

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 19, 2017
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Jeff Austin, Judy Enright, Steve King, David Hagen, Laura Helle, Paul Fischer and Council Member-at-Large Janet Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, City Attorney David Hoversten, Police Chief Brian Krueger, Police Captain David McKichan, Officer Derek Ellis, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Representative Jeanne Poppe, Pat Retterath, Jim Sauer, Dave Unverzagt, Marvin Repinski, KAAL TV, KAUS Radio, Austin Daily Herald, Public

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

Additions to the Agenda:

Addition to Recognitions
Derek Ellis and K-9 Rudy – Regional K-9 Trial Champions

Additions to Consent Agenda:
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Riverland Community College Foundation at Torges on July 22, 2017
Massage Therapist: Mandy Wilde, 503 15th Avenue SW
Taxi Driver: Miguel Diego Pedro, 805 5th Avenue NE

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

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving the Council minutes from June 5, 2017. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation declaring June 21, 2017 as the Longest Day in honor of people facing Alzheimer's disease. Representative Jeanne Poppe stated there will be information

at the Mower County Senior Center from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. She provided information to the Council on the disease and encouraged people to wear purple on that day.

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation declaring June 19, 2017 as the Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota Day in honor of the Institute's 75th anniversary and its contributions it has made to the Austin community and the science community.

Mayor Stiehm recognized Officer Derek Ellis and K-9 Rudy for winning the regional K-9 championship. Police Chief Brian Krueger stated Rudy beat out 89 other competitors to take the title. Officer Ellis described the competition and thanked Council for the recognition.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Temporary 3.2 Beer: Austin Jaycees at Torgerson Properties on June 30, 2017
Temporary 3.2 Beer: Austin Jaycees at Freedom Fest on July 3 & 4, 2017
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Riverland Community College Foundation at Torges
on July 22, 2017
Massage Therapist: Mandy Wilde, 503 15th Avenue SW
Taxi Driver: Miguel Diego Pedro, 805 5th Avenue NE

Claims:

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

Event Applications:

First Thursday of the Month on July 7, 2017
Haitian Hustle on August 26, 2017
Hog Jog on July 1, 2017

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A public hearing was held for the proposed abatement of taxes for Bigelow and Lennon Construction through the Austin Homes Initiative Program. City Administrator Craig Clark stated they are building a new home valued at approximately \$368,000 in Austin and requested that the taxes on the improvement value of the home be abated under the Austin Homes Initiative. The abatement would be in the approximate amount of \$8,980 over the five year abatement.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving a five year abatement on property taxes for Bigelow and Lennon Construction. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the proposed abatement of taxes for James E. Campbell through the Austin Homes Initiative Program. City Administrator Craig Clark stated Mr. Campbell is building a new home valued at approximately \$165,000 in Austin and requested that the taxes on the improvement value of the home be abated under the Austin Homes Initiative. The abatement would be in the approximate amount of \$4,070 over the five year abatement.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, adopting a resolution approving a five year abatement on property taxes for James E. Campbell. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the December 31, 2016 audit report. The full report was presented at the June 5, 2017 work session by Kim Hillberg with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP and the City received a clean audit report.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the December 31, 2016 audit report. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, for preparation of the ordinance prohibiting the intentional feeding of deer and geese in the City of Austin. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, for adoption and publication of the ordinance prohibiting the intentional feeding of deer and geese in the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council adopt two resolutions in support of waterways projects in the City for bonding request purposes. The first is for the 4th Avenue dam project and the second for the Ramsey Mill dam area.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution in support of securing state bonding for the 4th Avenue Riverview / State Water Trail enhancement. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution in support of securing state bonding for Ramsey Scientific and Natural Area Site Improvements. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested an extension to the Mighty Ducks grant the City was awarded. The grant was for the purchase of a new ice resurfacer and edger for Riverside Arena.

The production of the unit is taking longer than anticipated and the grant would need to be extended to October 31, 2017.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving a grant extension for the Mighty Ducks Grant. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a second amendment to the conditional purchase agreement with Austin Utilities for the downtown power plant. The deadline for the fulfillment of the contingencies was June 30, 2017 but the contingencies will not be met by that date so the second amendment would extend that date to December 31, 2017.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution approving an amendment to the conditional purchase agreement with Austin Utilities. Carried 7-0.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a preliminary plat for Fox Pointe. The plat would be for a proposed residential development for a 38 unit townhome project and lots for single family development. The Planning Commission reviewed the preliminary plat at their June 13, 2017 meeting and recommended approval by a 5-0 vote. The final plat will be reviewed at a later Council meeting.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Hagen, approving a preliminary plat for Fox Pointe. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, resolving the City Council into the Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace reviewed a variance request by Nikola and Christoph Baumann for a variance from City code regarding square footage and number of accessory structures. The Petitioners were granted an interim use permit to allow up to three horses on her property on March 20, 2017 and now they would like to build another structure for the horses. The additional structure would exceed the allowable structures by one and the allowable square footage by 5,501 square feet. The allowable lot coverage is 40% and the Petitioner's lot coverage is .01% with the new structures. The Planning Commission reviewed the variance request at their June 13, 2017 meeting and recommended approval by a 5-0 vote.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving a variance request for accessory structures petitioned by Nikola and Christoph Baumann. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the Board of Adjustment and Appeals back into the City Council. 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 1015 8th Avenue NE, Leuning Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, 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 409 12th Street NE, Martinez & Ramos Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, 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 1709 3rd Avenue NW, Bank of America Property. Carried.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

Pat Retterath, 700 38th Avenue NE, stated he and his neighbors have a water issue which has gotten worse since the installation of the city sewer in the area. He stated that some neighbors have sand in their well pits and he has never dealt with high water table issues until after the sewer project. He provided an estimate to Council for placing a 12 inch tile to alleviate the water and will be receiving additional estimates. He requested the City participate in the cost to tile.

Council Member Enright stated she has visited the area and one resident's water is undrinkable.

Council Member Helle stated he is unfamiliar with the issue and would like additional information.

Mayor Stiehm stated the issue will be on a future work session.

REPORTS

Council Member Hagen congratulated the Hormel Institute on its 75th Anniversary.

Council Member-at-Large Anderson stated she recently attended the League of Minnesota Cities conference in Rochester.

Council Member Enright also stated she attended the League conference and attended sessions with valuable information.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to July 3, 2017. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:06 p.m.

Approved: July 3, 2017

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____