

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

**6:00 p.m.**

**(With a Zoom teleconference option for attending)**

Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Matt Delehanty, Patrick McMahon, Jason Walters, Hunter Wilson, and Bill Wetheron. Also, in attendance were Mayor Neil Ramsey, Attorney John McGarvey, Assistant City Attorney Richard Edwards, City Administrator René Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Public Works Director Gary Burkhead, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, and Anchorage Forestry Board Chairperson Lucy Spickard. In-person guests were Jeremy and Catherine Rhoden, Cody and Teresa Crase, Doug and Kalyn MacIntyre, Greta Chessler, Dan Grimm, Alex Wrinkles, and Hannah Brown. Zoom guests were Sara Ritchie and unidentified participants.

Mayor Ramsey called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**MINUTES**

Cook motioned to approve the March 08, 2021 minutes. Delehanty seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Wilson asked about the legal fee expenses. Major explained this was legal advice provided by Paul Whitty regarding zoning issues.

**POLICE REPORT**

An Anchorage officer has been the victim of unemployment fraud.

Anchorage police were instrumental in apprehending two women involved in a theft from a vehicle near the Anchorage Trail. All stolen items were recovered.

Officer Morgan Roberts is resigning effective April 13, 2021.

Chief Hayes said there was one runaway reported from Uspiritus. Mayor Ramsey noted that it was not unusual to have two to three runaways per month from the facility just a few years ago.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

There were no comments or questions about the March Historic Preservation Commission report.

**FORESTRY BOARD REPORT**

Spickard said the Spring Tree Giveaway was fabulous, it worked well with the drive through system. She thanked Council members Wetheron and Walters for their assistance.

There will be a tree dedication ceremony at City Hall on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to honor previous Anchorage police officer/Director of Public Works Erwin Booth. The community will be invited. Refreshments will be served.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Sign Ordinance**

Wetheron said the committee is working on sign ordinance revisions. Proposed changes will include adding acceptable materials, allowable locations for banners, and removing the ban on

swing-arm style signs and limiting them to be 60 inches tall. McGarvey said changes regarding political signs are on hold while awaiting an opinion to be issued from the Supreme Court.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Ramsey addressed the subject of impervious surface. If it is not taken seriously, runoff will create more flooding. The impervious surface restrictions are there to manage the community in the correct way. Cook pointed out that in 2020 there were 14 impervious surface variance requests and there are already 10 impervious surface requests this year, which is compounding the problem. Burkhead agreed that there is flooding in areas where there used to be no problems, and it is washing away some roads. Ramsey said the issues are the volume of variance requests and the setting of precedents. Wilson said Council must do what is best for the City.

### **Setback Variance Request – Wrinkles, 11801 E. Osage Road**

The Wrinkles returned with revised plans for a pool house with less encroachment into the rear setback. They request a rear setback variance of 14 ft.-4 inches into the required 50 ft. setback. Three neighbors approved and one contacted City Hall and stated they are neutral. Ramsey clarified that City Council does not decide on setback variance, they send a recommendation to Metro's Board of Zoning Adjustments (BOZA). Cook said there was progress on the plans, yet the pool house could be rotated to stay within the building envelope. Wilson stated that each time the Council approves a variance, it sets a precedent. McGarvey explained that variance procedures are very specific about requiring a hardship. Walters motioned to make no recommendation to BOZA. McMahon, Walters, and Wetherton voted in favor of the motion. Cook, Delehanty, and Wilson voted against the motion. Mayor Ramsey had the tie breaking vote and voted in favor of the motion. Major will send a letter to the Wrinkles for BOZA stating the City of Anchorage has no opinion on the variance request.

### **Impervious Surface Variance Request – Rhoden, 11605 Valley View Road**

Jeremiah and Catherine Rhoden submitted variance requests for transforming an existing barn into a pool house and installing a pool, potting shed, squaring off an existing patio, and adding stepping stones from the house to the pool. There would be 2,250 square feet of new impervious surface, which would be 677 square feet over the limit. Ramsey and Cook suggested reducing the square footage to stay within the limit because that area of the City has flooding issues. Wetherton asked if they considered using pervious materials. The Rhodens agreed to use permeable materials to stay within the limit and revise their plans. No motion was made. No action was neither presented nor taken for a setback variance to convert the barn to a pool house.

