

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

**Monday, June 08, 2020
6:00 p.m.
via (ZOOM) Teleconference**

Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Matt Delehanty, Neil Ramsey, Jason Walters, Hunter Wilson, and Bill Wetherton. Also, in attendance were Mayor Thomas Hewitt, Deputy Mayor Cece Hagan, City Attorney John McGarvey, Assistant City Attorney Richard Edwards, City Administrator Reneé Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Public Works Director Gary Burkhead, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, Anchorage Forestry Board Chairperson Lucy Spickard, and guests Jerry and Nancy Johnston, Ted and Judith Davies, Jake Wenz, Stuart Ray, Robin Edwardsen and Susan Tolliver, Wendall Harris, and Jennifer Donaldson.

Mayor Hewitt called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

MINUTES

Cook motioned to approve the May 11, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Wetherton seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hewitt noted an increase in insurance premium revenue. Major stated that the increase was anticipated. She also noted that interest earned increased and Commonwealth Bank & Trust is doing a great job.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Hayes reported three car break-ins in May. They were in the parking lot behind the Post Office. The thieves break car windows, take items, and go straight to Target to purchase gift cards. He is checking into installing an additional surveillance camera in that area.

A DUI driver drove to the front parking lot of the Anchorage Police Station and passed out.

One theft from a residence occurred in May. It may have been workers inside the home who stole jewelry.

There have been no protests in Anchorage so far, even though there have been several in surrounding areas. Anchorage police schedules were adjusted in order to assist Middletown Police with security duty to help Target workers get to their vehicles.

Anchorage Police are strategically parking unmanned cars for more presence.

The department may be losing one officer soon to another profession.

The Anchorage Police Department appreciates all of the support they have received.

Ramsey asked if things are getting back to normal in Anchorage. Chief Hayes said there has been an increase in domestic cases, which have not included violence, only issues within the residences. Ramsey thanked Chief and the department for being police officers and serving Anchorage. Hagan thanked Chief and his team for their flexible hours.

Ramsey asked about the accident that damaged the downtown stone bridge on Evergreen Road. Chief said a vehicle going under 20 mph hit the bridge, and the driver's insurance will pay for the repairs.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wetherton stated that under the Mayor's Executive Privilege he approved four fences. The Historic Preservation Commission plans to hold a meeting in June with Commission members in attendance at City Hall, presenters called in one at a time, and other interested parties joining via Zoom.

FORESTRY BOARD REPORT

Spickard reported everything is on target with the Forestry Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Amending OR – Office Residential Zoning Classification to Allow Artists and Crafts Studios as a Permitted Use – Second Reading

Cook motioned to approve the Ordinance amending OR – office residential zoning classification to allow artist and crafts studios as a permitted use. Wetherton seconded the motion. The ordinance is for very specific uses for one building and has specific limits. McGarvey said the ordinance will be sent to Metro Planning once it is signed.

Ordinance Approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – Second Reading

Cook motioned to approve the Ordinance approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. She also asked for a point of clarification that if there are projects not budgeted the City has the ability to dip into

funds if needed. Major said the City could amend the budget and finance any additional projects via a transfer from fund balance. Wetherton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Hazelwood Road Walking Path/Old Harrods Creek bridge and path status

The replacement of the Old Harrods Creek Road bridge was scheduled to start Tuesday, June 09, 2020, but rain will delay it to Wednesday. Culverts are expected to be placed on June 16th and work completed by June 26th.

The extended walking path on Old Harrods Creek Road is being heavily used. Work on the Hazelwood Road walking path will start in about one and a half to two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry and Nancy Johnston Impervious Surface Variance – 1026 Anchorage Woods Circle

Mr. Johnston stated that this one-acre lot was created in the mid-1980s under an innovative lot design. A portion of the public street is within his property lines and must be included when calculating the impervious surface percentage, which already puts the lot over the limit. The addition will be a net new square footage of 336 square feet. Johnston stated that the impervious surface percentage would be under the limit if the street was not counted and pointed out the subdivision has storm drains that handle runoff. The street was initially private but is now a public street. McGarvey said Anchorage Woods is an innovative design and that the City approved taking in the public road. He and City Engineer Greg Smith both recommend granting the variance. Cook motioned to approve the variance. Walters seconded the motion. Ramsey said if the street is counted, it is a heavily covered project, but it is a well-developed and designed project for drainage, and this is unique and should not set a precedent. Cook reaffirmed that the City Engineer recommends approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Helicopter Landing Sites Ordinance Amendment – First Reading

The first reading of the Helicopter Landing Sites Ordinance Amendment was neither presented nor discussed.

