

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2021
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Member Oballa Oballa and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Council Members Paul Fischer, Rebecca Waller, Jason Baskin, Joyce Poshusta and Michael Postma

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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 Fire Chief Jim McCoy

STAFF APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Human Resources Director Trish Wiechmann and City Clerk Ann Kasel

OTHERS APPEARING ELECTRONICALLY: Elaine Hansen, Trish Harren

OTHERS APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald

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

Mayor Steve King was sworn into office.

Added to the Agenda:

- (mot) 4. Licenses:
Cab Driver: Michael J. Grant, 407 ½ 1st Street SE
Food: LouAnn Hausen, 708 14th Street NE
Tree Service: Travis' Tree Service, Albert Lea

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from December 21, 2021. Carried.

Recognitions and Awards

Mower County Administrator Trish Harren presented the annual Food Drive Plaque to the City of Austin for winning the contest for the most food donated between the entities.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Excavation: Bustad Dozing & Excavating, Inc. Taopi
Excavation: TelCom Construction, LLC, Clearwater
Food: Aldi, Inc. 1700 17th Street NW
Food: Maya's Restaurant, 501 West Oakland Avenue
Gas Station, Casey's General Store, 1702 12th Street SW
Sign Installation: Harvey Sign Service, LLC, Worthington
Sign Installation: LaCrosse Sign Co., Onalaska, WI
Cab Driver: Michael J. Grant, 407 ½ 1st Street SE
Food: LouAnn Hausen, 708 14th Street NE
Tree Service: Travis' Tree Service, Albert Lea

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of bills
- b. 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. He stated there are no changes from the previous year.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution designating depositories for checking and investment of public funds for 2021.

Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the official newspaper for 2021. The Austin Daily Herald is the only eligible newspaper and keeping their rate at \$5.07 per inch.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Oballa, designating the official newspaper for the City for 2021. Carried 7-0.

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council set the mileage reimbursement rate at .56 cents per mile for 2021.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Waller, setting the mileage reimbursement rate for 2021 at .56 cents per mile. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, appointing Walter Davis to the Cable Television Committee, term expiring 12/31/2021. Carried.

Mayor King stated that Carol Schollmeier donated \$195 in dining gift cards to the Police Department.

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

City Administrator Craig Clark requested the Council approve a new purchase agreement with Leaning Tree, LLC for Crane Park. The prior purchase agreement was cancelled due to some of the property being owned by the railroad.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution approving a purchase agreement with Leaning Tree, LLC. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang requested the Council approve a DNR grant application for the Turtle Creek Flood Reduction Project. The grant would be for \$31,600 and would be used for the Turtle Creek pond project.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving a DNR grant application. Carried 7-0.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the proposed resolutions are the first steps in the assessment project.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 8th Street NW (8th Avenue NW to 13th Avenue NW) and 9th Street NW (8th Avenue NW to 10th Avenue NW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$920,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 for street improvements on 8th Street NW (8th Avenue NW to 13th Avenue NW) and 9th Street NW (8th Avenue NW to 10th Avenue NW). Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 1st Street

SE (Oakland Avenue E to 1st Avenue SE) and 1st Avenue SE (S. Main Street to 2nd Street SE). street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$815,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Council Member Fischer asked if the one-way between the post office and the Fire Station had been looked at being a two-way road. He would like it to be looked at.

Mr. Wenum stated the City can look at the proposed modification to the road.

Mr. Lang stated the purpose of the one-way is to get First Avenue traffic back to Oakland Avenue.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 for street improvements on 1st Street SE (Oakland Avenue E to 1st Avenue SE) and 1st Avenue SE (S. Main Street to 2nd Street SE). Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 19th Street NW (Oakland Avenue West to 4th Avenue NW) and 1st Avenue NW (18th Street NW to 19th Street NW) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$700,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 for street improvements on 19th Street NW (Oakland Avenue West to 4th Avenue NW) and 1st Avenue NW (18th Street NW to 19th Street NW). Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 16th Street NE (Oakland Avenue East to 3rd Avenue NE) and 1st Avenue NE (Oakland Place NE to 19th Street NE) street construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,080,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Council Member Postma asked how the City decides between concrete and asphalt.

Mr. Wenum stated the traffic volumes are taken into consideration with concrete placed on the higher volume roads.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 for street improvements on 16th Street NE (Oakland Avenue East to 3rd Avenue NE) and 1st Avenue NE (Oakland Place NE to 19th Street NE). Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 8th

Avenue NW (North Main Street 4th Street NW) and 8th Avenue SW (27th Street SW to 29th Street SW) street construction project. He stated the mill and overlay project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$125,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 for street improvements on 8th Avenue NW (North Main Street 4th Street NW) and 8th Avenue SW (27th Street SW to 29th Street SW). Carried 7-0.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 31st Street SW road realignment construction project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$1,040,000. He said the road is going to be realigned for safety. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Council Member Postma stated he is very excited about the project and asked if the old road is going to be torn up or remain in place.

Mr. Wenum stated the road will remain in place because there is a parcel that needs access.

Moved by Council Member Baskin, seconded by Council Member Postma, receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 on the 31st Street SW road realignment. Carried.

Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum presented a feasibility report to Council for the 4th Street and 3rd Avenue NW intersection improvement project. He stated the project is feasible and will have a total cost of \$397,000. Mr. Wenum reviewed the project and requested a public hearing be held for the improvement on February 16, 2021.

Council Member Postma asked what the closure of 3rd Avenue would look like.

Mr. Wenum stated a portion of the pavement would be removed for some green space but the City would remain control of the right-of-way.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, receiving a feasibility report and calling for a public hearing on February 16, 2021 on intersection improvements on 4th Street NW and 3rd Avenue NW. Carried.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated he will be looking to set up orientation with the new Council members.

Park and Recreation Director Kevin Nelson stated the City will meet with the tree contractor. He stated the arenas opened for hockey practices and hope to have games soon.

Council Member Fischer asked when the outdoor rinks are going to be flooded.

Mr. Nelson stated they will be flooded this week.

Council Member Oballa stated it was a great honor to be sworn in.

Council Member Postma stated he is excited to be on the Council. He stated the Austin Human Rights Commission will be holding a Martin Luther King Day event.

Council Member Fischer welcomed the new members and Mayor King.

Council Member Baskin also welcomed the new members.

Council Member Waller stated she was excited to have the new members on the Council.

Council Member Poshusta echoed the comments.

Council Member-at-Large Austin thanked the engineering department for getting the projects going and welcomed the new members.

Mayor King stated he enjoyed the swearing-in ceremonies throughout the day.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to January 19, 2021. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:26 p.m.

Approved: January 19, 2021

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____