

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 16, 2015
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Steve King, Michael Jordal, Jeremy Carolan, Jeff Austin, Judy Enright, David Hagen 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: 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:

Consent Agenda:

Licenses: Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Youth Hockey Association, Inc. on January 1, 2016 at Packer Arena

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

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving the minutes of November 2, 2015. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Stiehm recognized the Finance Department and Tom Dankert with Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting which has been awarded to the City for 30th consecutive year. The Mayor thanked Mr. Dankert for all of his hard work.

Ann Hokanson also noted the Friends of the Library also received an award for their recent book sale.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Youth Hockey Association, Inc. on
January 1, 2016 at Packer Arena
Food (transfer): George's Pizza, LLC, 209 N. Main Street

Claims:

- a. Investment report
- b. Pre-list of bills

Carried.

BIDS AND AWARDS:

The City received bids for health insurance management. Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann stated the City received three bids for insurance both for fully funded options and self insured options. After reviewing the bids, Ms. Wiechmann recommended awarding the bid to CCStpa and MII Life. The bid would result in a slight insurance premium increase, about 13 percent, but it was the lowest bid received overall.

Mayor Stiehm asked when the last increase to employees was.

Ms. Wiechmann stated there have been slight increases to the overall cost to employees over the last few years. The proposed increase would result in a \$25 increase per month for single coverage and a \$50 increase for family coverage but the actual cost to employees depends on plan selected by the employee.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for health insurance management to CCStpa and MII Life. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adopting a resolution setting plans, qualifications and rates for health insurance for 2016. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution adopting health insurance plans and required employee contribution for non-bargaining unit employees for 2016. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council set a public hearing on December 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for the adoption of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adopting a resolution setting a public hearing for December 21, 2015 on the adoption of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. Carried 7-0.

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council pass a resolution granting the 2016 off-sale liquor licenses, club on-sale licenses and wine on-sale licenses.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution granting 2016 off-sale liquor licenses, club on-sale licenses and wine on-sale licenses. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council pass a resolution ordering feasibility reports on the 2016 street and sewer projects. The City plans on street projects on South Main Street & 3rd Avenue SW; 3rd Street NW, 6th Place NW & 7th Place NW; Woodson School Area; South Crane Phase 2; 4th Drive SW; alley reconstruction off Main Street and a sanitary sewer project in the Turtle Creek 2 area.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution ordering preparation of report for 2016 street and sewer improvements. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council authorize amendment number 2 to the Dobbins Creek Floodplain acquisition project. Currently the grant will expire on December 31, 2015 and the amendment would authorize a one year extension. The amendment would allow the City additional time to finalize projects and to expend remaining funds in the grant.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution authorizing amendment number 2 to the Dobbins Creek Floodplain acquisition project. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Hagen, resolving the City Council into the Sign Code Board of Appeals. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a sign appeal request from the Hormel Historic Home. The Hormel Home would like to place an entrance sign on the South fence which encloses the garden to effectively direct visitors to the Home. The current Austin City Code prohibits signs on fences. The Planning Commission reviewed the matter on November 10, 2015 and recommended approval of the sign appeal request by an 8-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving a sign appeal from the Hormel Historic Home. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member Enright, resolving the Sign Code Board of Appeals back into the City Council. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 900 8th Avenue NE a hazardous structure. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of refuse, junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 711 11th Avenue SW, Ng Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member-at-Large Anderson noted Christmas in the City downtown will take place the Friday after Thanksgiving. She also stated that Paint the Town Pink is coming up and citizens can check out the Hormel Institute website for more information.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Housing and Redevelopment Authority will have an open position for the 2016 board. Interest citizens should contact City Hall.

Library Director Ann Hokanson stated the Friends of the Library will hold their annual holiday book sale on December 3-5th at the Library.

Mayor Stiehm stated he recently attended a Coalition of Greater MN cities conference.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to December 7, 2015. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:48 p.m.

Approved: December 7, 2015

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____