

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 15, 2013
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Judy Enright, Steve King, Michael Jordal, Roger Boughton, and Jeremy Carolan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jeff Austin and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Hurm, Tom Dankert, Craig Hoiium, Jeanne Howatt, Steven Lang, David Hoversten, Brian Krueger, Ann Hokanson and Kim Underwood.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Halsey, firefighter. Amanda Stoa, Mower County Safe Communities Coalition, John Gray, Vision 2020 Gateway to Austin Attraction Committee.

Mayor Stiehm called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Added to the agenda: Under *Awards and Recognitions*) Speed Awareness Month. Amanda Stoa, Mower County Safe Communities Coalition; (Under *Consent Agenda Licenses*) Cab Driver: Ramona Freese, Austin, MN; Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Morning Lions Club at the Eagles, October 25; Temporary Liquor: Pacelli, 311 4th Street NW, Aug 24; and a motion to authorize City employees the option to donate sick leave to Building Inspector Doug Mauer.

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

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member King, approving the minutes of July 1, 2013. Carried.

Mayor Stiehm announced the City Art Purchase Award, which was on display. The painting by Bonnie Lee is a depiction of the old courthouse superimposed over the current courthouse. The name of the painting is "Old to New".

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation for Speed Awareness Month. Amanda Stoa from the Mower County Safe Communities Coalition gave a report on speed awareness.

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Jordal, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Temporary Food: Relay for Life of Mower County at Veterans Pavilion, July 27 & 28
Food Mobile: Papa Murphy's, 402 1st Avenue SW, Austin
Temporary 3.2 Beer: Mower Co Agricultural Society @ Fairgrounds, Aug 6-11

Temporary Liquor: Mower County Agricultural Society @ Fairgrounds, Aug 7-10
Exempt Gambling (raffle): United Catholic Schools Fdn. @ Marcusen Park, Aug 24
Cab Driver: Ramona Freese, Austin, MN
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Morning Lions Club at the Eagles, October 25
Temporary Liquor: Pacelli, 311 4th Street NW, Aug 24

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial, investments and credit card reports.

Carried.

Two months ago, Jim Halsey from the Fire Department reported to Council on last year's Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraiser and also stated the dates the Fire Department has set for this year's drive. No Council action was taken at the time so Council is requested to formally approve.

Mayor Stiehm said he did receive one phone call on the issue opposing the practice because they thought it is not safe. Jim Halsey responded that the firefighters use (safety) vests, and also the lights are turned to flashing so everyone is forced to stop for safety.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Jordal, allowing Austin firefighters to solicit for Muscular Dystrophy Association on August 14, 15, & 16 at the following locations: 14th Street & 8th Avenue NW, 4th Street & 1st Drive NW, 8th Street & 8th Avenue NE, and Oakland Avenue & 10th Drive. Carried.

John Gray, representing the Gateway to Austin Attraction Committee, asked Council to authorize a committee to work with MnDOT on aesthetic theme guidelines for I-90 ramps and bridges within Austin. One of the goals of the committee is to beautify the landscaping along the I-90 corridor from Oakland to 28th Street as well as bridge enhancements. Mr. Gray stated that if the City were to hire out for this type of work, it would cost a minimum of \$75000. MnDOT will do this work. He noted that the guidelines would include appearance of all bridges, starting with the 11th Drive NE bridge scheduled for construction in 2015 and the 4th Street NW bridge scheduled for 2019. Because it is MnDOT property, we need to obtain their permission. The following committee members to work on the Aesthetic Theme Guidelines include:

John Gray, Hormel Foundation, Vision 2020 Gateway to Austin Attraction Committee
Kelly Lady, Austin Utilities, Vision 2020 Gateway to Austin Attraction Committee
Jon Erichson, Austin Housing & Redevelopment Authority
Mike Ankeny, County Commissioner, Mower County
Mike Hanson, County Engineer, Mower County
Kim Underwood, Director of Parks & Recreation, City of Austin
Steven Lang, Public Works Director, City of Austin
Randy Berg, owner of Berg's Nursery, community representative

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution authorizing a committee to work with MnDOT on aesthetic theme guidelines for I-90 ramps and bridges within Austin. 5-0. Carried.

A joint powers board for the developing Blazing Star Trail has a preliminary application to the State of Minnesota to obtain \$500,000 of additional funds for further development. Council is asked to adopt a resolution in support. Community Development Director Craig Hoium stated other communities on the joint powers board are taking action also before August 1.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution in support of State bonding for further development of the Blazing Star Trail. 5-0. Carried.

