

**MINUTES
OF THE
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

January 11, 2016
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Cece Hagan, Connie O’Connell, Brian Rublein, and Bill Wetherton. Mayor Tommy Hewitt presided. Also in attendance were City Administrative Officer/City Treasurer René Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, City Attorney John McGarvey, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guests Ed Weyler, and Roy Johnson.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hewitt at 6:05 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the December 14, 2015, Regular Meeting of City Council were reviewed. Wetherton motioned to accept the minutes as presented, and O’Connell seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The December 2015 Check Register and Financial Report were presented. There were no questions for Major or Ritchie.

POLICE REPORT

The December Police Activity Report was presented. Hayes provided Council with copies of the Anchorage Police Department’s 2015 Uniform Crime Report. The document provides a cumulative summary of all reported offenses for the year, comparisons with similar cities, and 2014 information for tracking trends. It further breaks out offense numbers into violent vs. property crimes, with clearance rates and recovery statistics for both years.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting were shared with Council. There were no questions for Wetherton, and he had nothing to add.

FORESTRY BOARD

Forestry Board minutes from the December 7, 2015 meeting were presented. No one from Forestry was in attendance to expand on the report.

OLD BUSINESS

City Hall Shutter Replacement – Booth was asked to secure bids to replace the non-compliant shutters on the City Hall addition. They require custom fabrication, and few

companies perform this sort of work. Thus far only one bid was received, and it was for \$17,984. Hewitt asked that any decision be delayed until additional quotes can be obtained.

Holy Angels Academy Detention Basin Project – Major reported that on behalf of the City, an approval letter was presented to Middletown. Three stipulations were noted in the letter: that the detention basin and improvements are built according to the plan dated December 9, 2015; that “as built” surveys are provided; and Middletown request continued maintenance by Holy Angels so as to avoid the potential for future problems. City Engineer Greg Smith will monitor the project for Anchorage.

AT&T Cell Tower – McGarvey stated that AT&T is ready to begin construction of the new mono-pole tower. Issues remain with the existing structure. The tower is above maximum weight capacity after T-Mobile and AT&T added weight with new equipment. Although AT&T addressed several issues (removed excess equipment, the top section of the tower, adding guy wires, etc.) the tower is only stabilized and cannot accept any additional weight or tenants. Verizon is still actively seeking a position; the Alaska Broadband level to be vacated does not meet their needs. McGarvey provided Council with a copy of AT&T’s Tower Option and Lease Agreement for their review. Johnson, the Project Manager for the new tower build proposal, addressed Council. AT&T will pay to build the mono-tower. They will move their equipment from the existing tower to the new one. The City will own the new tower. AT&T has requested rent abatement of \$200,000 for these efforts. Hagan asked for confirmation that there would be no upfront cost to the City, and that was confirmed. However, AT&T will not transfer the other tenants’ equipment. They will not take down the existing tower once everyone else has transferred their equipment. O’Connell asked if Verizon’s rent will cover the loss in rents from AT&T and was told it should offset. When questioned, Johnson qualified location and timing. He said the location is just to the northeast of the existing tower. Actual construction should take less than 30 days. He noted there will be additional construction costs now that the guy wires are up, since drilling into the rock core for the base will have to be completed around them. AT&T will incorporate those adjustments in their expense plan. Hagan requested a financial analysis of the project from the City’s perspective: projected income and expenses for the new tower, as well as the costs to vacate and dismantle the existing structure if those expenditures fall to the city to complete. Major said that she and Ritchie will complete that task in house.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayoral Appointments – Changes to the Forestry Board were noted, along with a new addition to the Historic Preservation Commission. Wetherton said that Bill Fowler relinquished his position so a second (much needed) architect could be added. Mayor Hewitt stated that Albert Entwistle announced that he will be retiring from the Ambulance Board, so a vacancy is pending. He hopes to fill that position soon. Rublein made a motion to approve all of the appointments as presented. The motion was seconded by Wetherton, and carried unanimously.

Resolution and Inter-local Agreement for Communication Services Bids with Louisville Metro – Major attended a number of meetings regarding Google’s potential entry into the metropolitan area. Eighty-two individual government entities are involved. The agreement would allow Louisville Metro to negotiate on behalf of all; one bid, advertising, etc. The Jefferson County League of Cities is coordinating the efforts. Over 5,000 miles of fiber optic lines will need to be laid. Major stated there are to be approximately 13 large Google sheds to house generators, equipment, etc., but are reported to be located on Louisville Metro property (none in Anchorage). Hagan made a motion authorizing Mayor Hewitt to sign the resolution and agreement on behalf of the City. Seconded by O’Connell, all approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Civic Club ABC Fee Waiver – In anticipation of a request from the Civic Club, Major stated that City Council would need to consider waiving the fee for the temporary ABC license for the Winter Bowl/Annual Town Hall Meeting. O’Connell entered a motion to waive the ABC license fee for this January 24, 2016 event. Hagan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

REACH Alert Update – All residents currently signed-up for REACH Alert were entered into a drawing to receive a complimentary snow plowing. Karen Portelli of North Arbor Drive was the winner. A second drawing is scheduled for next week. A final drawing will take place at the Town Hall Meeting.

At 6:42 p.m. Hagan made a motion that Council move to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation and the transfer of ownership of the cell tower from T-Mobile to the City; seconded by O’Connell. All approved. Council returned to Regular Session at 6:50 p.m.

A motion was entered and unanimously approved for McGarvey to demand T-Mobile rent payments for the past two years plus reimbursement of the City’s repair costs to replace the nuts and bolts on the tower.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor

Reneé M. Major
City Clerk