

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 20, 2015
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Steve King, Michael Jordal, David Hagen, Jeremy Carolan, Judy Enright, Jeff Austin and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, City Attorney David Hoversten, Police Chief Brian Krueger, Library Director Ann Hokanson, Park and Rec Director Kim Underwood and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Gretchen Ramlo, Belita Schindler, Tom Knoepke, Austin Daily Herald, Austin Post Bulletin

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

Added to the agenda:

Consent Agenda:

Licenses:

Temporary Food: Hy-Vee at East Side Lake on January 31, 2015

Temporary Liquor: Austin Jaycees at East Side Lake on January 31, 2015

Removed from Agenda:

23j. Removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 111 5th Street SW, Anderson Property.

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 Enright, approving the minutes of January 5, 2015. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Gretchen Ramlo and Belita Schindler from the Austin Artworks Center thanked the City of Austin for its support with their new building and project.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Cab Driver: Bonnie Brechtel, 1707 4th Avenue SE
Cab Driver: David Hunn, 702 36th Drive SW
Cab Driver: Daniel Konken, 612 11th Avenue SW
Exempt Gambling (Raffle): Austin Area Chamber of Commerce at the Eagles on March 6, 2015
Exempt Gambling (Raffle): Mower County Ducks Unlimited at the Holiday Inn on April 2, 2015
Food: Super Fresh Produce, Inc., 2101 4th Street NW
Food Wagon: Sunny's Ice Cream, 1013 5th Avenue NE
Massage Establishment: Yoga Studio and Massage of Austin, 401 N. Main St.
Massage Therapist: Patrick Whalen, 58306 220th Street
Master Plumber: Dimension Plumbing & Heating, Inc., 1985 N. Broadway, Rochester
Temporary 3.2 Beer: Austin Jaycees at the National Guard Armory on Feb. 7, 2015
Temporary 3.2 Beer: Mower County Ag Society at the Mower County Fairgrounds on February 8, August 1 and August 16, 2015
Temporary Liquor, Mower County Ag Society at the Mower County Fairgrounds on August 12th – August 15, 2015
Temporary Food: Hy-Vee at East Side Lake on January 31, 2015
Temporary 3.2 Beer: Austin Jaycees at East Side Lake on January 31, 2015

Event Applications:

Shamrockin 5K Run on March 14, 2015

Claims:

- a. Investment Report.
- b. Pre-list of Bills.

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Director of Public Works Steven Lang presented the 2015 assessment rates stating the City would like to assess adjacent property owners 50% of the costs of the project but 30% to 40% has been the average over recent years. He proposed increasing the assessment rates for urban and commercial streets 2.9% to get closer to that goal. Therefore, the rate for 2015 will increase from \$41.50 per lineal foot to \$42.75 per lineal foot for residential street reconstruction and \$59.50 per lineal foot to \$61.25 per lineal foot for commercial properties. The sidewalk rate will also increase from \$4.00 to \$4.10 per lineal foot. Other rates would also be increased slightly.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting street improvement assessment rates for 2015. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Carolan, approving Council appointments to Boards & Commissions. Carried.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council adopt a website information policy to keep the information on the new website relevant to the citizens of Austin.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a website information policy. Carried.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council accept an audit engagement letter from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. The audit is required by state statute. The fee for the audit will increase by \$1,000 for the 2014 year. The fee has not been increased since 2010.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, accepting an audit engagement letter from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood requested the Council authorize the extension of the Marcusen Park lease with the Marcusen Park Baseball Association. The previous lease was from 2005 to 2014 at \$1.00 per year and Ms. Underwood requested an extension for ten years for the same amount. She stated the tournaments have a positive economic impact for the City.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution extending the Marcusen Park lease with the Marcusen Park Baseball Association. Carried 7-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood requested Council authorization for the sale of a 1998 Toro 580D, a 1986 Chevy 1 ton truck and a 1998 Toro water wagon at the next auction.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving the sale of Park and Rec equipment. Carried.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood requested the Council authorize a contract with I&S Group for architectural services at the Hormel Nature Center. The Council had previously given authorization for Phase 1, which was funded by the Friends of the Hormel Nature Center and this would be for Phase 2, funded by the City.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a contract with I&S Group for architect services at the Nature Center. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, setting a public hearing for February 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for a dangerous dog appeal requested by Douglas W. Seidel. Carried.

