

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
October 5, 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: Steve Lang, Craig Hoium, Tom Dankert, Jeanne Howatt, David Hoversten, Dan Wilson, Kim Underwood, Ann Hokanson and Paul Philipp.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald. Paul Donna, Northland Securities. Matt Simonson.

Added to the agenda: A motion authorizing temporary, part-time dispatch positions for approximately three months as recommended by the Law Enforcement Center Communications Commission in regard to the Family Medical Leave Act; and a resolution approving the IAFF contract.

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

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, approving the minutes of September 17, 2009. Carried.

Matt Simonson, 606 7th Avenue SE, spoke to Council objecting to the fact cars that he owns were “confiscated” on September 22. Mr. Simonson did receive a letter from the City on August 5 to remove the cars per city ordinance.

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

Licenses:

Cab Driver: Jonathan Lamaak, Austin

Exempt Gambling: United Catholic Schools @ St. Augustine’s Church, Nov. 11

Claims:

a. Pre-list of bills.

b. Jeannette Mayfield. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city’s interest.

- c. Mary Schroeder, 801 7th Avenue SW, Austin. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.

Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, setting a public hearing for November 2 on proposed assessments. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, approving Findings of Fact and Order regarding the violation of CARS Enterprise LLC (Bell Liquor). 6-1. Council Member Martin voted nay.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, approving Findings of Fact and Order regarding the violation of Mickey's Place of Austin. 6-1. Council Member Martin voted nay.

Paul Donna, representative from Northland Securities, spoke to Council regarding the refunding bonds. Mr. Donna provided a summary of the bond sale and a report from Standard and Poor's and spoke first regarding the city's rating. Tom Dankert has had a conference call with Standard and Poor's last week regarding our credit rating. He provided information outside of the norm, such as the local area economy and our various financial practices. The City has received a AA- rating, which is an upgrade from our previous A1 rating. Standard and Poor's views Austin that serves as a regional center. There is ample employment, and income and wealth levels were also evaluated. The company is very impressed with the city's reserve levels, as well as the very low debt levels. The credit rating report was very good news; the city has good policies in place. The refunding is for three outstanding bonds. Bids came in much better than what was presented in early August, partly due to the current market and partly due to the city's credit rating. Cronin and Co. offered the best bid of three at 3.09%, this is compared to the 3.49% as what was originally presented in August. The net benefit savings to the City is \$172,961.10. Since a premium bid was received, Cronin and Co. offered more cash than we had bonds outstanding. The excess premium will be used to reduce the debt issuance from \$1,275,000 to \$1,250,000.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution issuing General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2009A. 7-0. Carried.

An ordinance approving the bonds must also be approved.

Moved by Council Member Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Austin, for preparation of the ordinance for the 2009A Refunding Bond. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member Austin, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, 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 810 8th Avenue SW, Jimenez 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 912 2nd Avenue NE, Wells Fargo 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 607 8th Avenue NW, Thackeray 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 611 6th Avenue SE, Milton property. Carried.

The Law Enforcement Center Communications Commission met this afternoon and, as a result, the Commission recommends hiring two temporary, part-time dispatchers. Currently two dispatchers are out for maternity leave which could result in significant overtime. The recommendation for the hiring requires approval by both the City and County.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, approving the hiring of two temporary, part-time dispatchers. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, adopting a resolution approving the 2008-2010 IAFF contract, including a Memo of Understanding. 6-1. Council Member McAlister voted nay.

REPORTS:

Council Member Austin, upon receiving the good report from Paul Donna, commended Tom Dankert and staff for good work and good financial advice. Mr. Dankert, in turn, thanked Council and the previous council for taking action early upon the unallotment of the city's LGA.

Council Member Clennon thanked the Cedar River Watershed District for being appointed to their board. Also, Council Member Clennon worked with volunteers last Saturday replacing trees taken by the recent tornado.

Mayor Stiehm said he is going to "jail" tomorrow as a fundraiser for the March of Dimes. Mr. Hurm will be there at noon as well.

Fire Chief Dan Wilson said the Fire Station is having their annual open house on Wednesday, October 7 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adjourning the meeting to October 19, 2009.

Adjourned: 5:51 pm

Approved: October 19, 2009

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____