

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 2015
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Steve King, Michael Jordal, David Hagen, Judy Enright, Jeff Austin, Jeremy Carolan 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, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Library Director Ann Hokanson, Park and Rec Director Kim Underwood and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennie Knoebel, Belita Schindler, Bonnie Reitz, Austin Daily Herald, Post Bulletin, Public

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

5. Consent Agenda:

Licenses: Temporary 3.2 Beer: St. Augustine's/United Catholic Schools Foundation of Austin, MN on September 12-13, 2015 at 405 4th Street NW, Austin.

Claims:

Amanda J. Kuen, 610 6th Avenue SW. The matter was forwarded to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

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

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving the minutes of August 17, 2015. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Police Chief Brian Krueger introduced the new police officer David Dyke. Officer Dyke is from Fillmore County and has 16 years of experience.

Mayor Stiehm congratulated the Austin U-14 Girls Fastpitch State Champion team. The team was coached by Bobbi Jo Richard, Galen Berg and Paul Thompson and won the championship tournament in Austin.

Jennie Knoebel from the Austin Area Commission for the Arts presented the City Art Purchase Award from the Austin ArtWorks. The piece is titled "Cold Steam on Vermillion" and was taken by Neil Johnson of Hibbing, Minnesota. It was selected by Council Members King and Enright.

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation declaring September 18, 2015 Forget-Me-Not Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Food: Jacaranda, LLC., 301 3rd Avenue NW
Massage Therapist: Darci M. Gau, 103 Winnebago St., Lake Mills, Iowa
Temporary Food: Pickles Café and Catering on September 20, 2015
Temporary On-Sale Liquor: Austin Jaycees at the Bandshell on September 27, 2015
Tree Service: Pat's Tree Service, PO Box 146, Lyle
Temporary 3.2 Beer: St. Augustine's/United Catholic Schools Foundation of Austin, MN on September 12-13, 2015 at 405 4th Street NW, Austin.

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills.
- b. Credit Card and Financial Reports.
- c. Amanda J. Kuen, 610 6th Avenue SW. The matter was forwarded to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

Event Applications:

Minnesota High School Cycling League on September 20, 2015
Ride it, Race it, Walk it 5k/10k on October 3, 2015

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public hearing was held on street improvements for sanitary sewer and water improvements on properties recently annexed into the City of Austin. City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the annexation order was signed by the State on March 6, 2015 and the County recently assigned these parcels City tax numbers. The City can now move forward with assessing these properties for sewer and/or water deferred assessments from projects that went by their properties. These property owners are eligible to hook into the City system for sewer and/or water at the rate of when the

project was completed, which was mostly in the 1990's, instead of the current rate. The assessment will be a one year assessment with interest at the rate of 4.75%. Each property owner will be given the opportunity to pay the assessment in full prior to it being placed on their 2016 real estate taxes.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution ordering improvements and approving plans and specifications for sanitary sewer and water improvements on properties recently annexed into the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council pass a resolution setting the 2016 tax levy. The State of Minnesota requires cities to certify a proposed levy before September 30th and a truth in taxation hearing must be held between November 25th and December 28th. Mr. Dankert requested the hearing be held Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The Council reviewed the proposed budgets at previous work sessions and will continue to discuss prior to the truth in taxation hearing.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution establishing a proposed tax levy and proposed budget for taxes payable in 2016 and setting the date for the Truth in Taxation hearing for December 8, 2015. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council adopt resolutions setting public hearings on October 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for 2014-2015 snow removal, 2015 junk removal, 2015 weed removal and grass mowing, miscellaneous sidewalk projects, forfeited property reassessments, unpaid utility bills, 8th Avenue NE and 8th Street NE sidewalk replacement project and sanitary sewer and water improvements on properties recently annexed into the City.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting final public assessment hearings for October 5, 2015 for snow removal, weed removal, junk removal, forfeited property and miscellaneous sidewalk projects. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for October 5, 2015 to certify unpaid Austin Utilities bills. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting final public assessment hearing for October 5, 2015 for sidewalk improvement assessments on Project 1-A-11, 8th Avenue NE (8th Street to C.P. Railroad) & 8th Street NE (8th Avenue to 10th Avenue). Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Jordal, adopting a resolution setting a final public assessment hearing for October 5, 2015 for sanitary sewer and water improvements on properties recently annexed into the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council set a public hearing for October 5, 2015 to consider changes to the Austin City Charter. The Charter Commission reviewed the matter at their August 31, 2015 meeting and recommended that the job descriptions be removed from the Charter and be adopted via ordinance or resolution.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Carolan, setting a public hearing for October 5, 2015 to consider changes to the Austin City Charter. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member-at-Large, appointing Adam Pulchinski to the Human Rights Commission term expiring December 31, 2016. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a sidewalk replacement agreement with Kristi Beckman for the property located at 809 8th Street NW. The cost for sidewalk replacement is \$2,100 and will be levied on the property owner's taxes.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving an agreement for sidewalk repairs with Kristi Beckman, 809 8th Street NW. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated G & R Truck wash currently pays the City of Austin on an original note in the amount of \$190,913.52 for unpaid strong waste charges and a balloon payment under said note was due on August 1, 2015. They have been current with payments under the note and monthly strong waste charges at the facility and staff recommends renewing the note in the amount of \$161,630.90 under the same terms and conditions for a one-year period with payments of \$2,124.06 and a balloon payment due on August 1, 2016.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution approving an extension of a repayment agreement with G & R Truck Wash. Carried 7-0.

