

M I N U T E S
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 19, 2024
5:30 PM
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

APPEARING IN PERSON: Honorary Council Member Isaac Oboya, Mayor for the Day Kathy Larson, Austin Daily Herald

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 Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving Council minutes from August 5, 2024. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Sign Installer: Kingston Maxwell Inc., Green Bay, WI
Tree Service: Aware Tree Care Specialist, LLC, Austin MN

Claims:

- a. Pre-list of Bills
- b. Investment Report

Event Applications:

Austin ArtWorks Festival – August 23-25, 2024
Hormel Special Event – September 11, 2024

Appointments:

James Arop Majak as the Honorary Council Member – September 3rd to November 18th, 2024

Carried.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert requested the Council approve the 2025 Hormel Foundation grant requests. The Council ranked them in the following order at the August 5, 2024 work session:

1. Emerald Ash Borer Treatment/Planting – \$400,000
2. Affordable Housing Project – \$900,000
3. 4th of July Fireworks – \$25,000
4. Police Chaplaincy Program – \$15,600
5. Police Drones – \$18,185
6. Todd Park Playground Equipment – \$80,000
7. Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Education Programs – \$50,000
8. ADA Walkways – \$20,000
9. HRA Daycare Program – \$10,000
10. Delivering the Data – Hotspot Data Plans 2025 – \$60,000
11. Fire Prevention and Education – \$5,000
12. Speakers/Picnic Tables – \$11,000

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, approving the 2025 Hormel Foundation Grant request rankings. Carried. 6-0. Council Member Helle Abstain.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace stated Megan Xiquita, 1300 28th St SW, is requesting a fence appeal due do their property being on a corner lot and is not in compliance with the City's ordinances. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request and Ms. Wallace requested approval from the City Council.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, approving a resolution declaring 1002 6th Avenue NE as a hazardous property. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a resolution declaring 800 11th Street NE as a hazardous property. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Baskin, approving a resolution declaring 1507 4th Avenue SW as a hazardous property. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 910 5th Avenue NE, Arte & Mohammed Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baskin, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 510 3rd Avenue SE, Lindahl Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, accepting donations to the City of Austin. Carried 7-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Baker, adopting a resolution certifying the August 13, 2024 primary election results. Carried 7-0.

HONORARY COUNCIL MEMBER

Honorary Council Member Isaac Obang thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing him the opportunity to be a part of the council meetings.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the 8th Street NE and Hormel Institute Lift Station project is moving along. There will be additional road closures beginning August 21.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Helle stated this weekend is the Austin ArtWorks Festival. She invited the public to attend. She also stated she was at Todd Park today and she saw many positive things in the Parks system and wanted to bring attention to this.

Council Member Postma is also excited about the ArtWorks Festival. He thanked all for working at National Night Out.

Council Member Baker thanked the City Clerk, the Clerk's office, and all the election judges for their work on the primary election. He thanked the Police officers that were in attendance at the dangerous dog hearing. He applauded their compassion and the work they do. He thanked the City Attorney for all the work he did on this case as well.

Council Member Baskin wished his wife a Happy Birthday.

Council Member Fischer thanked all the election judges for their work on the primary election.

Council Member Poshusta thanked the honorary council member for attending the Council meetings.

Mayor King thanked the Mayor for the Day Kathy Larson for attending.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to September 3, 2024. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:44 p.m.

Approved: September 3, 2024

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____