

M I N U T E S  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 3, 2024  
5:30 PM  
Council Chambers

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Laura Helle

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Craig Clark, Director of Administrative Services Tom Dankert, Police Captain Todd Clennon, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Human Resource Director Trish Wiechmann, Assistant City Engineer Mitch Wenum, City Attorney Craig Byram, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Honorary Council Member James Arop Majak, Austin Daily Herald

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He introduced the new Honorary Council member James Arop Majak.

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

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, approving Council minutes from August 19, 2024. Carried.

Mayor King read the Welcoming Week Proclamation. He presented the proclamation to Denver Ritz, An Lee, and Miguel Garate from the Human Rights Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Tree Service: Cole's Complete Tree Care LLC, Austin, MN  
Gas Station, Cigarette, & Edible Cannabinoid (transfer): Hari Mart, Inc. to Austin Express LLC  
Right of Way: Clark Concrete Inc., Byron, MN

Claims:

a. Pre-list of Bills

- b. Financial Report
- c. Credit Card Report

Event Applications:

Nourishing Champions on September 26, 2024

Appointments:

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

Carried.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement requested by New Horizon Homes LLC. They are proposing to build a single-family home at 1312 18th Street NE valued at approximately \$460,000.00. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the application is in conformance with the City's policy for tax abatement.

No comments from the public.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving the tax abatement. Carried. 6-0.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

City Administrator Craig Clark stated this item has been brought to the Council from the work session. This is for a tower lease renewal agreement with T-Mobile at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He is looking for approval of this agreement.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, awarding a lease agreement with T-Mobile. Carried 6-0.

Director of Public Works Steven Lang stated following the high-water event in June, trees have been dislodged in the area waterways. The Public Works department has taken inventory of this damage and has reached out to contractors for bids for removal of trees in these waterways. They received bids from Hanson Hauling & Excavating and Jim's Excavating, LLC. Hanson Hauling & Excavating provided the low bid at \$27,400.00. The Public Works Department also requested an additional bid amount for individual tree removal outside of the project area and the bid came in at \$1,200. Mr. Lang recommends awarding this bid to Hansen Hauling & Excavating with funds coming from our anticipated FEMA reimbursement.

Council Member Postma asked Mr. Lang if we would in fact be receiving the funding from FEMA.

Mr. Lang stated that regardless the project needs to be completed so the trees do not cause a future obstruction. He stated Mower County was declared a disaster area by FEMA so they should receive a percentage back from FEMA for this project.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Baskin, awarding the bid for tree removal in waterways to Hansen Hauling & Excavating, Inc. Carried 6-0.

City Clerk Brienne Wolf requested Council approve a request for a public hearing for fall assessments on October 7th, 2024.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, setting the public hearing for fall assessments for October 7, 2024. Carried 6-0.

Director of Administration Tom Dankert requested Council approval to award the bid for City Hall stucco repair to Total Drywall and Plastering for \$19,200.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Postma, awarding a bid for City Hall Stucco Repair to Total Drywall and Plastering. Carried 6-0.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Postma, approving a resolution declaring 303 13th Street NE as a hazardous property. Carried 6-0.

Director of Public Works Steven Lang stated they received three bids for asbestos abatement at the old Austin Daily Herald building, located at 310 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE. Mavo Systems, Inc. came in with the lowest bid at \$163,700. Mr. Lang recommends awarding the bid to Mavo Systems, Inc.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, awarding the bid for asbestos abatement to Mavo Systems, Inc. Carried 6-0.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Poshusta welcomed the Honorary Council Member to the meeting. She stated there will be a voting forum on September 17 at the Community Action Building with the City Council candidates and on September 19 the School Board and the State candidates will be present.

Council Member Baskin stated that it is incredible that Welcoming Week is now in its 12th year. There will be an impressive number of offerings available over that week. He also gave a reminder that now that school is back in session, for everyone to be mindful of buses and to slow down.

Council Member Baker stated to take a moment and thank the School Board and administration for restricting the use of cellular devices in the classroom. He stated we need to be there for them on this issue and support them.

Council Member Postma thanked everyone that had a hand in organizing the Artworks Festival. He stated Hormel Foods will be hosting a free concert on September 12 in downtown Austin.

Mayor King recognized Austin Police Detective Patrick Retterath on his retirement. He will be honored in October in front of the Council. Mayor King read off the City employee anniversaries for September.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adjourning the meeting to September 16, 2024. Carried.

Adjourned: 5:45 p.m.

Approved: September 16, 2024

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

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