

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 1, 2018
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Jeff Austin, Steve King, Laura Helle, Paul Fischer, David Hagen, Judy Enright, 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, 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 Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeremi Reese, Amanda Gunderson, Austin Daily Herald, Public

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

Added to the agenda:

Consent Agenda

Licenses:

Shuttle Service: QR Taxi, 805 5th Avenue NE, Austin

Shuttle Driver: QR Taxi, 805 5th Avenue NE, Austin

Additional Backup:

(res) 21. Declaring the property at 209 1st Avenue SE a structurally substandard building.

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

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, approving the Council minutes from September 17, 2018. Carried.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Mary Anne Wolesky and Bonnie Reitz presented the City Art Award. Council Member King and Council Member-at-Large Anderson picked Don Tran's piece called Summer Love. She also thanked the City and staff for their participation in the festival.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

*Consent Agenda

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling: United Catholic Schools Foundation at St. Augustine's Church on November 7, 2018

Sign Installer: SEW Enterprises, Inc., 5621 Hwy 12 NE, Willmar

Tree Service: Brad's Tree Service, 55463 175th Street

Shuttle Service: QR Taxi, 805 5th Avenue NE, Austin

Shuttle Driver: QR Taxi, 805 5th Avenue NE, Austin

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial and Credit Card Reports.
- c. John S. Beckmann, 405 5th Street SW. The matter has been forwarded to the City Attorney to protect the City's interest.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

City Clerk Ann Kasel noted the public fall assessment hearings on the agenda. For each type of assessment, the individual property owners were mailed a notice of hearing and a public notice was also published in the Austin Daily Herald.

A public hearing was held for the reassessment of tax forfeited properties.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, approving the assessment roll for the reassessment of tax forfeited properties. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the assessment of 2017-2018 snow removal.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution for assessments for 2017-2018 snow removal. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held on assessments for 2017-2018 junk and garbage removal.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution for assessments for 2017-2018 junk and garbage removal. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the assessments for 2017-2018 grass and weed removal.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution for assessments for 2017-2018 grass and weed removal. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for assessments for miscellaneous sidewalk and driveway projects.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution declaring the cost of improvement for miscellaneous sidewalk and driveway projects. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council member Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting the assessment roll for miscellaneous sidewalk and driveway projects. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for assessments for administrative citations.

Jeremi Reese and Amanda Gunderson, 31021 890th Avenue, stated they received \$1,650 in administrative citations for a property they owned but was in the foreclosure process. They stated the bank did not complete the foreclosure and they did not know so citations kept being added. Once they realized they still owned the property, they immediately started taking care of it and paid all of the other fines from the City. They asked for forgiveness of the administrative citations.

City Attorney David Hoversten provided additional information on the matter stating that since the foreclosure did not go through and Mr. Reese held title to the property the entire time. He added it is an unusual circumstance for a bank not to complete the foreclosure process.

Council Member King stated he is willing to help out in the situation.

Council Member Austin stated he supports waiving the fees since they did take care of the other assessments immediately.

There were no additional public comments.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, removing administrative citations for Jeremi and Lisa Reese, parcel 34.600.0660 in the amount of \$1,650 and adopting a resolution for the assessments of Park and Rec administrative citations. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution for the assessment of zoning administrative citations.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, continuing the hearing until November 5, 2018 for Fire administrative citations. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution for the assessment of sump pump administrative citations. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for assessments for the abatement of hazardous housing.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution for the assessment of the abatement of hazardous housing. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the assessments for tree removal.

There were no public comments.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Austin, adopting a resolution for the assessments for tree removal. Carried 7-0.

A public hearing was held for the assessment of unpaid sewer charges.

Randy Pepper, 503 32nd Avenue NE, stated he has been receiving bills from the City of Austin for sewer charges and he isn't sure what they are for.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the bills are related to the connection to the sanitary sewer without having the water meter installed on his property. He stated the dollar amount is based off eight units per month, which is average for a family in the City. Mr. Lang added Mr. Pepper is being billed that way because he didn't install a water meter right away and therefore was dumping into the City sewer at no charge.

Mr. Pepper stated he's willing to pay his actual average but he doesn't believe he's used as much water as he's being charged for.

Mr. Lang noted he would have been billed for his actual usage if he had installed the water meter in a timely manner.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution for the assessment of unpaid sewer charges. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS:

City Clerk Ann Kasel requested the Council approve a senior deferral of assessment for Robert McGinnis. She stated Mr. McGinnis applied to the City for the deferral and met the criteria.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a senior deferral for Robert McGinnis. Carried 7-0.

Police Chief Brian Krueger reviewed an ordinance for special vehicles in the City. He stated the ordinance would allow utility task vehicles (UTV's) to operate on City streets as long as the UTV is licensed by the City. The licensing fee would be \$30 per year and the ordinance would go into effect on October 15, 2018.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Hagen, for preparation of the ordinance. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Hagen, for adoption and publication of the ordinance. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting a fee for licensing special vehicles. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve a termination of a joint well agreement. He stated the City purchased the property a number of years ago as part of the airport expansion. The property was subject to a joint well agreement with an adjoining property. The City cannot build on the land due to it being in the airport flight path so there is no need for the benefit of a well on the parcel.

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Enright, adopting a resolution approving the termination of a joint well agreement. Carried 7-0.

Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann requested the Council approve a change to the agreement with the on-call firefighters. The change would impact City employees who also serve as on-call firefighters.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, approving a revised paid on-call firefighter policy. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a contract with SEH, Inc. for Phase II of the Waste Water Treatment Plant facility study.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving a contract with SEH for Phase II of the Waste Water Treatment Plant study. Carried 7-0

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, appointing Chuck Moline to the Port Authority Board, term expiring December 31, 2021. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Anderson, seconded by Council Member Enright, appointing George Bass as an honorary council member. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council declare the property at 209 1st Avenue SE as a structurally substandard building. She stated the HRA may purchase the property and the Council's determination of it being structurally substandard would benefit the parcel if the area were redeveloped in a tax increment financing district in the future.

Moved by Council Member Hagen, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 209 1st Avenue SE a structurally substandard building. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 111 5th Street NW, Tracy Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1304 10th Street SW, Northstar Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, granting the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1303 Oakland Avenue East, Ellis Property. Carried.

REPORTS

Council Member-at-Large Anderson stated the Mayo Clinic documentary will be shown on the KSMQ local station.

Moved by Council Member Enright, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to October 15, 2018. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:20 p.m.

Approved: October 15, 2018

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____