

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
January 22, 2019
City Hall Conference Room A

PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Members Steve King, Laura Helle, Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace and City Clerk Ann Kasel

ALSO PRESENT: Honorary Council Member George Bass, Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Turtle Creek Flood Control Project Update

Public Works Director Steven Lang provided an update to the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. He stated the City has secured most of the easements for the property. However, there is a property owner that did not want to be originally included in the project that now does, which will require additional review time and costs. Additional easements will also be needed for the property. Mr. Lang recommended adding the property back into the project even with the additional costs and time delay due to the greater level of protection it will offer for the entire project.

He stated that with any project where wetlands are impacted the State requires you to replace the wetland somewhere else. The City needs to purchase wetlands of the similar type in another place. He stated that cost will be approximately \$3,300.

Mr. Lang stated the Corps of Engineers will take 10 months to review which will impact the start of the construction of the project. There will need to be extensions of temporary easements from the property owners on the projects.

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving Mr. Lang's recommendations for the continuation of the Turtle Creek Flood Control project. Carried.

No additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 2 – Transportation Network Companies

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated Transportation Network Companies, such as Uber and Lyft, are rapidly expanding across the country. Currently, there are six Minnesota cities that have adopted ordinances regulating and licensing the companies. The League of Minnesota Cities currently has a working group to draft a model ordinance on this subject.

However, there was proposed legislation last year in both the House and the Senate which would replace the local city ordinances that regulate the activity and name the Minnesota Department of Transportation as the regulatory agency. The legislation was not passed but it appears it will be reintroduced for the 2019 legislative session.

She recommended to await the outcome of the 2019 legislative session before the adoption of a City ordinance for the regulation of transportation network companies. If the legislature does not pass a law then the City could move forward quickly with the adoption of an ordinance. The League is also planning on releasing their model ordinance if the legislation is not passed. This would eliminate the cost of publication which would be hundreds, if not a thousand dollars, if the State passes legislation.

Council Member Baskin stated he would like to move forward now with the ordinance to be a progressive city.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, to wait upon the decision of the legislature before the City moves forward with the Transportation Network Company ordinance. Carried 6-1 with Council Member Baskin voting nay.

Ms. Kasel stated she would follow up with the State and will update the Council.

Item No. 3 – Culture and Arts Commission Ordinance

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace presented a proposed cultural arts commission ordinance. The ordinance would establish a commission to promote arts in the community and would consist of seven members appointed by the Council. She stated she took additional feedback from community members and felt comfortable with the new ordinance. There is no budget with the commission.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, recommending the adoption of a culture and arts commission ordinance. Carried.

The item will be placed on the February 4, 2019 Council Agenda.

Item No. 4 – Hazardous Building Update

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace provided an updated for hazardous buildings. She stated the City has identified housing clean up as a priority and she is moving forward with the demolition of hazardous structures.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City would like to explore options as to how to fill the small lots.

For Council information only, no Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 5 – 2019 Council Boards and Commissions

The following Boards and Commissions committee assignments were made:

AUSTIN/MOWER COUNTY HOMEOWNERSHIP BOARD

1. Jeff Austin
2. Paul Fischer

BLAZING STAR TRAIL JOINT POWERS BOARD

1. Steve King
2. Rebecca Waller
3. Jeff Austin

CABLE TV COMMITTEE

1. Mayor Stiehm

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD

1. Craig Clark

CITY/COUNTY HEALTH BOARD (County Appointment)

1. Steve King

COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Laura Helle

DISCOVER AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

1. Steve King

DCA BOARD

1. Jason Baskin

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

1. Steve King

HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD

1. Laura Helle, First Ward
2. Jason Baskin, Second Ward
3. Paul Fischer, Third Ward

LEC COMMITTEE

1. Tom Stiehm

2. Jeff Austin
3. Craig Clark
4. Brian Krueger
5. Jim McCoy

LIBRARY BOARD

1. Joyce Poshusta

MOWER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Steve King

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Steve King

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD

1. Jeff Austin

PORT AUTHORITY OF AUSTIN

1. Laura Helle
2. Jeff Austin

SALVATION ARMY BOARD

1. Paul Fischer

SENIOR CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Joyce Poshusta

SMART Transit Advisory Committee

1. Steve King

SUSTAINABILITY TASKFORCE

1. Paul Fischer
2. Rebecca Waller

YELLOW RIBBON COMMITTEE

1. Joyce Poshusta

Moved by Council Member Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, recommending approval of 2019 Council boards and commissions. Carried.

The item will be placed on the February 4, 2019 Council agenda.

Item No. 6 – Council Retreat Discussion

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Council retreat will be on March 5th from 4-8 p.m.

Item No. 7 – Honorary Council Member Comments

None.

Item No. 8 – Administrative Report

None.

Item No. 9 - Open Discussion

Council Member-at-Large Austin encouraged the new council members to express their opinions and to always be respectful.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk