

**MINUTES
OF THE
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

June 8, 2015
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, 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, Public Works Director Erwin Booth, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Police Lieutenant Mark Hoskins, City Attorney John McGarvey, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guest Diane McAllister.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hewitt at 6:06 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the May 11, 2015, Regular Meeting of City Council were reviewed. Wetherton motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Cook seconded. A vote was taken and Cook, Hagan, O’Connell, Rublein and Wetherton approved. (Ramsey not present for the vote.)

TREASURER’S REPORT

The May 2015 Check Register and Financial Report were presented. There were no questions for Major.

POLICE REPORT

The May Police Activity Report was presented. Cook asked about the missing person listed in the report. Hayes said a mother picked up her child from a babysitter’s residence without the sitter knowing she had done so. The tense situation was resolved once the parent was contacted and the child was confirmed at home. Cook also inquired about the increase in citations, and was informed it was due to routine traffic stops. Hayes mentioned that the surplus items declared last month have been put on Govdeals.com. He does not expect to take in a large amount of money considering the condition of the items.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting were shared with Council. Wetherton had nothing to add. Mayor Hewitt asked when the firehouse painting was due to start, and Wetherton reported that painting starts tomorrow. Wetherton mentioned that the firehouse copula needs repair and that will be \$500 extra. Booth mentioned that the copula on the maintenance building also needs attention, and since the lift is here, requested those repairs also be completed. There was no objection.

FORESTRY BOARD

Minutes from the May 4, 2015 Board Meeting were presented. McAllister informed Council that an updated Forestry Handbook has been completed. The Forestry Board is going to have

50 bound copies printed for distribution to any resident that would like one and, with the Mayor's permission, Kunzler has already published it on the Forestry page of the City's website.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading of Ordinance to Repeal Subsection (A) Relating to the Sunday Sale of Alcoholic Beverages – McGarvey summarized the change as removing a section of the Anchorage Ordinance that is no longer in sync with state law. Hagan entered a motion to approve the Ordinance, seconded by O'Connell. A vote was taken and Cook, Hagan, O'Connell, Rublein and Wetherton approved. (Ramsey not present for the vote.)

Cell Tower Update – McGarvey stated that he has had no communication with T-Mobile. AT&T has reduced the height of the tower, lowered equipment, and substantially improved the stability of the structure. Wetherton noted that guy wires are still needed. McGarvey inquired about the cost and who is going to pay for them. Cook said she wants to see the guy wires up as soon as possible. Major informed Council that the surveyor has an appointment scheduled for Wednesday and that, when she spoke with him, he gave the impression that AT&T plans to move quickly to get them installed.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading of the FY-2016 Budget Ordinance – Hagan introduced and held the first reading of the Ordinance. Mayor Hewitt explained that only major categories are listed so that variances in individual line items do not need to come back before Council for approval. He said when extraordinary items from last year such as the sale of the Wagner property and the purchase of the Ridge Road parcel are excluded, everything is in line with prior budgets. Mayor Hewitt mentioned that Major is available to meet with Council members to review the work papers if they would like to review them. Discussion occurred regarding what to do with the Ridge Road property. Should it be annexed into Anchorage? There are no sewers, so today the seven-acre parcel cannot be subdivided and meet the minimum five acre requirement for septic systems. It will probably be about 10 years before sewers become available. Mayor Hewitt asked McGarvey to file a road plan to guarantee there will be no through-street access off Old Henry Road in the future.

Evergreen Road/Nutwood Road Bridge Construction Project – EZ Construction was the only bidder both times this bridge project was published for bid. Their quotes were declined as too high. Flynn Brothers, the company currently paving Anchorage roads, working on T-ing the Evergreen/Nutwood intersection and installing the cement curbs, informed Booth they also do this type of work. Booth contacted EZ Construction for their best, possibly lower, quote but they never replied. Flynn submitted a quote of \$42,000 using man-made stone or \$56,850 using real stone. Ramsey said he initially leaned towards man-made but is changing his recommendation. He felt that the long term maintenance of the facing could become an issue for the City. Cook recommended approving the higher amount, and then if man-made stone is selected, the savings would be there. The final decision of the stone material will be made by the project committee. The Council agreed to award the job to

Flynn Brothers since it was lower than EZ Construction. When asked how long the work will take, Booth estimated 3 or 4 weeks. He also told Council that a Corten steel guardrail has to be installed to protect the electrical box adjacent to the roadway. That cost will be \$1,300. Wetherton informed Council that Corten steel is a group of steel alloys that contains carbon with copper and was developed to eliminate the need for painting. It forms a stable, but rust-like appearance when exposed to the weather. If residents complain that the guardrail needs painting, it does not; that is its natural state.

Deputy Treasurer – Major informed Council that Sara Ritchie was hired as a Deputy/Assistant Treasurer, and that she starts tomorrow. Overall, Major was very impressed with all the candidates. Ritchie has both an undergraduate degree in finance and real estate and an MBA. She lives in the City of Douglas Hills with her husband and two young children, and will be a nice addition to the City. McGarvey informed Council that he will look into the Non-Elected Officials section of the Administration Ordinance as he found that the position of Treasurer was never added.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sign Ordinance – Wetherton requested that Council consider amending the Sign Ordinance as it applies to OR zoning. When Evergreen Real Estate purchased Bellegrove and discussed signage with the City, it was noted that the Historic Preservation requirement for wood signs and only ambient light within the Historic District was not applicable to OR. McGarvey informed Council that OR was created specifically for the Bellegrove parcel and is the only lot so classified. Council members asked to see a copy of the Ordinance, and Kunzler said she would email that section to them on Tuesday for their review.

Street Signs – Cook informed everyone that there is a meeting this week on new downtown signage. Once the traffic circle is completed, all street signs will have to be replaced. The committee would like to have the new signs approved in advance so that once the road work is finished, the signs can go up immediately. The traffic circle will take 6-8 weeks to complete and is scheduled to start next month.

Abandoned Properties – Cook stated that the Rose's home (titled as Future Happiness LLC) on Owl Cove Place has been vacant for six years. The grass is thigh-high, and neighbors are complaining. She asked if the City could send a crew to cut it. The Ochs' home on North Osage is also vacant and has not been mowed since last fall. It is in the same deplorable condition. McGarvey advised Major to mail a letter by certified mail to Future Happiness and have the police hand-deliver a letter to the Ochs notifying them of the maintenance issue and informing them that the City will have the grass cut and file a lien against their property for the expense, if they don't take care of it. Cook asked for this to be done as soon as their addresses can be verified.

Special Council Meeting – Major advised Council that a Special Meeting is required to hold a second reading of the FY-2016 Budget Ordinance. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. Although not everyone can attend, a quorum was confirmed.

A motion was entered by O'Connell to move to Executive Session, seconded by Rublein. Council went into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss pending litigation and they were joined by Attorney Kenny Sales. At 7:19 p.m. Council returned to Regular Session; no action was taken, and the meeting was adjourned.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor

Reneé M. Major
City Clerk