

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Stiehm. Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Council Members Steve King, Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller,
Laura Helle, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

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, City Attorney Craig Byram, Human
Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

STAFF APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Library Director Julie Clinefelter

OTHERS PRESENT: Austin Daily Herald

OTHERS APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Honorary Council Member Karem Ramirez

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

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member King, approving the agenda.
Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, approving Council
minutes from March 16, 2020. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving
the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Excavation: Jordan Drilling Solutions, LLC, Eagan
Commercial Hauler, Kruckeberg Services, Blooming Prairie

Claims:

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

Carried.

BID OPENINGS AND AWARDS:

The City received the following bids for the Turtle Creek Trail construction:

Bidder	Bid
Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.	\$215,090.50
Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$290,372.50

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the project will consist of the construction of a bike/pedestrian trail from the intersection of 4th Street SW and 16th Avenue SW to Bustad Park. He stated the project will be funded using a Hormel Foundation Grant, DNR Grant and the Capital Improvement Fund. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for the Turtle Creek Trail construction to Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for 2020 asphalt street reconstruction projects:

Bidder	Bid
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$3,089,655.50
Elcor Construction	\$3,878,857.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the bid was for three of the City's street projects. He recommended awarding the bid to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for 2020 asphalt street reconstruction projects to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for 2020 concrete street reconstruction projects:

Bidder	Bid
Doyle Conner Co.	\$1,150,775.60
JJD Companies	\$1,269,495.00
ALCON Excavating	\$1,439,294.37
BCM Construction	\$1,495,883.25

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the bids were for the 10th Street NE and 4th Street SW street reconstruction project. He recommended awarding the bid to Doyle Conner Co.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for 2020 concrete reconstruction projects to Doyle Conner Co. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for the Turtle Creek 2 sanitary sewer project:

Bidder	Bid
Elcor Construction	\$1,171,227.45
R&R Excavating, Inc.	\$2,142,607.51
Hodgman Drainage Company, Inc.	\$2,297,370.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the work will consist of the construction of a sanitary sewer collection system to service 40 homes. The project will be funded using Wastewater Treatment Plant funds and a Point Source Implementation Grant. He stated there is quite a bit of difference in the bids on the project. He stated 66 percent of the project will be funded with a Point Source Implementation Grant and the remainder will be funded via the sewer fund.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for the Turtle Creek 2 sanitary sewer project to Elcor Construction subject to the receipt of the PSIGrant. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a resolution certifying that up to \$500,000 is available in the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Fund 61 for the remaining costs on the project not covered by the grant.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution certifying City funds for a Point Source Implementation Grant. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution awarding surveying and construction inspection services to Jones Haugh & Smith. Carried 7-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Administrative Services Director Tom Dankert requested the Council authorize budget adjustment number 3 which would transfer \$1.5 million from the MSAS Street project fund 42 to the Capital Improvement Revolving Fund 49. This transfer is due to Fund 42 receiving State Aid for those identified projects and the cash builds up in that account after special assessments are also collected. The funds would be used to help pay for 2020 street projects.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving budget adjustment number 3. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve the labor contract with the Austin Employees Association. The contract would be for three years and there are several agreements to be executed as part of the contract.

Council Member Baskin stated a 31% wage increase over three years is unsustainable and added this is a challenging time to be handing out raises to employees.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving a labor agreement and memorandum of agreements between the City of Austin and the Austin Employees Association (AEA). Carried 6-1 with Council Member Baskin voting nay.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated Justin Hanson presented at the last work session about the watershed-based program to improve the water quality in a four-county area.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving a One Watershed One Plan resolution. Carried 7-0.

City Administrator Craig Clark provided an update on the City's COVID-19 efforts. He stated this is the first time the City Council has met remotely and the City is making efforts to adapt to the COVID-19 crisis.

Police Chief McKichan stated the City has been working on keeping critical services for the public while preparing for the pandemic. He stated Mower County is still at 17 cases of COVID-19. He stated the important number to watch is the number of people in the ICU. He reminded citizens to wash their hands, practice social distancing and to wear masks when out in public.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he appreciated the City's efforts and the information posted on Facebook for the public. He noted it would be nice to be copied on memos sent to employees so the Council is aware of the communication.

Council Member Baskin thanked the Chief and all the staff that are working on COVID-19 related matters.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Honorary Council Member Karem Ramirez stated she is working with schools to ensure all students have resources and added that the immigrant families in Austin are scared. She was thankful to know Council meetings are continuing and work is being done.

REPORTS

Council Member Helle reminded community members to wear masks out in public.

Council Member King thanked Hormel Foods for doing meals for Senior Citizens and Karem Ramirez for doing a great job coordinating the response for senior needs.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he has received calls about people being out around the community.

Police Chief David McKichan stated the community is doing a great job abiding by the stay at home order and thanked the community for its compliance.

Council Member-at-Large Austin thanked health care workers and front-line retail workers for their hard work.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he has spoken to our legislators and is optimistic that the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant will be included in the bonding bill this year.

Mayor Stiehm thanked City workers for all their hard work during this time.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, adjourning the meeting to April 20, 2020. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:14 p.m.

Approved: April 20, 2020

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____