

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 1, 2016
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

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

OTHERS PRESENT: KAUS Radio, Austin Daily Herald, Post Bulletin, Public

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

The following item was added to the agenda:

11. Granting the Planning and Zoning Department the authority to remove junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at the following locations:

- (mot) a. 813 7th Avenue SE, Novak Property.
- (mot) b. 608 11th Avenue SW, Villapando Property.
- (mot) c. 508 4th Avenue NW, Zamorano Property.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, approving the agenda with additions. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, approving the Council minutes from July 18, 2016. Carried.

RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

Police Chief Brian Krueger recognized Sgt. Jeff McCormack for receiving a DWI All-Star award from the State of Minnesota. In the last 15 years Sgt. McCormack has had 776 arrests in Mower County.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

***Consent Agenda**

Licenses:

Massage Establishment (transfer): Sports Massage, 110 1st Avenue SE, #4
Temporary Liquor: Austin Area Commission for the Arts at the ArtWorks
Festival on August 27 & 28, 2016

Claims:

- a. Credit Card and Financial Report
- b. Pre-list of bills.

Event Applications:

5K4 Freedom on August 28, 2016

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Fire Chief Jim McCoy requested the Council adopt the 2015 Fire Code including a Compliance Engine feature within the Code.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for preparation of the Fire Code ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 6-0.

Library Director Ann Hokanson requested \$27,600 in 2016 contingency funds to add 30 units to the Library's hot spot program. She stated the Library currently has 55 units and they are in constant demand. The request would cover two years of the contract and was supported by the Library board at its July 11th meeting. The Library is trying to meet the need of the citizens for temporary internet services and the devices can be checked out for three weeks.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving the purchase 30 hot spot units for the Library with \$27,600 coming from 2016 contingency funds. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve funding in the amount of \$425,000 for the Oakland Place Bridge replacement project. Mr. Lang stated Mower County received bids for the project with the low bidder being ICON Constructors, LLC in the amount of \$2,591,550.79. The City would be responsible for the retaining walls in the amount of \$130,000 and paid for via local option sales tax; approach pavements in the amount of \$250,000 and paid for by Municipal State Aid road funds; and intersection reconstruction in the amount of \$45,000 paid for by the Capital Improvement fund. The remainder of the project will be paid funded through State Bridge funds and County highway funds. The bridge will be closed in October and under construction in the winter of 2017.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Carolan, adopting a resolution approving funding sources for the Oakland Place SE bridge project. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Mayor convened an Ad Hoc Housing Committee to study housing issues in the City and one of the Committee's recommendations was to establish a program that would offer tax incentives for new construction of residential homes between August 1, 2016 and December 31, 2019 to spur new construction. Under the proposed program, 100% of the City's share of the real estate taxes would be abated for a period of five years as long as the property owner met the program criteria. Mr. Clark provided an updated policy for Council consideration.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution establishing the Austin Housing Initiative program. Carried 6-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kim Underwood stated the Friends of the Shooting Star Trail and the Southern Minnesota Bicycling Club currently have a mountain bike trail and wish to extend the trail onto Austin Utilities' property. Austin Utilities has consented to this expansion and has entered into a Trail Agreement for said area. Under City Charter the City of Austin must also approve said agreement.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving a trail agreement between Austin Utilities and the Friends of the Shooting Star Trail on behalf of the Southern Minnesota Bicycling Club. Carried 6-0.

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 813 7th Avenue SE, Novak Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 608 11th Avenue SW, Villapando Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 508 4th Avenue NW, Zamorano Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member King stated he was very impressed with the Hormel 125th Anniversary party and thanked the Hormel Company for the community celebration.

Police Chief Krueger stated National Night Out will be held Tuesday, August 2nd at the Band Shell from 4-8 p.m. There will be a K-9 demonstration at 6 p.m.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation recently held an open house regarding the 11th Drive NE bridge replacement project. MnDOT met with businesses in the area and discussed impacts to business and traffic. The project is scheduled to begin in June of 2017.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Hagen, adjourning the meeting to August 15, 2016. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:48 p.m.

Approved: August 15, 2016

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____