

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

**Monday, August 10, 2020
6:00 p.m.
via (ZOOM) Teleconference**

Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Neil Ramsey, Jason Walters, Hunter Wilson, and Bill Wetherton. Also, in attendance were Attorney John McGarvey, Assistant City Attorney Richard Edwards, City Administrator Reneé Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Public Works Director Gary Burkhead, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, Anchorage Forestry Board Chairperson Lucy Spickard, and guests Connie O’Connell, John Keith, Kathryn Marino, and Tara Reck.

Wilson motioned to appoint Councilmember Neil Ramsey to preside over the meeting in the absence of Mayor Hewitt. Wetherton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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

MINUTES

Wilson motioned to approve the July 13, 2020 City Council regular meeting minutes and the July 29, 2020 City Council special meeting minutes. Cook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MAYOR’S RESIGNATION

Ramsey motioned for City Council to accept Thomas W. Hewitt’s resignation as Mayor. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Police salaries reflected on the July 2020 report include three pay periods compared to only two in July 2019.

Major replied to Cook that the consulting fee was for the work done by LD&D to research and design several maps for the recent resident traffic meeting.

POLICE REPORT

The Anchorage Police Department accepted delivery of their third police vehicle.

Today was the first day for Officer Morgan Roberts. She is the youngest officer in Anchorage, and previously worked for LMPD.

There were four runaways reported from U-Spiritus/Bellewood during July, two incidents each time. Runaways were attributed to adjustments to the eating schedule due to the pandemic. Recent Covid-19 testing at U-Spiritus/Bellewood produced all negative results.

Ramsey inquired about the training received by new Anchorage officers. Chief Hayes stated the officers ride with a field-training officer for three to four days to learn Anchorage roads. The rest of policing is the same as other districts.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wetherton explained the steps the Commission has taken to update the 1990 Historic Preservation Commission guidelines. This included hiring the firm CRA, in 2018, to revise the guidelines. The key CRA employee left the company, and the company could no longer provide the service. The Commission was unable to find another company to do the revisions. Wetherton and Mayor Hewitt met with HPC member and architect Dan Fultz to create a plan for the revisions. The proposal is for Fultz to revise the guidelines in two phases: first, general guideline revisions; and second, expand supplemental information to guidelines (recommendations for scale, resources, etc.). Phase one would be at a rate of \$125.00 per hour for a maximum of 100 hours, with a possible extension. Discussion included the possibility of breaking the City into different districts, where regulations may be more stringent based on location or age. Wetherton proposes to authorize the Mayor to move forward with phase one of the proposal. Cook motioned to accept the proposal. Walters seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FORESTRY BOARD REPORT

Spickard announced the 2020 Fall Canopy Tree Campaign. The City pays the cost for half of the tree and half of the planting. There will be four to five varieties of canopy trees offered, plus one specialty non-canopy tree, a Black Pearl Redbud tree. Order forms will be in the September newsletter. Cook asked where the canopy trees can be located. Spickard replied, they may be planted 15 – 20 feet from the road.

Spickard also reported the second tree to honor former Public Works Director Erwin Booth did not survive. The Forestry Board will order a Black Pearl redbud to replace it.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Impervious Surface Variance Request Anchorage Presbyterian Church

Kathryn Marino represented Anchorage Presbyterian Church. She stated the memorial garden will be smaller than the playground that was removed. The garden will be made of one monument, pavers, bushes, benches, and cremains, which will be in biodegradable containers buried 18” or more. This is not a scattering garden. The Church is requesting a variance to the impervious surface limit. Major stated a city attorney said a memorial garden is an accessory zoning use for a church. McGarvey noted Anchorage handles impervious surface issues and the State regulates other rules such as financial and environmental issues. Walters motioned to approve the variance. Ramsey seconded the motion. Cook, Ramsey, Walters, and Wilson approved the motion. Wetherton abstained. The motion passed.

Surplus Inventory – 2013 Ford Taurus

Police Chief Hayes requested City Council declare the 2013 Ford Taurus as surplus inventory. Cook motioned to declare the vehicle as surplus inventory. Wilson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Process for Electing New Mayor

City Council may appoint a new mayor. No election is required. The new mayor will serve until the November 2022 election. Wilson motioned to appoint Neil Ramsey as the Anchorage mayor. Wetherton seconded the motion. Cook thanked Ramsey for stepping up to serve as mayor. The motion passed unanimously. Ramsey resigned as a City Councilmember and took the oath of office for mayor. Regulations state that Anchorage City Council may appoint a new councilmember within thirty days. An Anchorage special meeting will be scheduled before the September meeting.

Compensation for Mayor

Ramsey believes for towns similar in size to Anchorage, it is the citizens’ duty to fill the mayor position as community service. Cook said Kentucky League of Cities data shows other towns of similar size pay their mayors. The data does not include the size of the staff for those towns, so further discussions on mayoral compensation may be warranted. At this time, the Anchorage Mayor position will continue with no compensation.

Executive Session

Wetherton motioned to enter executive session. Walters seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The Council entered executive session at 6:34 p.m.

Council returned from executive session. With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Neil Ramsey, Presiding Officer

Reneé M. Major, City Clerk