

MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 1, 2010
5:30 pm
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, Tom Dankert, Jeanne Howatt, Craig Hoium, Jon Erichson, David Hoversten, Mickey Healey, Kim Underwood, and Brian Krueger.

OTHERS PRESENT: Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald. Doug Green, Springsted. Public. LaVerne Ehmke.

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

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving the minutes of October 18, 2010 as amended. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm announced the Community Pre-Thanksgiving Food Drive Day scheduled for November 6th, and read a proclamation for this.

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

Licenses:

Food: Jo Ann Fabrics, 1700 17th Street NW, Austin

Food: Gymocha, 1300 14th Street NW, Austin

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.

Carried.

A public hearing was held to review the Austin Floodplain Progress Report, pursuant to Activity 510 of the Community Rating System. This Report needs to be reviewed annually for the Community Rating System. The Report lists the various activities for floodplain management and provides 25% insurance discount for property owners who carry floodplain insurance.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution approving the Floodplain Progress Report. 7-0. Carried.

Police Chief Brian Krueger said that after testing for police captain position, he is recommending Dave McKichan for the job, and the Mayor has concurred. McKichan is a current detective and received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Minnesota Narcotics Association last year. If approved, McKichan will be given the job offer and invited to attend the November 15th meeting.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving promotion to police captain for Dave McKichan. Carried.

Doug Green, representative from Springsted Incorporated, spoke to Council on the G.O. bonds that were bid this morning at 10:30 am. The bonds are for the sanitary sewer project for the newly annexed area in northeast Austin. There were five bidders, and the winning bidder was Cronin & Company, Inc. from Minneapolis. The estimated sale amount is \$2,885,000. All bids were Build America Bonds. These bonds have a higher interest rate, but the City will be reimbursed 35% of the interest. The cost of the bonds has come down since last May due to the Aa2 credit rating from Moody's and good management on the part of the City. Mr. Green noted the City's very small debt load. Mr. Green noted that Aa2 is a very good rating; most cities with Aa2 are larger cities. Because of a bond premium bid, city staff has opted to reduce the bond size down \$20,000 on the premium to \$2,865,000.

Council Member King questioned if these bonds could be sold off similar to a mortgage. Mr. Green said they will be re-sold.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving \$2,865,000 G.O. Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A in connection with the northeast Austin annexation sanitary sewer project. 7-0. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm recognized Troy Nelson, letter carrier and lead for the November 6th food drive. Mr. Nelson said they hope to collect 8,000-15,000 pounds of food again. The food drive is being sponsored by local Austin letter and rural carriers, clerks and postal management, Austin High School National Honor Society students, the Austin Jaycees and the Riverland Radiology class of 2011.

The Cedar River Watershed Board is developing rules on how to manage the watershed. The Technical Committee to the Board is recommending the allowance of snow storage with the use of Best Management Practices which are recognized by the MPCA. The Committee-of-the-Whole has previously approved of the Technical Committee's recommendations.

Council Member Clennon noted that this item will not be coming back to the Technical Committee. Public Works Director Jon Erichson advised, then, that the approval from Council should go directly to the Cedar River Watershed District.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, maintaining current snow storage areas as advised by the Cedar River Watershed District Technical Committee, while incorporating some mitigation efforts. 5-2. Carried. Council Members Clennon and Martin voted nay.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, approving a one-year phone contract with DTI. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution amending terms and conditions for employees within UAW Local 867, Austin Parks Department, for participation in the Minnesota State Retirement System Healthcare Savings Plan. 7-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, approving requests from the Chamber of Commerce in connection with Christmas in the City on November 26. 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 2004 3rd Avenue NE, Majerus property. Carried.

The next agenda item was an approval to granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1805 9th Street SW, Ehmke property.

Council Member Austin motioned to approve the removal of junk at the Ehmke property.

LaVerne Ehmke objected saying his neighbor (referring to whoever complained) “doesn’t know what’s going on.” Mr. Ehmke defended himself saying his two snowmobiles are covered. He said he did not understand the problem. Community Development Director Craig Hoium noted that the zoning violations are for two vehicles that are not currently licensed or they are inoperable. Mr. Hoium said the Zoning Department did send a letter to Mr. Ehmke which gave him ten days to remedy the situation. Mr. Ehmke said he talked to Doug Mauer from the Building Department, but that Mauer was very rude and had hung up on him. Mr. Hoium reiterated that the problem needed to be resolved within the timeframe; when the issues are not resolved, they come to Council. Mr. Ehmke objected, saying the issue was taken care of within nine days. Mr. Hoium said the latest information available to him was that the issues were *not* resolved.

Mayor Stiehm suggested that this item be tabled for further review of the alleged violations.

Another man who said he lived with Mr. Ehmke also objected to any violations. He said the letter sent to Mr. Ehmke did not specify what cars. He said this matter could be

resolved if there was a good director. He also said he did not understand the letter. Mayor Stiehm reiterated that the matter could be tabled for further review of the alleged violations.

The unidentified man with Mr. Ehmke said the city employee handling the matter should be fired.

Mr. Hoium said the Zoning Department could do follow-up inspections tomorrow. If the matter is resolved, then no action would be needed. If the issues are not resolved, this would come back to Council.

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 701 19th Street NW, Gallarza property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Pacholl, setting a public hearing for November 15 for a rezoning of property owned by Jim and Jayna Heimark 1707 28th Street NE, Austin, Minnesota, from an R-1 Single Family Residence District to a Planned Development Residential District. Carried.

REPORTS:

Council Members Austin, Martin and Clennon reminded citizens to exercise their right to vote.

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

Adjourned: 6:01 pm

Approved: November 15, 2010

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____