

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 20, 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 (5:36 p.m.)

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, Library  
Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resources Director Trish  
Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

STAFF APPEARING  
ELECTRONICALLY: Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace

OTHERS PRESENT: Austin Daily Herald

OTHERS APPEARING  
ELECTRONICALLY: Honorary Council Oballa Oballa, Peter Green

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

Added to the agenda:

(mot) 14. Authorizing the Mayor to sign Congressional letter of support for the stimulus package.

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, approving Council minutes from April 6, 2020. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Exempt Gambling (raffle): Marcusen Park Baseball Association on September 1, 2020

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. Finance and Investment Report.

Event Applications:

American Cancer Society Relay for Life on July 24, 2020

Carried.

**BID OPENINGS AND AWARDS:**

The City received the following bids for the Driesner Park manhole replacement:

Bidder	Bid
Jensen Exc. & Trucking, LLC	\$27,667.00
Elcor Construction	\$48,500.00
Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.	No bid

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the project will consist of the removal and replacement of a sanitary sewer manhole in Driesner Park that is likely over 100 years old. Mr. Lang stated some of the work may be able to be completed by City crews and that would reduce cost. Mr. Lang recommended awarding the bid to Jensen Excavating & Trucking, Inc.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for the Driesner Park manhole replacement to Jensen Excavating & Trucking, LLC. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for the 24<sup>th</sup> Street SW mill and overlay project:

Bidder	Bid
Ulland Brothers, Inc.	\$58,328.50
Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$77,306.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City would mill and overlay 24<sup>th</sup> Street SW from Oakland Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. He added because of the low bid prices the City added an additional two blocks on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, from 24<sup>th</sup> Street to 27<sup>th</sup> Street SW, resulting in a total project budget of \$90,882.25.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for the 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW mill and overlay to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Carried 7-0.

The City received the following bids for storm sewer construction on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW:

Bidder	Bid
Hansen Hauling & Excavating	\$48,307.75
Jensen Exc. & Trucking, LLC	\$75,759.50
Elcor Construction	\$78,165.00

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the project would be to improve drainage at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 25<sup>th</sup> Street SW intersection. He recommended awarding the bid to Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution awarding the bid for storm sewer construction on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW to Hansen Hauling & Excavating. Carried 7-0.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, appointing Kris Johnson to the Austin Utilities Board, term expiring December 31, 2020. Carried.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert has an exceptional service clause in his contract which would allow for up to a 3% bonus for performance from the preceding year. Mr. Clark recommended the award of the exceptional service pay for 2019 of \$3,515.20.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, approving exceptional performance pay for the Director of Administrative Services. Carried 7-0.

Mr. Clark also stated there have been some changes requested to Mr. Dankert's contract. Some of them are technical in nature and also an addition of \$12,000 in compensation for additional tasks performed by Mr. Dankert.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving an updated contract with the Director of Administrative Services. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang proposed a dental amalgam ordinance which would limit the discharge of mercury into the sanitary sewer system. The ordinance would require the installation of an amalgam separator by July 1, 2020 which would remove 99% of the mass solids from waste water. There would also be requirements for record keeping and reporting.

Dentist Peter Green stated he is in general agreement with the ordinance but his concern is the language in the ordinance that sets forth the cleaning agents not allowed to sanitize the dental lines. He requested the Council table the ordinance until the next meeting for additional dental office feedback.

Mr. Lang stated that the ordinance is modeled after Duluth's ordinance which allows discharge into Lake Superior. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has recommended using the

Duluth ordinance as a guide for other cities. He stated the City may be willing to eliminate the specific language referring to cleaners and substitute it with a pH range in the ordinance.

City Attorney Craig Byram stated if language in the ordinance is changed then it will have to be reposted for public review and brought back at the next meeting.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, to have Public Works Director Steven Lang modify the specifics of item 5b to allow for a pH range and the ordinance to be reviewed at the May 4, 2020 meeting. Carried.

Council Member Baskin requested Mr. Lang to send the ordinance to the dental offices to see if they have additional feedback.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve construction inspection services for the southwest trunk sewer project. Mr. Lang stated the City is planning a project to install a sanitary sewer lining in the trunk sewer along Turtle Creek. The project will take a great deal of coordination with property owners and construction inspection services. The City received a proposal from Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$100,709 for the services which would be funded one-third from the WWTP fund and two-thirds from Local Option Sales Tax. He recommended awarding the contract with Bolton & Menk.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving construction inspection services with Bolton and Menk for construction inspection services on the SW trunk sewer project. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council to give authorization for the Mayor to sign letters of support for the stimulus package and highlighted the Waste Water Treatment Plant as a good project for those possible funds. He stated he would send the letter to local legislators.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, authorizing the Mayor to sign letters of support for the Congressional stimulus package. Carried.

#### HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Honorary Council Member Oballa Oballa stated he is happy to have the opportunity to work with the Council. He's excited to learn more to help the community.

#### REPORTS

Council Member Baskin complimented the Library for their drive through book drop. He stated he would like to figure out ways to eliminate non-essential spending at the City.

Council Member Helle thanked the health care workers and other essential workers for the hard work during this time.

Council Member King thanked the library staff for their work feeding senior citizens in Austin.

Council Member Poshusta expressed her appreciation for all those making masks.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated the filing period for City offices will be May 19 to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a Council seat from each ward open along with the Mayor's seat.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the Chamber has requested to flat line or lower the tax levy for 2021. The City is planning on looking at cost-cutting measures.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the electronics recycling event will be cancelled for 2020 with the next event planned for May of 2021.

Fire Chief McCoy stated the Fire Department will be collecting homemade masks at the Fire Station on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Helle, adjourning the meeting to May 4, 2020. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:10 p.m.

Approved: May 4, 2020

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

City Recorder: \_\_\_\_\_