

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION**  
**June 20, 2016**  
**City Hall Conference Room**

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

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Park and Rec Director Kim Underwood, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace and City Clerk Ann Kasel

**ALSO PRESENT:** Amy Baskin, Jason Baskin, Jay Lutz, Kelly Rush, Tedd Maxfield, Dan Kane, Kelly Rush, Denny Kolb, Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

*Mayor Stiehm allowed the following item out of order.*

**Item No. 3 – Welcoming America Membership**

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council authorize a membership in the Welcoming America Program. Various committees around the community had discussed the membership in order to be more welcoming to other cultures in the community. Welcoming America provides workshops and best practices for cities and APEX and the Human Rights Commission wished to designate the City as the member.

Jason Baskin, Chair of Human Rights Commission, requested the City become a member for a year to see if it helpful. The programs mission fits with diversity and human rights efforts and Mr. Baskin felt it will make more meaningful and positive change faster in the community.

Dan Kane added that it fits well with the Human Rights Commission efforts.

Tedd Maxfield stated the National YMCA has been encouraging local YMCA's to participate in Welcoming week and Mr. Maxfield felt it would be beneficial to be a member.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Hagen, authorizing a membership in Welcoming America. Carried.

The matter will be placed on the July 5, 2016 Council meeting agenda.

### **Item No. 1 – Feral Cats**

Kelly Rush, with the Mower County Humane Society, has been working with the Spay and Neuter clinic since 2007 to try and control the cat population in Austin. The Society spays or neuters approximately 200 cats a year. There is a new program in Minnesota where cats are spayed or neutered, their ears clipped and then they are released back where they came from. Ms. Rush stated this approach naturally controls the feline population and she requested the City to help with this program.

She also stated that under City ordinance, a feral cat is a wild animal and if you feed the cat it is considered your cat and therefore be subject to the leash law. She requested that ordinance be reviewed and also requested the ordinance be revised to allow more animals in a residence.

Denny Kolb, stated he has been trapping cats because his neighborhood in northwest Austin is overpopulated due to a neighbor feeding them. He would like that neighbor to stop feeding the cats.

The matter was forwarded to staff for additional research. No Council action needed at this time.

### **Item No. 2 – Administrative Citation Proposed Ordinance**

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace presented a proposed administrative citation ordinance. She stated this would be another tool for the Zoning Department to use. Similar procedures would be followed for what is in place but the City could issue a citation to ensure compliance for repeat offenders on grass complaints, zoning complaints, fire non-compliance and other matters that don't merit criminal prosecution. Ms. Wallace stated the fine amount and how the process will be implemented is still being worked out among the departments. She stated the fine would most likely be between \$50-\$100 and \$75 if the property owner want to appeal the fine.

Council Member Enright liked the subsequent offender provision which would allow the process to be streamlined so the City doesn't have to re-notice a property owner for the same offense. She noted that she supports consequences and consistency with enforcement.

Council Member Austin doesn't feel the fine is a diversion for people.

Fire Chief McCoy and Park and Recreation Director Kim Underwood spoke in support of the ordinance.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, to have staff refine the administrative citation ordinance. Carried.

### **Item No. 4 –Administrative Report**

None.

**Item No. 5 – Open Discussion**

Mayor Stiehm stated he recently attended the League of Minnesota Cities meeting and the City of Austin earned another block for their GreenSteps efforts.

Council Member Enright noted the Turtle Creek 1 and Lansing areas should be sprayed for mosquitoes.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Enright, adjourning the work session at 7:13 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Ann M. Kasel  
City Clerk