

MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 7, 2005
6:25 p.m. City Hall Conference Room

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Hoium, Denny Maschka, Jim Hurm, and Tom Dankert

ALSO PRESENT: Public, Austin Daily Herald, Austin Post Bulletin

Mayor Rietz opened the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Item #1 – Park and Recreation Director Denny Maschka discussed the proposed agreement between the Austin Park and Recreation Board and the Marcusen Park Baseball Association (Association). The Association will pay rent of \$1.00 per year from March 1, 2005 through March 1, 2009. Beginning March 1, 2010 through March 1, 2014 the lease payment will be equal to a total of 20% of the money expended for repairs as a result of the flood damage of 2004. Insurance will be provided by the Association, as well as all maintenance and utilities. In essence, Mr. Maschka noted the Association will be responsible for the entire operations of the Marcusen Ball Park.

Council Member Christopherson noted the Association sounds pretty excited about the project. Mr. Maschka noted the lease cannot be signed until the insurance is received and the Association receives their tax exempt status.

Council Member Hecimovich questioned how long the agreement with Coca Cola runs. Mr. Maschka noted we are in the third year of a seven-year agreement to sell Coke products.

Association member Ron Ripley noted there are approximately 19 people in the Association, five of which makes up the executive board.

Mayor Rietz noted this was for informational purposes only as the Park Board has the final say over the park system.

Item #2 – Community Development Director Craig Hoium discussed the proposed ordinance relating to parking in residential areas. Mr. Hoium noted the many discussions at the Planning Commission meeting and the council meetings regarding this ordinance. Mr. Hoium noted as drafted there is no requirement for granular surface material where the parking would be. Additionally, the Planning Commission has recommended a requirement that recreational vehicles should not be stored on property for more than seven months; however, Mr. Hoium said

the ordinance before the Council tonight does not include that seven-month request because the Council had said at their last meeting that they did not want limits put on.

The four citizens that were at the meeting noted they would have no problem with the seven month requirement. Mr. Hoium noted it may be better to have the seven-month timeframe listed, but it may be a hardship for those citizens that we do not have complaints on. Mr. Hoium stated the benefits of having the timeframe in the ordinance outweigh the risk to the citizens, in his opinion.

Mayor Rietz reiterated that the Planning Commission desires the seven-month timeframe to be listed in the ordinance, but what are Council's desires? Council Member Scott Pacholl questioned if the goal is to eliminate the derelict properties. Mr. Hoium stated it was a big reason.

Council Member Jorgenson stated this still allows for two cars plus two recreational vehicles to be parked on a property, which is still very generous. Mr. Hoium noted this was correct, but the property also has to be an occupied residence.

Council Member McAlister noted this was nearly an impossible ordinance. It will be hard to enforce, but we should try it for now to see how it works. Mr. Hoium did note that the Zoning Department investigates on a complaint only basis.

After further discussion, motion by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson to recommend to Council the proposed ordinance including a seven month time limit for storing the vehicle on your property. Carried 7-0. Item will be added to the next council agenda.

Item #3 – City Administrator Jim Hurm discussed the proposal to transfer the title of the Silver Bullet building into the hands of the Austin Port Authority. Since the Port Authority is the economic development arm of the City of Austin, this sort of property should be under their control.

Council Member Pacholl questioned what ever happened with Piggy Blues BBQ? Mr. Hoium noted there were issues with having the city advance funding for the renovation of the property.

Mr. Dankert noted the building was originally purchased with tax increment bond proceeds out of a tax increment district. However, the City ended up buying the building back out of the tax increment funds so that it could be used for a public purpose.

Mr. Hoium noted the city acquired the property in 1999/2000 and it has been used as a teen center in the past. We have had some discussions with people to purchase the building. Piggy Blues may still be an option, as well as a few others that have contacted us about the property.

Council Member Scott Pacholl stated that the building is currently an eyesore, and he would like somebody to move into it. If transferring the property into the Port Authority's hands makes the transaction easier, we should do it.

Council Member Dick Pacholl stated that a 7-0 vote is required at the city level to transfer the property into the hands of the Port Authority. Mr. Dankert noted only a super-majority is needed for the Port Authority to sell land.

Motion by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Nordin to recommend to Council the transfer of the Silver Bullet property into the name of the Austin Port Authority. Carried 7-0. Item will be added to the next council agenda.

Other Items – Mayor Rietz noted it has been requested by the City Attorney to say the following when adopting a resolution:

“Move to adopt the Resolution”

Additionally, it was decided that food would not be provided at meetings unless they are going to be longer meetings/combo meetings. Notice will be sent if food will be provided at meetings.

Council Member Dick Pacholl requested that action be taken at the next council meeting to add the Palleton issue for review. Mr. Hurm stated that we should put it off for two meetings as staff may need time to review the issue.

Moved by Council Member McAlister, seconded by Council Member Jorgenson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Dankert
Director of Administrative Services