

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steve 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 Jim McCoy, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon, City Attorney Craig Byram, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Director of Human Resources Trish Wiechmann, and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

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

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

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

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Poshusta, approving Council minutes from October 21, 2024. Carried.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor King recognized the American Legion and the VFW Color Guard. The City Council thanked them for their service to the City of Austin and their commitment to the Veterans of this community. Each attendee was awarded a City of Austin Key to the City keychain.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Licenses:

Temporary Gambling (raffle): Whitetails Unlimited Southern MN Deer Camp on January 11, 2025

Claims:

a. Pre-list of bills

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A public hearing was held for a tax abatement requested by Bigelow & Lennon Construction. They are proposing to build a single-family home at 2203 9th Place SW valued at approximately \$366,000.00. City Administrator Craig Clark stated the application is in conformance with the City's policy for tax abatement.

There were no comments from the public.

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

A continuation of the October 21, 2024 public hearing for 2024 grass and weed removal assessments was held related to parcels 34.916.0310, 34.916.0300, 34.916.0260, 34.916.0250, 34.916.0220, all of which are owned by the same person. Council thanked Park and Rec Director Jason Sehon for the additional backup.

There were no comments from the public.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, adopting a resolution for assessments for 2024 grass and weed removal related to parcels 34.916.0310, 34.916.0300, 34.916.0260, 34.916.0250, 34.916.0220. Carried 6-0.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated that in the previous work session discussion the Council rescinded the request to have a consulting company look at the possibilities for additional cost-saving automation at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, to rescind the request to have a consulting company look at additional cost-saving automation at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Carried 5-1. (Baker-Nay)

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

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 504 18th Street NW, Lindahl Property. Carried.

Moved by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Fischer, to grant the Planning and Zoning Department the power to contract for the removal of junk and/or illegally stored vehicles at 1005 8th Street NW, Fink Property. Carried.

City Clerk Brianne Wolf thanked the election judges for their hard work and commitment, which make the election process possible in the City of Austin. She also thanked Wanda Hatfield for her hard work and dedication to the Clerk's office over the last year.

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the 4th Street Bridge Demolition will occur this week and will continue for approximately 12 months.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Poshusta thanked the Austin Human Rights Commission for the recent event they put on for All Souls' Day.

Council Member Helle thanked all the election workers. She reminded citizens to please be kind to each other on election day. She also reminded citizens the deer hunt is still going on at the Nature Center and although you are safe to walk the trails it does not hurt to wear bright colored clothing.

Council Member Postma thanked all the election workers. He thanked all the individuals that collaborated to make the 1st and 3rd Apartments a success.

Council Member Baker recognized Joe Bower, from the Chamber of Commerce. He stated Mr. Bower is a great advocate for businesses in Austin.

Mayor King thanked Human Resources Director Tricia Wiechmann for conducting the chili cook-off and the efforts of the Wellness Committee.

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

Adjourned: 5:56 p.m.

Approved: November 18, 2024

Mayor: _____

City Recorder: _____