2020 Road Asphalt Paving Bids

Road asphalt paving bids received ranged from \$65,500 to \$103,000. The City accepted the lowest bidder, Flynn Brothers. The company is ready to start as soon as the contract is signed and they receive the notice to proceed. A vote is not required to accept the lowest bid.

Public Works Truck purchase approval

Due to the surplus in this year's budget, the purchase of a public works truck can be done this year to free up funds for the future budget. Walters asked if this is a replacement truck. Burkhead said it will replace a truck with a plow, which will be presented to City Council as surplus then offered on GovDeals.com. Hewitt asked if this is a contract bid. Burkhead said the Bob Hook dealership

gets the contract price for the City. Burkhead said he would ask that the old truck be declared surplus and sold in FY2021. The new vehicle will have room to transport all public works employees at once and allow for picking up supplies during inclement weather. Walters motioned to approve the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4WD Double Cab 162" work truck. Delehanty seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Police Body Camera purchase approval

The failure rate of current body cameras is increasing and the technology is becoming outdated. They are out of warranty and only refurbished replacements are available. Middletown Police Department spends approximately \$20,000 per year for five years on 16 cameras. Most of the expense is for iCloud storage. Anchorage has its own server so its cost would be lower. Chief Hayes would like to get three quotes and apply for a grant from Homeland Security to cover the cost. Cameras are the best insurance policy for the City for liability. Ramsey asked if cameras have to be purchased before the grants are approved. Chief Hayes said three quotes would first be obtained and submitted for the grant before the purchase. Major suggested approving up to \$20,000 for the expense of the cameras in this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2020. Chief Hayes has been working to get quotes for ten cameras, but is having difficulty getting responses. Wilson asked if Council could assist Chief with obtaining quotes. Cook asked if the City would own the hardware and be able to cancel the storage contract at any time. Hayes replied, the cameras and storage are all in one contract. He said the life expectancy of the equipment is five years and storage is charged by the gigabyte. He said the cameras are used for every law enforcement related event including perimeter checks. There is a different recommended storage schedule for different types of events. Wetherton motioned to approve Mayor Hewitt's recommendation to delegate Hagan, Walters, and Delehanty to review Chief Hayes' quotes and approve up to \$20,000 for new cameras and storage. Ramsey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Variance Request – Thomas Hewitt fence height variance, 11811 Hazelwood Road

Hewitt said the fence was originally going to be done in July, however, the contractor wants to do the fence at the same time as the current work. The Hewitts contacted the neighbors, who approved of the plans. The variance for a 50' section of fence to be 8' high is requested because of the neighbor's elevation of at least five feet above the Hewitt's property. McGarvey noted that Metro's 2020 BOZA code already permits fences up to 8' tall. Wilson said the grade is steep so he is supportive of the request. Walters agreed that elevation is an issue. Wetherton visited the site and stated this is a very reasonable request. Wetherton motioned to approve the variance for an 8' tall section of fence. Delehanty seconded the motion. Cook is in favor of the motion because there is already an almost 7' tall fence there and it is for a small section of fencing. The motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

July 4th Celebrations

The Civic Club Firecracker Run will be held as a virtual race this year. Spickard said this year's parade will start by gathering at Sawyer Hayes Park, with judges located at Wagner Park. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the annual picnic and fireworks display will not be held this year. Owl Creek Country Club would need approval from the Board of Health and Anchorage Middletown Fire & EMS if they decide to put on a fireworks display.

July 10th Balloon Glow and Food Collection Drive (July 11th rain date)

Anchorage Public School Superintendent Kelley Ransdell provided a summary of the event for the City. There will be four hot air balloons tethered at the school and three tethered in the downtown area. There will be a food collection drive as well. Hewitt said a plan needs to be submitted to the City and approved. He suggested coordinating the event with the Civic Club. Major said Anchorage resident Matt Torgerson is putting this together and it will go in *The Anchorage Age* newsletter. He hopes that this will be the inaugural event and an annual event.

Surrey Lane

Delehanty and Wilson have both been approached by Surrey Lane residents with requests for the City to pave the road. Hewitt said the City hired a traffic consultant and will get a report. There are six people on a traffic committee that have been working on this. A public resident meeting is being planned for July, so City Council can take a vote on it thereafter. Wetherton said paving Surrey Lane will cause more traffic on Surrey Lane and surrounding roads. Cook stated keeping roads in gravel form should not be part of a long-term traffic strategy.

Wetherton motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Walters and was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt, Mayor

Reneé M. Major, City Clerk