### **Impervious Surface Variance Request – MacIntyre, 803 Linden Drive**

Douglas and Kalyn MacIntyre recently purchased the property to be near Frazier Rehabilitation Institute for their six-year-old son's therapy. Following paralysis from spinal surgery, he uses a manual wheelchair for ambulation. The property is already 2.74% over the impervious surface limit. They propose installing a pool, pool patio/coping, and wheelchair ramp. Wetherton said there are pervious bricks on the market that are handicap accessible. The possibility of removing other impervious surfaces and mitigation with French drains was discussed. Their son uses all the areas to play outside. The pool can be moved closer to the existing patio, pervious materials can be used, and French drains can be installed to mitigate the addition. Ramsey asked Delehanty and McMahon to serve as a subcommittee to review the MacIntyre's revised plans. Cook motioned to authorize the subcommittee to review and approve revised plans that will include reduction of the pool decking/coping to 6' around the pool, changing the walkway/ramp to pervious materials, and approval from Greg Smith for installing a swale and French drains. Delehanty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Impervious Surface Variance Request – Crase, 12405 Mistletoe Road**

Cody and Teresa Crase requested an impervious surface variance for construction of a pool, decking, and covered patio that would put the property 1,117.5 square feet over the impervious surface limit. They met with City Engineer Greg Smith and agreed to install French drains for

mitigation. Walters asked if any of the new square footage could be changed to pervious materials. Ramsey asked Delehanty and McMahon to serve as a subcommittee to review this project. Major noted there are already drainage issues from removal of drains by the previous owner.

Wilson motioned to authorize the subcommittee to review and approve the Crase's revised plans. Walters seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **2021 Tax Rate Ordinance – Second Reading**

Cook conducted the second reading of the 2021 tax rate ordinance and motioned to approve the ordinance. There was an increase in assessment values. The tax base increased 6% while expenses only increased 3%, thus, the tax rate is being reduced. The motion was seconded by Walters and passed unanimously.

### **Bids for Hobbs Chapel Steps and Walking Path**

Burkhead reported that Planet Earth, the lowest bidder, was doing amazing work for a local church and the second lowest bidder withdrew his bid due to lack of manpower. Greta Chessler represented the Anchorage Garden Club and asked for the City to include the Garden Club on discussions regarding care of or investments in Hobbs Chapel. Burkhead said Wetherton, the AHPC Chairman, approved the project and Garden Club members were also notified. The five-foot brick walkway and three steps will be replaced, and nothing behind the building façade will be replaced. Wilson stated this work is making the chapel ADA compliant. Wilson motioned to accept the lowest bidder and asked that the Anchorage Garden Club Co-chairs Greta Chessler and Jane Brown contact Gary for more information. Cook seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Waive ABC license fee for Civic Club Wagner Park Social Event April 23**

Wilson motioned to waive the Anchorage ABC license fee for the Civic Club's Spring Fling social event. Wetherton seconded the motion. All approved, and the motion passed.

### **Proclamation Declaring May as National Historic Preservation Month in Anchorage**

Wetherton motioned for Mayor Ramsey to proclaim May as National Preservation Month in Anchorage. Cook seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Major announced the Civic Club social event at Wagner Park from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and a sewer meeting for residents of the southeast quadrant of the City on Tuesday, May 11, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Ramsey met with Anchorage Middletown Fire and EMS (AMFEMS) Chief Kevin Groody to discuss the Anchorage fire station. AMFEMS plans to spend \$100,000 on interior renovations at the station. Ramsey recommended using the City's budget surplus to paint the faded exterior to match the red of the maintenance buildings. Ramsey also discussed possible new walkways on Evergreen Road and Osage Road, bridges on Hazelwood, signage, and lighting downtown.

### **Executive Session**

An executive session was not needed.

Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting. Wetherton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Neil Ramsey, Mayor

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Reneé M. Major, City Clerk