Council is requested to adopt a resolution to defer a special assessment for G&R Truck Wash per a recently approved agreement with G&R. *(The special assessment on G&R Truck Wash was approved in 2012 by Resolution No. 14289, then amended in the spring of 2013 by Resolution No. 14506 but will remain intact to maintain its position as first lien holder at the Mower County Courthouse.)*

Council Member Carolan asked Public Works Director Steven Lang on whether G&R Truck Wash/Garth Carlson is complying with the recently approved agreement. Mr. Lang stated the truck wash has been open for about one week and they have not heard any complaints to date.

Council Member Boughton questioned the amount being deferred, to which Mr. Lang stated it is per the agreement with G&R Truck Wash: a two-year payment of over \$2000 per month for two years with a balloon payment due at the end of those two years. The amount would be deferred to 2016; we would not have to then have another assessment hearing. If the amount is paid off, then the entire assessment would be removed.

Moved by Council Member Boughton, seconded by Council Member Jordal, adopting a resolution deferring the special assessment of G&R Truck Wash. 4-1. Carried. Council Member King voted nay.

Municipal services were installed in Normal Park Subdivision a few years ago. Now, Jim Kottner, a resident in Norman Park Subdivision at 711 22nd Street NW, is requesting to be annexed into Austin to receive services.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving orderly annexation with Austin Township 5-0. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 2121 1st Avenue NE, Mangguard property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 2013 3rd Avenue NE, MN Housing Finance Agency property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 2001 7th Avenue NE, Ulwelling property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 606 10th Street NE, Nelson property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, 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 901 2nd Avenue NW, Select Portfolio Servicing Inc. property. Carried.

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 1413 10th Avenue NW, Delacruz property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, 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 1104 4th Street SE, JS2 Properties. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 304 2nd Avenue SW, Hoy property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 806 6th Avenue SW, Herrera-Andrade property. Carried.

Residents in the area in the northwest corner of I-90 and Oakland Avenue West have been in discussion with City staff to receive sanitary services. In order to do so, they would need to be annexed. Earlier this year, the Committee-of-the-Whole gave approval to proceed with the proposed project. Since that time, staff from the Engineering Department has met with two representatives from Austin Township. The next step is to apply for a grant to facilitate the costs. The grant in front of Council would provide up to 50% of the eligible construction costs.

Council Member King asked if the project would include sewer and not water, to which Public Works Director Steven Lang said the main need is sewer but that they would find out the cost for water from Austin Utilities. He added that he anticipates a response by September of this year.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Carolan, adopting a resolution approving a grant application to the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority for Turtle Creek I flood mitigation. 5-0. Carried.

City Administrator Jim Hurm requested approval for City employees to be able to donate sick leave hours to Building Inspector Doug Mauer who works part-time but is currently off due to health issues. The policy is currently allowable under certain circumstances. Though this is technically different, Mr. Hurm recommends approval as Doug was injured while working for the City. There would be placed a cap of 160 donated hours.

Council Member Jordal asked if Mr. Mauer received sick leave before. Community Development Director Craig Hoium said he had but that it was due to a separate incident.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, authorizing City employees the option to donate sick leave to Building Inspector Doug Mauer. Carried.

REPORTS:

Council Member Enright reminded everyone of the next Conversations with the Council this Saturday at the library beginning at 10:00 am.

Council Member Jordal attended the recent Main Street Project Board meeting at which they discussed projects for next year.

Council Member Carolan reported that on his way to the council meeting, he observed a youth group cleaning up and sprucing up a home in the Northeast area of town. Also, he thanked the Chamber, citizens and participating local businesses for their participation in putting together the 4th of July festivities.

Park & Rec Director Kim Underwood announced a Kiwanis-sponsored track meet to take place on Thursday at Wescott Field beginning at 6:15.

Police Chief Brian Krueger stated there would be an emergency response joint training with Austin Utilities and the City at Energy Park. Council and media are welcome to attend. City Administrator Jim Hurm told Council to look for him as he is supposed to direct.

Community Development Director Craig Hoium stated that he has received a letter from a citizen regarding hazardous properties, and that there also has been some concern expressed on a property on 4th Street SE. He is working with Marty Helle, a city attorney on whether staff can proceed with demolition if a property is going through bankruptcy. Mr. Helle has given approval for staff to proceed. There will be some hazardous properties for Council to take action on at the next council meeting.

Council Member Enright asked Mr. Hoium about the fire site property on 12th Street. Mr. Hoium replied that the property owner had until the end of May to resolve the issues. Mr. Hoium then contacted a contractor, and they have come in for a permit. They are waiting on an affidavit from Austin Utilities for the cutting off of utilities.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to August 6, 2013. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:55 pm

Approved: August 6, 2013

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____