

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 4, 2024
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor King. Council Members Paul Fischer, Laura Helle, Michael Postma, Joyce Poshusta, Geoff Baker, and Council Member-at-Large Jeff Austin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Chief David McKichan, Fire Chief McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, City Attorney Craig Byram, Human Resources Director Tricia Wiechmann, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Members of the Austin Eagles Lookout Aerie 703, Honorary Council Member Miguel Garate

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

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving the agenda. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, approving Council minutes from February 20, 2024. Carried.

The mayor recognized Austin Eagles Lookout Aerie 703 for donating \$2,000 to the City of Austin's fireworks fund.

The mayor recognized Greg Bell and Dayton Kehret from the Parks, Recreation, & Forestry Department for their retirements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving the consent agenda as follows:

Licenses:

Message Establishment: Oriental Pearl LLP, 506 W Oakland Ave
Exempt Gambling (raffle): Austin Junior All-Star Baseball Inc. on July 11, 2024
Temporary Liquor: VFW Post 1216 on April 4 & 5, 2024

Claims:

a. Pre-list of bills

b. Financial Report.

Appointments:

Peter Bartley to the Planning Commission – term expiring December 31, 2027

Carried.

AWARDING BID

Public Works Director Steven Lang spoke about the bids for bituminous materials and stated that Ulland Brothers came in with the lowest bid.

Contractor	Base Bid	Mileage	Total
Ulland Bros. Inc.	\$286,785	\$36,000	\$322,785
Rochester Sand & Gravel	\$310,500	\$50,400	\$360,900

Mr. Lang recommends that we award that bid to Ulland Brothers.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, to approve the bid to Ulland Brothers for Bituminous Materials for 2024. Carried 6-0

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang presented a proposal for construction services from SEH. Mr. Lang stated that this is a requirement of the EDA grant to ensure the infrastructure is constructed in a manner that has a long-lasting life.

Mr. Lang stated that the proposal from SEH is \$267,770.15, and these costs are eligible for grant reimbursement. Mr. Lang recommends that we award these services to SEH.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, to adopt a resolution approving a contract with SEH for Construction Admin & Inspection Services at Creekside Business Park. Carried 6-0

Mr. Lang stated that the Creekside project will decrease the farmable acres we rent out to Kevin Finley. Mr. Lang stated that we will enter into a one-year agreement with Kevin Finley.

Mr. Lang proposed that we enter into a contract for \$9,375.00 in 2024. Mr. Lang stated that we would have to pay taxes on the revenue we bring in.

Mr. Lang stated that in the future, we may look into converting this into alfalfa instead of row cropping. Council Member Postma asked why the cost per acre decreased compared to previous years.

Mr. Lang stated that as the available farm size gets smaller, you end up turning on end rows constantly, decreasing the land's productivity.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, to adopt a resolution and approve a farm lease with Kevin Finley. Carried 6-0

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert stated there were capital items that were not purchased during the 2023 year that we would like to move the funding forward to 2024. Mr. Dankert is requesting the council authorize a budget adjustment to the 2024 budget to allow those expenditures to occur.

Mr. Dankert stated that the amount in the General Fund was \$411,000, in Fund 40000 Local Option Sales Tax \$250,000, in Fund 71000 Central Garage \$132,500, in Fund 73000 \$118,000, and in Fund 75000 Risk Management \$2,300.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, to adopt a resolution for Budget Adjustment #3. Carried 6-0

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

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 801 8th St SE, Solis & Barreto Property. Carried.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

The mayor introduced Honorary Council Member Miguel Garate. Honorary Council Member Garate stated that he is very happy to be here; he has been in this community for 27 years and thinks it is amazing how our community is growing.

REPORTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated that he will be going to the League of Minnesota City's Legislative Action Day on Thursday, March 7th. Mr. Clark stated that the Coalition for Greater Minnesota Cities sent out an action alert on a housing bill. City Administrator Craig Clark sent notice to Senator Dornink to oppose it.

Council Member Postma spoke about items involving Discover Austin. Council Member Postma stated that the AJGA is coming to Austin in June and there will be 100 junior golfers in town from all around the world. He also wanted to thank firefighter Josh Seha for entering the fire department into a contest and winning them new resources.

Council Member Helle thanked the Human Rights Commission and Austin Public Library for story time last month for Black History month and they partnered with Next Chapter so that kids were able to leave with free books.

Council Member Helle stated that the Culture & Arts Commission is applying for funding for youth projects with Matchbox Children Theater, and we will know more about that in the upcoming months. She stated that the Parks, Recreation & Forestry department is diving into the

draft of the master plan. She stated that the new director discovered that the public feedback was not aligning with all of the goals. She stated that the director is dedicated to getting input from administrative staff and the council ahead of time.

The mayor read off the February & March anniversaries.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adjourning the meeting to March 18, 2024. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:48 p.m.

Approved: March 18, 2024

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____