Fire Chief Jim McCoy requested the Council pass a resolution for a change order on the fire station improvement project. The original specifications for the project did not include gray tinted glass on the windows being replaced and the tint is necessary to match the current windows. The cost to include the gray windows in the project is \$1,992.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a change order for Fire Station improvements. Carried 7-0.

Fire Chief Jim McCoy requested the Council approve a contract with the Austin Community Fire Protection Association which consists of Austin and Lansing Townships. The current agreement will expire on December 31, 2015 and the City and the Association would like to renew the agreement for three years at \$135,000 per year.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a Rural Fire Association agreement. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council authorize the annual fall yard waste drop off program from September 19, 2015 to November 22, 2015. The site would be located at the Cook Farm, open 7 days a week from dawn to dusk and would accept leaves, grass and plants. Compost from previous years would also be available to the public. The County will also do advertising for the project.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, authorizing the fall yard waste program scheduled for September 19, 2015 to November 22, 2015. Carried.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council authorize an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the eCourtMN paperless court program. The current City Attorneys would be able to access information electronically from their offices.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution authorizing an agreement with State of Minnesota to participate in the eCourtMN system. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council authorize the sale of a 2000 Dodge Dakota, a 1999 Dodge Ram and a 1996 Chevy truck.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving the sale of City property. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council authorize a consulting services agreement for the 3rd Avenue Plaza project. The City, Vision 2020 and Hormel Foods have been working with Confluence for landscape design on the 3rd Avenue Plaza area and have acquired a grant in the amount of \$224,295 for the project. The City will receive the grant and administer the project. The City has received a proposal from Confluence in the amount of \$20,550 for architectural design services. Part of the work would be completed in 2015 with the remaining work completed in 2016.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a consulting agreement for design services on the 3rd Avenue Plaza. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council authorize the Red Bike Program. The City and Vision 2020 have developed a Red Bike program where users can utilize free bikes to encourage citizens to bike and make it easily accessible for anyone to enjoy the benefits of biking. The bikes will be kept at various business locations throughout Austin and the City shall enter into an agreement with those businesses for the placement of the bike racks. Mr. Clark requested the Council approve of the form for the agreement and authorize the Mayor and City Recorder to sign the agreements as they are executed for the program.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving the "Red Bike" program. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council accept a SHIP grant from Mower County Health and Human Services in the amount of \$5,000 to help cover the cost of implementing the Red Bike program. Mr. Lang noted that the requested amount of the SHIP

grant was \$6,470 but \$5,000 was awarded. He stated the site sponsors will make up difference from the shortage with the grant.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting a SHIP grant for the Red Bike program. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution declaring the property located at 301 3rd Street SE a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of refuse, junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 2120 1st Avenue SE, Red City Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member-at-Large Anderson noted the 69th annual National Barrow Show is in Austin this week.

City Administrator Craig Clark noted that representatives from the MN House of Representatives are coming on Thursday and visiting the Ramsey Dam and other Soil and Water Conservation District sites.

Police Chief Brian Kruger stated the Police Department is holding a citizen's academy which is a six week program where citizens can learn about the Department. There are currently 8 people signed up for the class and they would like to have 12 in the class. Participants would learn about daily activities of the department, see equipment and go through Police training. Applications for the academy are available on the City website.

Library Director Ann Hokanson stated the Friends of Public Library sale is October 8th to 10th. Donations for the sale can be dropped off beginning on September 26th.

She also state that TedX Horace Park will be held on Saturday October 17th in the Council chambers. The event will feature a variety of speakers and tickets are available at AACA or the Library. There will only be 100 tickets sold.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adjourning the meeting to September 21, 2015. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:04 p.m.

Approved: September 21, 2015

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____