

**MINUTES
OF THE
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

August 10, 2015
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Cece Hagan, Connie O’Connell, Neil Ramsey, Brian Rublein, and Bill Wetherton. Mayor Tommy Hewitt presided. Also in attendance were City Administrative Officer Reneé Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Police Lieutenant Mark Hoskins, City Attorney John McGarvey, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guests Diane McAllister, Ed Wylar, and Fire Chief Bill Rockwood.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hewitt at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the July 13, 2015, Regular Meeting of City Council were reviewed. O’Connell motioned to accept the minutes as presented, and Ramsey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Major introduced Deputy-Treasurer Ritchie to the City Council members. The July 2015 Check Register and Financial Report were presented. There were no questions for Major.

POLICE REPORT

The July Police Activity Report was presented. There were no questions regarding the report. Hayes informed Council that Officer Rague received an Occupant Protection Award from the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety for seat belt citations, and that Officer McIntire resigned without notice. The department is searching for a replacement. Officer Atchison is off work due to a knee injury received during a chase, but he should return to duty later this week. Hayes also noted that body cameras will be ordered this month for all officers.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting were shared with Council. Wetherton had nothing to add, and there were no questions for him.

FORESTRY BOARD

Forestry Board minutes from the August 3, 2015 meeting were presented. McAllister informed Council that the Board would like to be a part of the City’s efforts to clean-up and beautify the triangles. That collaboration would assist with their Growth Award requirements.

OLD BUSINESS

Business District Street Signage – Major notified Council that the project Request for Bid ad was published last Wednesday in *The Courier-Journal*. Specifications are posted on the City’s website, so it is not known how many companies have inquired.

AT&T Guy Wire Installation Update – Major stated that the guy wire anchors have been set. They must now wait 10 days to cure. Weather permitting, the guy wires should be installed before month end. Wetherton inquired as to why AT&T agreed to pay the full expense, and Major said it was due to potential liability issues. McGarvey asked if the City would take title to the tower from T-Mobile once the guy wires are installed. Wetherton said that was the plan. McGarvey said he would confirm. Ramsey asked if T-Mobile had ever paid the bill for the bolt replacements, and Major said they had not.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Dedicating Greten Lane to Public Use – O’Connell introduced and Council held the first reading of the Ordinance.

Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement Resolution – Wetherton made a motion to approve the annual Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with BMS and to executive documents to facilitate and administer the City’s Healthcare Reimbursement Arrangement. The motion was seconded by O’Connell. There was no discussion and the motion unanimously carried.

Healthcare Flexible Spending Account Resolution – Hagan entered a motion to approve authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with BMS and execute required documentation to set up employee Flex Spending Accounts for this fiscal year. Seconded by Wetherton, and all approved.

Bellewood Road Walking Path/Culvert Emergency Repair – Major addressed this project on behalf of Booth who was not in attendance. Booth opened the project up for bid when the first estimate came in significantly higher than expected. Council was presented with the three bids. United Construction was selected to complete the emergency repairs at the low bid of \$21,064. An open culvert area remains next to the path, and Wetherton stated that he gave his suggestions to Booth about railing options to protect children from falling into the culvert area.

City Triangle Landscaping Project – Neither Cook nor Booth were in attendance to discuss this project, so the update was postponed to the September meeting.

Public Works Employee Opening – Major advised Council that Roby Wentworth’s employment was terminated on Friday, August 7. He has been off work and on Workman’s Compensation for 17 weeks. Treatment at this stage is limited to pain medications, so the City assisted with his filing for Long Term Disability. As required, an official letter was issued to return to work by August 7, 2015 or the termination would be effective. A newspaper ad has been published for his replacement. Hagan requested clarification regarding the number of Public Works employees, and Major said that in addition to Booth there are two full-time (40-hour) employees plus one summer seasonal. This year there were two summer employees, the first as a temporary replacement for Wentworth, the second to fill the seasonal position. Both summer employees are now gone.

Reach Alert Notification System – The Anchorage Emergency Preparedness Committee had raised the issue of timely resident notification in cases of emergency situations. Hayes stated that with the railroad transporting hazardous materials, and industrial facilities just outside City limits, this is a valid concern. Neither the City’s email system nor Code Red can reach residents fast enough, especially if an evacuation is required. Reach Alert is just one system he’s considered. The cost is \$1,500 per year or just under \$2 per residence. Hayes contacted Superintendent Kelly Ransdell at the school, and they might be interested in jointly pursuing this system next year, but the school has already contracted with a vendor for this year. O’Connell volunteered to assist Hayes with a feasibility study after which they would come back to Council with a recommendation. Hagan inquired if the Committee addressed parent vehicle traffic congestion and getting emergency vehicles to the school if needed. Hayes said the Committee has not; however, he has been working on this issue.

Police Surplus Vehicle – Hayes stated the department’s 2006 Chevy Trailblazer is no longer serviceable. He asked that the SUV be declared surplus so it could be sold. Ramsey entered a motion to declare it surplus, seconded by Rublein. The motion unanimously carried.

Cricket Wireless Update – McGarvey informed Council that Cricket was purchased by AT&T. Cricket has hired an outside contractor to help them negotiate terminating their contracts. They told McGarvey they no longer required space on the tower and wanted the lease terminated. McGarvey replied that just because AT&T is also on the tower does not

negate the current lease. He also mentioned it will take time for Cricket to remove their equipment. Major said they pay their lease annually and are currently paid until February 2016.

OTHER BUSINESS

Second Reading, Ordinance to Close a Portion of the Cherry Lane Public Way – Ramsey entered a motion to approve the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Wetherton, and then opened for discussion. There was none. A vote was taken and the motion unanimously passed.

Evergreen Road/Nutwood Bridge – Wetherton received an email with a complaint about the appearance of the stone work on the new bridge. Booth and Major inspected the site, and determined that natural stone of the same size is being used which creates a flat, linear pattern. The brickwork is supposed to match the bridge downtown, which is made up of various-sized stones. Ramsey concurred that the stone is the problem, not the workmanship. Work was halted on Friday. Cook returns Tuesday morning, and a meeting has been scheduled onsite for Tuesday afternoon to review the specifications and what's been installed.

Civic Club Event – Wetherton inquired if anyone knew why the Civic Club elected to move the Anchorpalooza music festival to St. Luke's Church. Major mentioned that parking was a concern but no other comments were made.

Ramsey made a motion at 6:28 p.m. for Council to move to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. The motion was seconded by O'Connell. Mayor Hewitt, Council, and McGarvey were joined by attorneys Ken Sales, Scott White, and Licha Farah. Council returned to Regular Session at 7:42 p.m. No action was taken, and the meeting adjourned.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor

Reneé M. Major
City Clerk