City of Austin. 7-0. Carried.

No staff reports.

Mayor Rietz reminded everyone to remember our troops at 11:00 on December 11.

The donations received for flower baskets and beds is now at \$16,185.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Nordin, adjourning the meeting to December 19, 2005.

Adjourned: 6:02 p.m.

Approved: November 21, 2005

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_