Director of Public Works Steven Lang requested the Council authorize engineering services with FOX engineering for an Industrial pH and alkalinity study at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The study will take two to three months at a cost of \$9,260 and will be funded within the Industrial Plant Budget.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving an industrial pH and alkalinity study at the Waste Water Treatment Plant with FOX Engineering, Inc. Carried 7-0.

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council pass a resolution authorizing the City apply for a grant which would provide Oak Park Mall funding. The grant is through the Department of Employment and Economic Development in the amount of \$500,000 and would require matching funds from the City.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Jordal, adopting a resolution approving a grant application for the Oak Park Mall project. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, appointing Leona Unverzagt to the HRA Board term expiring 12/31/2019. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, calling for a public hearing on February 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for rezoning the lots located at 1704 8th Street NE and the 1000 block of 16th Avenue NE from "R-1" single family residential to "R-O" multi-family office. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Jordal, calling for a public hearing on February 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for rezoning the property located in the 900-1000 blocks of 15th Avenue NE, 16th Avenue NE and 17th Avenue NE from "R-1" single family residential to "R-O" multi-family office. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, resolving the City Council into the Sign Board of Appeals. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested a review of a sign appeal request from Northland Investors and Signart Company for a sign appeal as specified in City Code Section 4.50, Schedule No. IV, (2)(a-c) which allows only one freestanding sign in a "B-2" Community Business District and limits free standing ground signs to 100 square feet. The proposed sign, which would be erected in the Southwest corner of the site, will exceed this maximum height by approximately 23 square feet. The petitioner was granted a conditional use permit for the same property, located in the Northwest corner of the property, therefore this sign would also exceed the number of signs allowed. On January 13, 2015 the Planning Commission recommended approval but limiting the size to 100 square feet as required by ordinance.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving a sign appeal request from Northland Investors and Signart Company, Inc. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested a review of a sign appeal request from Tony Roehl and Innovative Signs & Graphics for a sign appeal as specified in City Code Section 4.50, Schedule No. IV (1)(b), which requires that fascia/wall signs in a "B-2" Community Business District to be erected on exterior walls that face the public right-of-way. The proposed sign would be lighted and will be attached to the rear of the building. The Planning Commission denied approval on January 13, 2015 due to concerns about neighboring businesses, specifically The Cedars, and that it would create a more commercial look around the adjacent landscaped/park area. The denial was a 7-0 vote.

Enright noted that the Planning Commission did not have the information that the Cedars didn't oppose the sign at their Planning Commission meeting.

Tom Knoepke, director of the Cedars of Austin, noted they do not oppose the sign but would like it not be illuminated.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving a sign appeal request from Tony Roehl and Innovative Signs & Graphics with the condition that the sign not be illuminated. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested a review of a sign appeal request from Michael Steichen and Innovative Signs & Graphics for a sign appeal as specified in City Code Section 4.50, Schedule No.IV (1)(b), which requires that facia/wall signs in a "B-2" Community Business District to be erected on exterior walls that face the public right-of-way. The proposed sign faces a neighboring gas station and can be viewed from the street. On January 12, 2015 the Planning Commission recommended approval of the sign.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving a sign appeal request from Michael Steichen and Innovative Signs & Graphics. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jordal, seconded by Council Member King, resolving the Sign Board of Appeals back into the City Council. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Jordal, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution accepting gifts to the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1001 4th Avenue NE, Midwest Properties Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1002 ½ 5th Avenue NE, Carlos Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 805 12th Street NE, Kvammen Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 807 12th Street NE, Gerero Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 611 1st Avenue NW, Ernst Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1407 8th Avenue NW, Hanson Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 800 9th Avenue SE, Britt/Moucha Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1000 7th Street SE, Sturm Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Carolan, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 301 3rd Street SE, Ernst Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member Hagen met with Quality Pork and was impressed with their operation and commitment to the community.

Council Member Jordal stated there is a community education meeting in the upcoming week.

Council Member-at-Large Anderson stated she attended the Martin Luther King Jr. event which was put on by the Human Rights Commission.

Council Member King attended an Awesome Austin event with Craig Clark and the Mayor and was impressed with the new citizens coming to Austin.

Chief Krueger noted the department launched the Tip 411 web based reporting system for anonymous tips to the City. He is looking for information from citizens and stated all the information is encrypted and confidential.

Mayor Stiehm attended the Senior Center board meeting and also stated he would be participating in the Plunging for Pink.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Carolan, adjourning the meeting to February 2, 2015. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:59 pm

Approved: February 2, 2015

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____