

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 8, 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 and Jason Baskin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Joyce Poshusta

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative
Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Park and
Rec Director Kevin Nelson, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library
Director Julie Clinefelter and City Clerk Ann Kasel

STAFF APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Fire Chief Jim McCoy,
Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Human
Resources Director Trish Wiechmann

OTHERS APPEARING
ELECTRONICALLY: Honorary Council Member Dora Martinez, Oballa Oballa, Taggart
Medgaarden, Sara Karki, John Garry, Steve Kime, Mike Merten,
Austin Daily Herald

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

Additions to the Agenda:

Additional Backup

(res) 12. Approving change orders to the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project.

Additions to the Agenda

(res) 17. Approving an annexation agreement with Austin Township. (Bjork Property)

(res) 18. Accepting a FAA grant and authorizing execution of the grant agreement.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, approving
the agenda as amended. Carried.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council from August 17, 2020, August 18, 2020 and August 31, 2020. Carried.

Recognitions and Awards

Mayor Stiehm read a proclamation for Welcoming Week 2020.

Sara Karki stated for Welcoming Week there will be a park cleanup on Saturday at Rotary Park and other book club events through the month.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Concrete: Heimer Concrete, 19307 State Hwy 105
Exempt Gambling: Austin Morning Lions Club on October 3, 2020
Sign Installation: Joseph Company, 2003 14th Street NE, Suite 106
Sign Installation: Signminds, Inc. 1400 Quincy Street NE, Minneapolis

Claims:

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

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement application from Bigelow & Lennon Construction. City Administrator Craig Clark stated they are planning on building a home in the Nature Ridge subdivision valued at \$335,000. Mr. Clark requested approval of the tax abatement application.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving a five-year tax abatement for Bigelow & Lennon Construction. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council authorize the annual yard waste program. The Cook Farm site would be open from September 19, 2020 to November 29, 2020 from dawn to dusk and will accept leaves, grass and plants from gardens and flowers.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, authorizing the yard waste program for 2020 – scheduled for September 19 to November 29, 2020. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution setting public hearings for fall assessments on October 5, 2020. Carried 6-0.

Parks and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson requested the Council authorize mowing reductions of certain City properties. He noted that the Mapleview Islands property and the retention pond behind Runnings will revert to the property owner for mowing. Mr. Nelson stated the reductions will result in 20-30 less acres to mow.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing mowing reductions in the Park and Recreation Department. Carried.

Mr. Clark stated the Council, at their last work session, recommended approving funding an additional \$200,000 on top of the Mower County COVID programs to provide additional financial relief to qualifying businesses in the City. He stated the DCA would process the applications from the already submitted pool of applications.

DCA Director John Garry stated they are still sorting through the applications and stated there are about 120 Mower County Small Business applications. There is funding for about 80 of them and the remainder would try for the City of Austin funding.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution authorizing an agreement with the DCA to administer the Small Business Relief Program. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City received bids for the demolition of the property located at 509 South Main Street. The lowest bidder was Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$9,466. Mr. Lang recommended awarding Hansen Hauling & Excavating the contract.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution awarding a contract for building demolition to Hansen Hauling & Excavating at 509 South Main Street. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve amendment six to the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. Mr. Lang stated the amendment would award an additional \$80,550 and extend the completion date to June 30, 2022.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving amendment number six to the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve four change orders on the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. The project originally bid at \$4,883,280.67 and the four change orders resulted in a new contract amount of \$4,834,495.33. Mr. Lang requested the Council approve the change orders.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Baskin, adopting a resolution approving change orders to the Turtle Creek Flood Control Project. Carried 6-0.

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

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council accept a grant from the University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Board to explore the possibility of the expansion of the Austin Farmers Market. He added that this is part of the Impact Austin mission.

Moved by Council Member King, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution accepting a grant from the University of Minnesota Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Board. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution declaring the garage at 111 5th Avenue NW a hazardous property. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, authorizing the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 511 5th Avenue NW, Ulwelling Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member King, authorizing the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 603 8th Street NE, Erath Property. Carried.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace requested the Council approve an annexation in Austin Township for property owned by Vicki Bjork. The property is being sold and the owner would like to hook into the City sewer. The property will be brought into the City as a residential property.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving an annexation agreement with Austin Township. Carried 6-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council accept an FAA grant in the amount of \$258,927 for the Armory Avigation project. He requested the City Engineer be given authorization to sign any construction documents.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member King, adopting a resolution accepting a FAA grant and approving the execution of the grant agreement. Carried 6-0.

REPORTS

Council Member Helle thanked Human Rights Commission for their Welcoming Week work.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated he recently attended a Park & Rec board meeting where they discussed funding for a statue of Hormel Family.

City Administrator Craig Clark stated the proposed Riverbend Townhome project was not approved. He also noted that the CARES funding reporting was completed.

Mayor Stiehm stated that he and Council Member-at-Large Austin attending a Liberian community event at Todd Park recently.

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

Adjourned: 6:15 p.m.

Approved: September 21, 2020

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____