

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

Monday, December 10, 2018
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Connie O’Connell, Neil Ramsey, and Bill Wetherton. Cece Hagan and Brian Rublein were absent. Also, in attendance were Mayor Thomas Hewitt, City Attorney John McGarvey, City Administrator Reneé Major, Public Works Director Erwin Booth, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, and Forestry Chairperson Lucy Spickard.

Mayor Hewitt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the November 12, 2018 City Council regular meeting were reviewed. Cook motioned to approve the minutes, Wetherton seconded the motion, and all approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

There were no questions on the treasurer’s report.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Brian Taylor is leaving the Anchorage Police Department to be the Police Chief in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. His last working day will be December 12, 2018.

A charge of \$855.00 appeared on last month’s credit card bill. Chief Hayes investigated and found it to be a fraudulent charge from a person in New York. The charges were refunded and the account was closed.

Anchorage Police Department responded to a threat made to employees at a local business. The F.B.I. investigated and determined that there was no credible threat.

GUEST

Anchorage Public School representative for City Council meetings, Wendell Harris introduced Ty Barns. Ty is in Boy Scout Troop 110. He attended the meeting to learn about local government as part of earning a badge.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

There were no questions about the Historic Preservation Commission report.

FORESTRY BOARD REPORT

Weather delayed the planting of the 2018 Fall Canopy Campaign trees. Planting was originally scheduled before Thanksgiving. It is now expected to be completed by December 14, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

MCI metro Access Transmission Services Franchise Agreement

Major stated the cost to have Attorney Linda Ain review the franchise agreement would be between \$3,000 and \$5,000, and there would appear to be no cost benefit as this franchise isn’t expected to generate excessive revenues. Several City Council members opposed spending funds for the additional legal review by Ain. Instead, City Council approved the mayor to sign the franchise agreement after McGarvey’s consent.

Zoning Setback Variance – 905 Old Harrods Creek Road

McGarvey stated variances must meet statutory requirements, which include unusual condition for lots in the area, special circumstances, hardship, etc. A representative from the builder AmLung Construction, stated the homeowner's reasons for requesting a 5' side setback (a 10' variance from the standard 15' setback) for a detached garage. Reasons included comparable setbacks to existing (grandfathered) garages in the area, aesthetics, and ease for vehicles to maneuver. According to McGarvey, these do not meet the requirements. O'Connell, Wetheron, and Ramsey voted to deny the variance, Cook voted in favor of it. The City will not recommend the variance to Louisville Metro BOZA (Board of Zoning Adjustments). The homeowner retains the right to request a variance from BOZA.

Short-term Rental

McGarvey stated that current regulations prohibit short-term rentals. Major said the City sent letters to two residents, identified as advertising their property for rent on vacation rental websites, to inform them of the regulations prohibiting short-term rentals. No response has been received from either resident. After discussing options for regulating short-term rentals, the issue was tabled. Short-term rentals will remain banned under existing regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeal of Civil Penalty – Gill, 802 Surrey Lane

According to a letter from Gill's attorney, the septic system work was completed by boring and not trenching as defined in the City Ordinance; therefore, there was no violation. The City objected with substantial documentation showing tree damage and large areas of ground disturbance. Major stated that the City Forester, Andrea Hanlon, did not object to a reduction in the fine. City Council agreed to lower the fine from \$500.00 to \$250.00. Ramsey motioned to assess the fine at \$250.00. Cook seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Zoning Setback Variance – Holton, 1700 Cold Spring Road

Per routine zoning standards, the short side of a lot is considered the front of the property for determining setbacks. In this case, the E. Osage Road, side of the corner lot at 1700 Cold Spring Road would be the front side. The current home, which is to be demolished and rebuilt, faces Cold Spring Road and uses a Cold Spring Road address. Therefore, City Council agreed to assign Cold Spring Road as the front property line. The new house location will meet current front setbacks from Cold Spring Road and not require City Council review for a variance. The property may still require a variance from the Louisville Metro Board of Zoning Appeal, however, it will be determined by Louisville Metro.

Municipal Order Extending City Healthcare to City Council Members

Wetheron motioned to pass a municipal order to allow elected officials, who do not qualify for other group insurance or Medicare coverage to participate in City-sponsored group medical insurance at a cost of 50% of the monthly premium. O'Connell seconded the motion. O'Connell, Ramsey, and Wetheron approved the motion. Cook abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

Traffic Update

The City can expect traffic study updates from the consultant, Diane Zimmerman, in January.

Solar Crosswalk Signs

Cook recommended replacing the current tall crosswalk signs on Evergreen Road with black, more-decorative crosswalk signs similar in size to a stop sign. The existing solar crosswalk signs could be used at the intersection of Evergreen Road and Ridge Road or another location in the City. The traffic study results expected in January will indicate what areas warrant crosswalk signs.

Announcements

Annual Holiday Luncheon and Winter Bowl/Town Meeting dates were announced. The Winter Bowl/Town Meeting will be held earlier this year on January 13, 2019.

Hewitt recognized O'Connell for serving on City Council from 2015 through 2018. She was also the founder of the annual Winter Bowl celebration. Rublein will be honored by the City for his 18 years of service on City Council (2001 – 2018) with a bronze plaque and a Magnolia tree planted at Wagner Park.

An executive session was not needed. Ramsey motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by O'Connell and was unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor

Reneé M. Major
City Clerk