

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 2020
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy, Police Chief David McKichan, Park and Rec Director Kevin Nelson, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS PRESENT: Honorary Council Member Herve Idjidina, Austin Daily Herald, Public

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

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from December 16, 2019 (two meetings) and December 18, 2019. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Cab Driver: Kenneth Dobs, 303 1st Street SE
Cigarette: Apollo Superette, 901 West Oakland Avenue
Concrete: Wagner Construction Company, 2209 4th Street NW
Excavation: Wangen Excavating, LLC, 85161 245th Street, Albert Lea
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Junior All Star Baseball, Inc. on June 28, 2020
Exempt Gambling (raffle): NWTf Cedar River Longbeards on January 25, 2020
Food: Apollo Superette, 901 West Oakland Avenue
Food: Burger King, 1409 14th Street NW
Food: Coffee House on Main, 329 North Main Street, Suite 101

Food: Maya's, 501 West Oakland Avenue
Gas Station: Apollo Superette, 901 West Oakland Avenue
Massage Therapist: Alisha Wigham, 2203 4th Drive SW
Massage Therapist: Karrie Green, 28718 525th Avenue
Mobile Business: Godfather's Pizza, 600 Oakland Avenue West
Mobile Business: Hair Traveler, 371 N. Park Drive, Morton
Temporary Liquor: Pacelli Catholic Schools on April 18, 2020
Tree Service: Olson Tree Service, PO Box 567, Grand Meadow

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Financial and Credit Card Report.

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council designate depositories for checking and investment of public funds.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution designating depositories for checking and investment of public funds for 2020. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the official newspaper for 2020. The Austin Daily Herald is the official legal newspaper and is increasing their rate from \$4.61 per inch to \$5.07 per inch.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, designating the official newspaper for 2020. Carried.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 10th Street NE (Oakland Pl SE to 2nd Ave NE) and 4th Street SW (Oakland Ave W to 1st Ave SW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,275,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 18, 2020.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution receiving feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 18, 2020 for street improvements on 10th Street NE (Oakland Pl SE to 2nd Ave NE) and 4th Street SW (Oakland Ave W to 1st Ave SW). Carried 6-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 5th Street SW (1st Ave SW to 5th Ave SW), 6th Avenue SW (4th St SW to 6th St SW) and 7th Street SW (4th Ave SW to 5th Ave SW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$900,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 18, 2020.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution receiving feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 18, 2020 for street improvements on 5th Street SW (1st Ave SW to 5th Ave SW), 6th Avenue SW (4th St SW to 6th St SW) and 7th Street SW (4th Ave SW to 5th Ave SW.) Carried 6-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 5th Avenue NE (Oakland Pl NE to 19th St NE) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$600,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 18, 2020.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution receiving feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 18, 2020 for street improvements on 5th Avenue NE (Oakland Pl NE to 19th St NE.) Carried 6-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 7th Street NW (8th Ave NW to 13th Ave NW) and 9th Avenue NW (4th St NW to 8th St NW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,225,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 18, 2020.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution receiving feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 18, 2020 for street improvements on 7th Street NW (8th Ave NW to 13th Ave NW) and 9th Avenue NW (4th St NW to 8th St NW). Carried 6-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for sidewalk extension on 4th Avenue NW from 12th St NW to 14th St NW street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$50,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on May 4, 2020 instead of February 18, 2020 for this project.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution receiving feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on May 4, 2020 sidewalk extension from 12th St NW to 14th St NW on 4th Avenue NW. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council request a variance from Rule 6 of the Cedar River Watershed District for a proposed flood mitigation project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Rule 6 states that flood plain area shall not be removed which would cause a net decrease in flood water storage. Mr. Lang stated that the area proposed to be removed is protected by an unaccredited levee system and the area has never been allowed to flood in the past so it has not been used as flood water storage. The City is proposing at \$78 million expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and would like to also complete a flood levee project to protect this important infrastructure.

Council Member Baskin asked what happens if the variance is not granted.

Mr. Lang stated the City has been working on the project with the Cedar River Watershed district for a couple of years and they have expressed support for the project but if the project is not approved then the construction of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant would need to be moved to a new site.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, requesting a variance from the Cedar River Watershed District, Rule 6 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Flood Mitigation Project. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council request a variance from Rule 6 of the Cedar River Watershed District for a proposed housing project on 6th Street NE. Rule 6 states that flood plain area shall not be removed which would cause a net decrease in flood water storage. Mr. Lang stated that the area proposed to be removed is currently protected by levee and hasn't been used for flood plain storage since 2008.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, requesting a variance from the Cedar River Watershed District, Rule 6 for the Riverview Project. Carried.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve an individual control mechanism with WCI Austin Landfill, LLC. The agreement sets forth the parameters for leachate being accepted from the landfill.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution approving an individual control mechanism agreement with WCI Austin Landfill, LLC. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution declaring the property at 1303 Oakland Avenue East as hazardous. Carried 6-0.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Honorary Council Member Herve Idjidina thanked the Council for the opportunity to be the honorary council member and stated he has been learning a lot.

REPORTS

Council Member Helle stated there is a gallery opening at the Artworks Center on Friday night.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the City will be meeting on the Waste Water Treatment Plant issues in the coming weeks.

Library Directory Julie Clinefelter stated the winter reading program will begin this week.

Park and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated there were 34 deer harvested in the City deer hunt.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adjourning the meeting to January 21, 2020. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:58 p.m.

Approved: January 21, 2020

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____

