

**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2011  
5:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council Members McAlister, Austin, Boughton, King, Enright and Clennon. Council Member-at-Large Anderson (acting Mayor).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mayor Stiehm.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Hurm, Jon Erichson, Craig Hoium, Tom Dankert, David Hoversten, Mickey Healey, Brian Krueger, Ann Hokanson and Kim Underwood.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Austin Post Bulletin, Austin Daily Herald. Public.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Council Member-at-Large Anderson served as acting mayor.

Added to the agenda was item #19 approving a phone contract with Orbitcom, #20 motion requesting the CRWD for extension of review period before Rules are submitted to the Board of Water & Soil Resources, and #21 AEA contract approval. Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving the agenda. Carried.

On page 6 of the December 20, 2010 minutes Council Member Clennon stated the last sentence of the last paragraph was not correct and should be removed. Moved by Council Member Austin, Council Member McAlister, approving the minutes of December 20, 2010 as amended. Carried. Motion by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Clennon approving the minutes of the January 3, 2011 council meeting. Carried.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert accepted the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the City has received the award.

Jeff Weaver, representing Mower County, presented the City with the traveling plaque for having won the Fall 2010 United Way food drive.

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

Licenses:

- Exempt gambling (raffle): Austin Area Chamber of Commerce @  
Bandshell Park, July 4
- Exempt gambling (raffle): Austin Area Chambers of Commerce at Elk's  
Lodge #414, March 4

License renewals:

- Cigarette: BLS Imports & Specialty, 1700 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Food: Loyal Order of Moose, 208 S. Main Street
- Food: Elk's Club #414, 102 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE
- Food: King Buffet: 1801 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Food: Staples, 1702B 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Food: Super Fresh Produce, 2101 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW
- Food: Target Store, 1701 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW
- Master Plumber: Christianson Plumbing & Heating, Albert Lea, MN
- Master Plumber: Voigt Plumbing & Heating, Grant Meadow, MN
- Master Plumber: Superior Mechanical, Rochester, MN
- Master Plumber: David Patterson Plumbing, Inc., Lyle, MN
- Massage Establishment: Sports Massage, 403 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE
- Tree Removal: Ted Janning Tree Service, Blooming Prairie, MN

\*Claims:

- a. Investment Report.
- b. Pre-list of Bills.
- c. Trevor & Liza Watkinson, Mt. Pleasant, IA. This claim has been referred to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.
- d. Fred Husemoller, 1606 4<sup>th</sup> 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, adopting a resolution adopting the Code of Conduct policies. 5-1. Carried. Council Member Clennon voted nay noting these policies should not even be needed.

City Administrator Hurm read a prepared statement outlining a proposed resolution in support of maintaining LGA as is being recommended by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. Mr. Hurm stated he understands the State Chamber of Commerce has backed off their initial proposal to eliminate LGA. Additionally, we are asking the local Chamber of Commerce to approve a similar resolution in support of LGA. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution in support of Local Government Aid. 5-1. Carried. Council Member Clennon voted nay noting Austin cannot be so dependent on LGA and should be proactive in our budgeting.

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a motion requesting the Austin Chamber of Commerce approve a resolution in support of LGA. 5-1. Carried. Council Member Clennon voted nay.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, authorizing the hiring of Park & Rec position vacated by a retirement. 5-1. Carried. Council Member

Clennon voted nay noting with the impending cuts with LGA that we should not be replacing these positions at this time.

At the last work session, Council recommended that we work with the Austin Daily Herald to print the City bike trail maps, and in return they could sell advertising around the edges. Discussion ensued on a minimum number of copies the City should have access to (500), and even if an agreement as drafted is really even needed. Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving a Letter of Understanding with the Austin Daily Herald to print city maps at no cost to the City of Austin. 5-1. Carried. Council Member Clennon voted nay noting a minimum number of copies for the city does not need to be listed.

The Hormel Foundation is funding the purchase of defibrillators in the 2011 budget. At the last work session the Police Department outlined the desire to purchase Zoll brand defibrillators rather than others based on the battery replacement cost and ease of use of the Zoll brand. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a motion approving of the purchase of the Zoll defibrillators, funding from the Hormel Foundation. Carried

Mr. Dankert noted three snow removal/junk removal/weed removal assessments remain from 2010. These assessments were removed from the assessment rolls at the December meeting when the citizens came to the meeting to discuss the issue, and staff was directed to further look into the issue. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Boughton, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for February 7, 2011 on proposed assessments for remainder of 2010 snow removal, 2010 junk removal, and 2010 weed removal. 6-0. Carried.

