

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
March 2, 2009
5:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Brian McAlister, Jeff Austin, Dick Pacholl, Steve King, Marian Clennon and John Martin. Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Hurm, Jon Erichson, Tom Dankert, Jeanne Howatt, David Hoversten, Dan Wilson, Kim Underwood, and Paul Philipp.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald. Boy Scout Troop 113. Public.

Removed from the agenda: Citizens Addressing the Council: Cheryl Corey, executive director of the CVB

Added to the agenda: A motion approving the 2009 Council Goals.

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Clennon, approving the minutes of February 17, 2009. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm recognized Boy Scout Troop 113. The troop is working on their Citizenship in Community badge.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Consent Agenda

Licenses:

Master Plumber: Action Plumbing & Heating, Rochester, MN

Master Plumber: B&C Plumbing & Heating Inc., Eyota, MN

Master Plumber: K&S Heating & Plumbing, Rochester, MN

Tattoo Establishment: Rite of Passage, 714½ 4th Avenue NE

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.

The City received nine bids for the sanitary/storm sewer construction and concrete pavement removals on 1st Street and 3rd Avenue NE. This is part of the city's obligation for the jail/justice center. Bids are as follows:

Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.	\$ 50,545.00
Sorenson Bros.	\$ 61,838.50
SL Contracting	\$ 65,480.00
Fitzgerald Excavating	\$ 70,405.00
Niles-Wiese Construction	\$ 72,829.70
Blitz Construction	\$ 73,810.90
Hodgman Drainage	\$ 77,100.00
Heselton Construction	\$ 82,775.00
Freeborn Construction	\$104,030.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$ 66,040.00
Original Project Budget	\$ 52,000.00

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution accepting the bid from Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc. 7-0. Carried.

Staff has contacted the representatives on the previous year's Board of Review. Those representatives either declined or did not respond. After discussion Council agreed to serve on this board and have one council member – John Martin – receive training. The board will be made up as follows:

First Ward	Brian McAlister
Second Ward	Steve King
Third Ward	John Martin
At-Large	Janet Anderson

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Clennon, appointing the listed council members to serve on the Board of Review April 9, 2009. Carried.

The International Word Fellowship Church has requested a handicap parking spot in the public right-of-way. City Engineer Jon Erichson said the recommendation is based on 1) whether the petitioner can provide off-street parking, 2) if costs for installation will be the responsibility of the petitioner, and 3) whether the request will have negative impacts on adjacent property owners. The recommendation is for approval. Mr. Erichson said the City would install the sign because it is in the public right-of-way, but the cost would be billed to the property owner.

Moved by Council Member McAlister, seconded by Council Member King, approving the request. Carried.

Council received a Report of Commissioners for the vacation of public right-of-way of a portion of 3rd Avenue NE in the Original Village. Action will be taken on March 16.

The City has an outstanding debt for the library building. We now have an opportunity to refinance this debt or pay off the loan. Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert recommends paying off this loan with available cash from the Building Fund. We would need to pay ourselves (the Building Fund) back, but this would save the City \$17,000 per year for seven years.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution authorizing the redemption of G.O. Library Lease Revenue Bonds, Series 1995A. 7-0. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm has recommended appointing Aaron Stewart to the Human Rights Commission to replace Liliana Silvestry, who will be moving out of Austin.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Martin, approving Aaron Stewart to the Human Rights Commission, term to expire 12/31/10. Carried.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert has recommended changes to the Investment Policy so our brokers may purchase State of Minnesota or their political subdivisions bonds. Also, he suggests eliminating the specific dollar amount for FDIC coverage.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving the amended City Investment Policy. 7-0. Carried.

The City has received notice from the DNR that a community has returned \$55,232. This amount is now available to us to add to the North Main Flood Control Project grant. The City must provide matching dollars.

Council Member McAlister asked if, indeed, it could affect funding in the future. City Engineer Jon Erichson said originally there was potential of having some impact on future grants in the same amount, but that may not happen. He said it was wise to secure whatever we can whenever we can. Mr. Erichson said we do have a couple options on how to fund the grant.

Moved by Council Member Clennon, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution amending the North Main Flood Control Project agreement. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, to table a resolution approving airport farm leases. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, to table a resolution approving architectural services for ARC – Senior Center. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, 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 1017 11th Avenue SW, Paddack 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 1309 5th Street NW, Anderson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 323 North Main Street, Nguyen property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1306 10th Street SW, Anhorn property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, 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 807 4th Avenue SW, Lambertson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 110 2nd Street SE, D&R Management property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 910 11th Street NW, Independent Management Services property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, 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 1006 6th Avenue NW, Thompson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Clennon, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1105 3rd Avenue NW, Independent Management Services property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 609 2nd Avenue NW, Rosenberger property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, 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 1800 4th Avenue NW, MN Housing Finance Agency property. Carried.

The 2009 Council Goals were determined at the 2-23-09 work session. They are as follows:

- LGA reductions... Find creative solutions
- Flood mitigation implementation
- Research and consider promoting a regional council of governments for SE MN
- Take a leadership role and involve citizens in reducing the community's carbon footprint and encourage development of alternative energy sources
- Prepare a succession plan for key personnel
- Economic development
 - a) Main Street Project – emphasis on blighted property
 - b) Continue to work on attracting industry to the Cook Farm Industrial Park
 - c) Seek bioscience and alternative energy development
 - d) Continue emphasis on centralizing economic development efforts
 - e) Comprehensive Plan revision areas of emphasis: Reduce maintenance of park flood lands, improve 10th Drive SE area

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving the 2009 Council Goals as listed. Carried.

REPORTS: Council Member-at-Large Anderson attended the LMC conference for newly elected officials. She will give a report on March 16,

The City has received checks from the Hormel Foundation: \$50,000 for the soccer fields, \$40,000 for the pool splash park, and \$15,000 for Spamtown USA.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, adjourning the meeting to March 16, 2009.

Adjourned: 5:59 pm

Approved: March 2, 2009

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____