

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 7, 2011**  
**5:30 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Brian McAlister, Jeff Austin, Steve King, Roger Boughton, Judy Enright and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Marian Clennon.

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. Dustin Heckman. Matt Simonson. David Albino, et al..

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Boughton, approving the minutes of October 17, 2011. Carried.

Dustin Heckman, director of the Mower County Historical Society, said he is working on a 5-year strategic plan. Comments from the public will be accepted through November 30. Mr. Heckman provided copies of the book *Once Around the Mill Pond*, by local historian Richard Hall, to council members.

Matt Simonson, 607 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, talked to Council about streets in Vermillion, South Dakota, that are not as wide as his street but wide enough for a parade and no one complains. Mr. Simonson also thanked the Mayor for the letter he received from him.

David Albino described the “Inside, Out” art project at Austin High School and thanked the Fire Department for their assistance in hanging the pictures.

Rotarian Kathy Stutzman, Shannon Stutzman, and Brad Bergstrom, president of Rotary, shared information on the Rotary project of providing some retired fire-fighting equipment with Nicaragua. They presented Chief Healey with a patch a Nicaraguan fire department.

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

Licenses:

Cigarettes: Austin Tobacco, 1702 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Austin

Excavation: Dulas Excavating, Wells, MN  
Sign Installer: S.E.W. Enterprises, Wilmar, MN  
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Elks Club, January 27

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Dawn Dennison, 148 Grant Street, Mapleview, MN. This claim was forwarded to the city attorney to protect the city's interest.

Carried.

Council is requested to approve the final resolution of the easement vacation which incorporates the report of the vacation commissioners. No damages were found, and the benefit is \$600.00. They have recommended to proceed with the vacation.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Boughton, adopting a resolution relating to the easement vacation in Fairview Place Addition. 6-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Boughton appointing Mat Miller from Austin Public Schools and Angie Knish from Mower County-Environmental Services to the Austin Sustainability Taskforce. Larry Dolphin will serve as an ex-officio member.

Carried.

The accumulation of junk at 1010 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Neri property has been resolved. No council action was required.

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Enright, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 104 11<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Nelson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 803 15<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Kirtz property. 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 900 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Schmitz property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 611 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW, Milton property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Boughton, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 608 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Edge property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 203 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Miller property. Carried.

Council was requested to approve an agreement which allows MnDOT to act as the City's agent for accepting federal aid funds. City Engineer Jon Erichson said the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE property and next year's 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW project are examples of these funds.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving an agreement which allows MnDOT to act as City's agent for accepting federal aid funds. 6-0. Carried

## Reports

Council Member Enright attended the last AMCAT meeting. AMCAT recently added a route to the rainbow route for preschool children. There were 880 kids using the rainbow routes from the beginning of this school year. Ridership for Dial-A-Ride is up 1.22%.

Council Member Enright worked four hours at the electronics recycling event with Steven Lang and other City and County staff members. There were many cars bringing in electronics, and people were very appreciative of this event. It was a great collaborative event of the City and County, and it cost us nothing.

The Yellow Ribbon taskforce held its second meeting. Council Member Enright said citizens may still get involved. A meeting to take action on becoming a 'Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community' is scheduled for November 15 at 6:30 at the VFW. Or, citizens can attend the same meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at noon at the American Legion.

Council Member Boughton attended a MnDOT Local Road Advisory Committee meeting on October 27. The legislative extra session held in July produced some earmarked funds – \$5 million for routes of rural significance and \$5 million for rural roads.

Council Member-at-Large Anderson announced the Sustainability Taskforce's first meeting on November 17 at 7:30.

Council Member-at-Large Anderson, who serves on the CVB Board of Directors, reported that the last CVB meeting, its annual meeting, was on collaboration of the CVBs of Albert Lea, Faribault and Owatonna to bring more visitors to the region.

Council Member King recognized Chief Healey for his assistance with the Nicaraguan project and with the high school art project.

Library Director Ann Hokanson said the library book sale was successful; funds will be used for the library. The dedication of the St. John's Bible was held a week ago Sunday with the Hodapp family and approximately 150 residents in attendance.

Council Member Austin noted that one of the issues discussed at the recent Park & Rec meeting was theft or vandalism at the community gardens. The Board is looking at ways to prevent this via education and signage.

City Engineer Jon Erichson thanked Council Member Enright for the electronics recycling event idea. This was a record event for the company, 5R. This was also a good example of cooperation between the City and County. The transfer station has been closed the last few weeks for upgrades. The project is now complete.

Park & Rec Director Kim Underwood noted that public skate began at Packer Arena this week. And the dog park event was well attended.

Mayor Stiehm said he attended the Bible dedication at the library and encouraged everyone to go and see this. The public will be able to touch the Bible. Its life expectancy is 3000 – 4000 years.

Mayor Stiehm also encouraged citizens to fill out the city survey online or at the library, Utilities, or City Hall.

Mayor Stiehm also attended the dog park event which was well attended.

Mayor Stiehm reminded citizens to vote tomorrow on the School Board referendum.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to November 21, 2011.

Adjourned: 6:04 pm

Approved: November 21, 2011

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

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