

MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE WORK SESSION
May 20, 2019
City Hall Council Chambers

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

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Police Chief David McKichan, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace and City Clerk Ann Kasel

ALSO PRESENT: Nicole Behne, Sandy Anderson, Elaine Hanson, Kim Hillberg, Valarie Schminke, Austin Daily Herald, Public

Mayor Stiehm opened the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Item No. 1 – Impact Austin

City Administrator Craig Clark and Nicole Behne presented Impact Austin to the Council which is the successor to Vision 2020. She stated the group's mission is "Building a vibrant community where people and resources connect to revitalize, discover and invest to grow Austin in authentic ways." The group will consist of 13 members from the community including one consultant and will engage key partners to support and promote projects in the community.

Ms. Behne stated Impact Austin will begin the recruitment process for the organization. The Council indicated that they would like to see City Administrator Craig Clark and Public Works Director Steven Lang as the City representatives.

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

Item No. 2 – 2018 Audit Report

Kim Hillberg with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented the December 31, 2018 audit report noting our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been given an award for many years, and there is no reason it should not qualify again this year. Ms. Hillberg stated everything is in order and no findings occurred during the audit. Ms. Hillberg noted there were no deficit fund balances, and that the City has adequate fund balance based on state guidelines and best practices. She stated Austin's budgeting practices and policies work well.

Ms. Hillberg further noted that 85-90% of their clients do not draft the CAFR, and that by Austin's finance staff doing the report, the City saves \$11,000-\$14,000 annually.

She stated a 35 percent to 50 percent fund balance is recommended by the State Auditor's office and the City has a 54 percent fund balance.

She noted that the City receives \$8 million in local government aid, which is over half of the budget for the City.

The Council thanked Mr. Dankert for his excellent work.

Mr. Dankert noted the increased fund balance asked Council to move \$1 million from the General Fund to the Fire Fleet Fund. He stated that the cost of replacing fire vehicles has been steadily increasing and allocating some of the General Fund balance will lessen the cost to the taxpayers in the future.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, recommending approval to move \$1 million from the General Fund to the Fire Fleet Fund. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, recommending approval of the 2018 audit report. Carried.

The items will be added to the June 3, 2019 Council agenda.

Item No. 3 – Stop Sign Request

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City received a request for a stop sign at the intersection of 9th Avenue and 27th Street SW. Mr. Lang stated there have been no reportable accidents at the intersection and the road leads to a cul-de-sac. He stated there are very few intersections in this area that are controlled. He did not recommend installing a stop sign at the intersection.

Valarie Schminke, stated she recently moved to the area and has small children. She was concerned about the traffic in the area.

Council Member King stated he appreciates the stop sign process and recommendations from the engineering department.

Mayor Stiehm stated the Police Department could talk to drivers if the license plate numbers were noted.

Moved by Council Member Baskin to place a stop sign at the intersection of 9th Avenue and 27th Street SW. Motion failed for lack of a second.

No additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 4 – Oakland Avenue SE Railroad Underpass Railing Options

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the Council approved decorative railing for the Oakland Avenue SE underpass at the May 6, 2019 work session. He stated the bid for that railing came in at \$140,120 and the standard design bid came in at \$102,920. He recommended moving forward with the Austin design in the amount of \$140,120.

After additional discussion, moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, approving decorative railing similar to the 11th Drive NE bridge on the Oakland Avenue SE railroad underpass bridge. Carried.

The item will be included as part of the street project; no additional Council action needed at this time.

Item No. 5 – Community Festival Liquor Discussion

City Clerk Ann Kasel stated the Austin Artworks Festival has requested for open area alcohol event for their festival in 2019. In past years for this event (and all public liquor events) the allowed a non-profit or a caterer to serve the alcohol and required the area where the alcohol is consumed to be fenced. They would like the bars within the established community festival boundaries to be able to serve alcoholic beverages in a designated cup and participants to have a wristband. Then the festival patrons would be able to leave the bar (go off-premise) and walk throughout the designed festival area. The Festival would need to clearly post where the boundaries are located and keep the event under control.

Ms. Kasel noted that participating bars would also need to provide additional liability insurance to the City showing that they have additional off-premise liquor liability coverage. Chief McKichan stated that he would support the expanded liquor zone for the Artworks Festival due to the hours of the festival and the type of event it is.

MaryAnn Wolesky, Lindsey Haney and Saville Lord with the Austin ArtWorks Festival stated the committee felt this would add to the festival and wouldn't be an issue for law enforcement because the hours are daytime and it's a family friendly event.

Chief McKichan noted there would need to be several ordinance changes to allow for the consumption of alcohol on public property. City Attorney Craig Byram provided the proposed ordinance changes.

The Council stated they would be supportive of this type of event with open alcohol consumption. They added they would like to review each event and place conditions on the event based on the specifics of each application.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, recommending approval of ordinance changes to allow for community festivals. Carried. The item will be placed on the June 3 2019 Council agenda.

Item No. 6 – 4th Avenue Fest Contingency Request

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested \$400 from contingency funds for 4th Avenue Fest. She stated there are additional expenses as the event grows.

Council Member Helle noted that served over 700 attendees at the event last year.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving \$400 from 2019 contingency funds for 4th Avenue Fest. Carried.

The item will be placed on the June 3, 2019 Council Agenda.

Item No. 7 – 2019 Council Goals

City Administrator Craig Clark reviewed the proposed 2019 Council goals and noted he met with some of the Council. At this point he recommended moving forward with the current goals.

Council Member Helle noted she did not like the title of the document.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, recommended approval of the 2019 Council goals. Carried 6-1 with Council Member-at-Large Austin voting nay.

Item No. 8 - Honorary Council Member Comments

None.

Item No. 9 – Administrative Report

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated it is not looking like there will be a pension bill passed by the legislature. He is hopeful the fire pension issue for Austin will be included in a different bill.

Item No. 10 - Open Discussion None.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann M. Kasel
City Clerk