Mr. Erichson discussed an allowed increase in our mileage for roads that are designated as state aid. Certain roads will qualify for the state aid funding through the gas tax. As part of the eligibility criteria, Austin must develop a comprehensive Transportation System. Austin is allowed to designate a maximum of 20% of the total street mileage as state aid. As a result, Austin is proposing to add segment 161 at 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW (from Highway 218N at 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW) to County Road 45 (4<sup>th</sup> Street NW). Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member McAlister, adopting a resolution approving a revision of the Municipal State Aid System. 6-0. Carried.

Mr. Erichson stated that in 2015 Austin has been awarded a highly competitive grant for the extension of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW through the Cook Farm site. The estimated cost of the project is \$875,000, with \$750,000 of this coming from state/federal grants, with the remaining \$125,000 being a local commitment. Council Member Clennon stated her hesitation on applying for this grant not knowing what LGA will be that far out. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving MnDOT transportation improvement program grant application. 6-0. Carried.

The City of Austin is in need of somebody to tape public meetings now that Brandon Jensen has resigned for other employment. We have brought Robert Martinsen in as he applied last time for the position. The proposal is to pay Mr. Martinsen \$11.00 per hour (with a minimum of 2.5 hours per meeting) to tape all public meetings of the City

Council (two per month), Planning Commission (one per month), and School Board (one per month). Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Boughton, adopting a resolution approving videotaping agreement with Robert Martinsen. 6-0. Carried.

A resolution is need to grant liquor licenses to The Elks Club and Moose Lodge. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving Sunday Hard Liquor On-Sale license renewal for the Elk's Club and Sunday Hard Liquor On-Sale license renewal for the Moose Lodge as amended. 6-0. 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 408 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, Olivarez 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 607 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Ernst 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 900 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Schmitz property. Carried.

Mr. Hurm proposed a resolution to set wages for non-represented, non-exempt employees at 0% in 2011, 0% in 2012, and 1.5% increase for 2013 as was consistent with contract approvals for the IAFF and the tentative agreement with AEA. Council Member Clennon stated we should not be doing this as the third year is an increase. Council Member Clennon stated the City should just approve a two-year contract at 0%. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting wages for non-represented, non-exempt employees. 5-1. Council Member Clennon voted nay. Carried.

Mr. Hurm discussed the proposed agreement for non-represented, exempt employees at the same 0% for 2011 and 2012, and 1.5% for 2013. Council Member Clennon again noted her disagreement with a three-year contract that included an increase. Council Member Austin clarified that the hourly rates listed for salary purposes are only for administrative/payroll calculation purposes and that these people listed are exempt from earning overtime. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting wages for non-represented, exempt employees. 5-1. Council Member Clennon voted nay. Carried.

Mr. Dankert noted to council that one of our current phone providers, DTI, has filed for bankruptcy. We have worked with a broker to get those lines switched over to another reseller, Orbitcom, with an additional cost savings. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, to approve the phone agreement for 12 months with Orbitcom. Carried.

Mr. Erichson reviewed his memo regarding a January 13 meeting with representatives of the Cedar River Watershed District. The North Main Flood Mitigation Project is underway and the proposed rules may have some impact on what we are planning on doing. Key points of the discussion include how the rules would apply to the North Main project, and there may be some additional cost if modeling is required by the CRWD. Mr. Erichson requested Council ask the CRWD for an extension of the review period of the rules. Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, to request the Cedar River Watershed District for an additional 60 days before submitting the proposed rules of the CRWD to the Board of Water and Soil for comments. 5-1. Council Member Clennon voted nay noting she has been involved with the Rules Committee, and a requesting a change now this late in the process would not be appropriate. Carried.

Moved by Council Member McAlister, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving the AEA contract 2011 – 2013. 5-1. Council Member Clennon voted nay noting the increase in the third year as her issue. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to February 7, 2011. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:31 pm

Approved: February 7, 2011

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_