

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
March 5, 2007
5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members McAlister, Austin, Dick Pacholl, Hecimovich, and Martin. Council Member-at-Large Christopherson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Scott Pacholl.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald. Jeff McCormack, family and colleagues. Gerald Kelly. Cheryl Corey, Beth Altergott, and Betty Olson.

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

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, approving the minutes of February 20, 2007. Carried.

Gerald Kelly spoke to Council in defense of the preservation of the Oakland Avenue Underpass. Mayor Stiehm thanked Mr. Kelly for his input.

Cheryl Corey, Director of the CVB, along with staff members Beth Altergott and Betty Olson, gave an annual report on the CVB. Ms. Corey acknowledged Council Member Hecimovich as a board member. The CVB is funded by the local 3% lodging tax, plus occasional grants. It is registered as a 501(c)6 organization. Ms. Corey said the CVB reflects \$22M in economic impact on the city.

Moved by Council Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Consent Agenda

Licenses:

- Exempt Gambling (raffle): Habitat for Humanity for October 15, 2007
- Food: Our Place Rec Center, Austin, MN
- Massage Therapist: Ron Marsden

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Elaine Wagner, 1815 4th Avenue NE. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.

- c. Dorothy Ackerwald, 2101A Burr Oak Dr. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.
- d. Tara Fonseca, 312 37th Street SW. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.

Carried.

Each year the City must appoint a Board of Review for the City of Austin for the purpose of reviewing and possibly adjusting assessed property values. Anyone within the City of Austin who believes their property valuation is too high may appear before this board during the set time. The State of Minnesota instituted mandatory review board training for one member; Mike Steichen and Phyllis Prybelski have met this state requirement. The following appointments are recommended: Mike Steichen, First Ward; Phyllis Prybelski, Second Ward; Mahlon Krueger, Third Ward; and Jerry Wolesky, Representative At-Large.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Christoipherson, seconded by Hecimovich, approving the appointments to the Board of Review. Carried.

The City has a Street Assessment Policy in place which Council is requested to modify for commercial properties located on a corner lot which are also maintained as a residence. City Engineer Jon Erichson proposes the following modification to the commercial property assessment policy:

In the case of a commercial corner lot that the owner maintains a residence, the assessment be split accordingly:

- a) The above described situation will have the property owner paying a commercial assessment rate for $\frac{1}{2}$ the average length of the two sides and paying a residential rate for $\frac{1}{2}$ of the average length. The commercial assessment rate will be the first rate applied if the two phases are done in different years.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, approving the street assessment policy for corner lot properties which are both business and residential. Carried.

Council is requested to rescind a resolution which approves the final plat for *Morem's Addition*. The resolution was approved in May 2006. Mr. Erichson said the petitioner, Dan Morem, has reviewed the costs of the development project and will be revising the development. He requests that the resolution be rescinded.

Council Member Dick Pacholl asked whether Mr. Morem would not be pursuing the 14 single-family development.

Mr. Erichson said Mr. Morem will be asking for a new plat; he is downsizing the development and eliminating the proposed cul de sac.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, adopting a resolution approving rescinding Resolution No. 12957. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, seconded by Council Member Dick Pacholl, setting a public hearing for March 19 for preliminary plat approval of property to be known as *Morem Addition*. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, setting a public hearing for March 19 for preliminary plat approval of property to be known as *Morem 2nd Addition*. Carried.

Chief Paul Philipp said Jeff McCormack is being recommended for promotion to sergeant. He is a 10-year veteran with the Austin Police Department. He is the evidence officer, serves on the Austin Area Meth Taskforce, and received the top grade on the recent exam.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving the appointment. Carried.

The following name change is requested for a liquor license holder: Socorro Garza dba Straight Shot to Socorro Garza dba Club Caliente.

Council Member Hecimovich questioned if this is the business which had the recent liquor violation. Chief Philipp said they did have a private party but because there was no liquor license at the time, it was treated as a private property.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Dick Pacholl, approving the name change. Carried.

REPORTS:

Council Members are invited to the annual meeting of the DCA on April 4 at 5:30.

Council Members are also invited to a Legislative Luncheon at the Country Club on March 16 at 11:30. Attending will be Rep. Steve Sviggum, Sen. Dave Senjem, Rep. Jeanne Poppe, and Sen. Dan Sparks. The luncheon is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hurm read a letter from an elderly citizen commending a snow plow driver, Mike Pratt, for assisting her over a snow mound.

The Austin Public Library, in collaboration with the United Way, is sponsoring a free movie, "Super Size Me" at 7:00 pm at the Paramount.

Moved by Council Member Hecimovich, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Christopherson, adjourning the meeting to March 19, 2007.

6djournd: _____ 6:05 p.m. _____

Approved: March 19, 2007

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____