

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL CHARTER MEETING
March 1, 2010
5:30 pm
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Hurm, Steven Lang, Tom Dankert, Jeanne Howatt, David Hoversten, Brian Lovik, Kim Underwood, Ann Hokanson, and John Mueller.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald.

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member King, approving the minutes of February 16, 2010. Carried.

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

Licenses:

Food: Queen of Angels Church, 1001 E. Oakland Avenue, Austin

Gas Station: Hari Food Mart, 709 21st Street NE, Austin

Cigarette: Hari Food Mart, 709 21st Street NE, Austin

Food: Hari Food Mart, 709 21st Street NE, Austin

Novelty Machine Premise: Pizza Hut, 1304 N. Main Street, Austin

Claims:

a. Pre-list of bills.

Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution rejecting the Governor's supplemental budget LGA cuts for 2010. 7-0. Carried.

Constantine Lecakis has petitioned to subdivide property at 205 and 207 4th Avenue NE to correct some irregularities which occurred during its construction. The subdivision will allow for the sale of Tract A.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution approving subdivision of property, petitioned by Constantine Lecakis. 7-0. Carried.

The Council has received the feasibility report for Lansing Township (newly annexed area) sanitary sewer. Assistant City Engineer Steven Lang said a hearing will be set at a later date.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution accepting the feasibility report for Lansing Township sanitary sewer project. 7-0. Carried.

The Charter Commission is allowed expenditures of up to \$1500 per year. According to state statute, more funding may be approved by the city council. The Charter Commission requests another \$3500 to publish the proposed, revised charter twice in the legal newspaper – a requirement for approval by ordinance or approval by election. The Austin Daily Herald has quoted \$3400 for the two publications.

Council Member Clennon asked what the additional \$1500 would be used for. Council Member-at-Large Anderson said there would be expenses related to educating the public.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving \$5000 from the Contingency Fund for Charter Commission expenses. 6-1. Carried. Council Member Clennon voted nay.

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 909 3rd Avenue NE, Zacarias 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 405 3rd Avenue SW, Vangkham & Khalek property. Carried.

REPORTS:

In reference to the last work session on claims due to snowplows hitting cars, Council Member Martin acknowledged that the City has some great people who do their job very well. His main message, he said, is to ask the drivers and their supervisors to slow down. He said he knows Jon Erichson would say that because of the power of the vehicles, they want to keep going, but that probably means that they're just too large.

Council Member Clennon attended the Legislative Action Day at the Capitol on February 17. The group spoke with Rep. Jeanne Poppe and Sen. Dan Sparks, and they had some

sessions with the Coalition. On February 19, she participated in the League of Minnesota Cities' webinar, which she said was informative. Suggestions were given for cities on how to address potential budget cuts. On Monday, February 22, she attended an Albert Lea city council meeting, which was different and informative; some things they did she prefers, but prefers our way of doing some also. She attended the GreenSteps program in Council Chambers on February 24, which City Administrator Jim Hurm coordinated, and learned a lot. She also attended the home business show at Oak Park Mall.

Council Member-at-Large Anderson attended the Legislative Action Day also. She noted that during a panel discussion, she realized that some cities in the metro area really don't understand the LGA system. The resolution passed tonight and some other work is needed to increase awareness on how this system (LGA) works. She also attended GreenSteps and received some good ideas. Also, it sounds like there are funds and opportunities for us. The last CVB meeting she attended revolved around ideas for bringing more revenue to Austin through the CVB projects.

City Administrator Jim Hurm noted that an extra "whereas" was added to the League's suggested resolution: "Whereas, both statewide LGA and its metropolitan area counterpart Fiscal Disparities are long-standing, successful state policies that deserve separate, substantive debate rather than a systematic dismantling of such a program through the State budget process."

City Administrator Jim Hurm said the City has the potential for receiving a grant for energy efficiency updates at Riverside Arena. Kim Underwood, Kelly Lady, Dave Thompson, and Steve Moe have worked on getting the facts and figures for this \$100,000 grant. The current boiler is scheduled for an overhaul in 2013, and the air conditioning is scheduled in 2011 for \$20,000. The City would need to come up with an additional \$10,000 if the grant was obtained, but we would recoup costs in one year through energy savings (approximately \$11,000). In addition, we would receive utility rebates.

Moved by Council Member Pacholl, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, authorizing the submission of the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant for boiler replacement at Riverside Arena. Carried.

The City has received a check from the Hormel Foundation for a splash pool, downed trees, the Freedom Fest (Chamber of Commerce) and smoke alarms.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to March 15, 2010.

Adjourned: 5:52 pm

Approved: March 15, 2010

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____