

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

Monday, March 09, 2020
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

Councilmembers in attendance were Diane Cook, Matt Delehanty, Neil Ramsey, Jason Walters, and Bill Wetherton. Also, in attendance were Deputy Mayor Cece Hagan, City Attorney John McGarvey, Attorney Richard Edwards, City Administrator Reneé Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, and Anchorage Forestry Board Chairperson Lucy Spickard. Mayor W. Thomas Hewitt, Councilmember Hunter Wilson and Public Works Director Gary Burkhead were not in attendance.

Councilmember Walters motioned to appoint Deputy Mayor Cece Hagan as the presiding officer in the absence of Mayor Hewitt. Cook seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Hagan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

City Attorney John McGarvey administered the oath of office to Matthew Delehanty for the position of Councilmember. Deputy Mayor Hagan welcomed Delehanty to the Council.

MINUTES

Walters motioned to approve the February 10, 2020 minutes. Wetherton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ramsey asked if the change in revenue from the increased insurance premium tax rate could be determined. Major stated that it is almost impossible for the City to calculate the actual insurance premium tax difference as insurance policies fluctuate in number and value.

Cook asked about expenses for the tax assessor, AT&T, consulting professionals, and police salaries. Last year the tax assessor fee was paid in March, and this year it was paid in February. Major explained, AT&T modified their contract, but then could not honor it, which resulted in the City getting billed for both the old and new systems. The phone contract is now with Spectrum, and Major is working on getting the refund from AT&T. Major confirmed for Ramsey that the Spectrum contract costs less than AT&T. Major said consulting professional expenses included engineering and wildlife survey projects. Police department salaries are a result of the department being fully staffed.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Hayes discussed the need to replace aging equipment, such as body and vehicle cameras.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The City hired a company to revise the Historic Preservation Commission guidelines. The work was incomplete, therefore, McGarvey is negotiating a compromise on billing received for the full contracted price. McGarvey will draft a letter for Major to send to the consultant. The Historic Preservation Commission is working to secure a replacement company to revise the guidelines.

Ramsey asked about Historic Preservation Commission approval given for Lakshmi Farm LLC to convert an existing barn into a residence. McGarvey noted this property is zoned R-E, and has an agricultural use, which provides exemptions from some zoning regulations. Cook asked if taxation is based on zoning or use. Major replied that taxation is based on use. Lakshmi has not applied for and does not have an agricultural assessment exemption, that would reduce the taxable basis used to calculate their real property taxes. The City consulted with attorney Paul Whitty, who said the conversion from agricultural to residential is exempt and grandfathered under the agricultural use. Major pointed out the residence needs to connect to sewers or upgrade their septic system. MSD typically requires a sewer connection for the home to be installed in the (middle of the) road. Cook asked if or when neighbors were notified of the conversion plans since Louisville Metro said the plans do not require a Metro setback variance. Major said neighbors were only notified prior to the project being presented to the Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission.

FORESTRY BOARD REPORT

Forestry Board Chairperson Lucy Spickard announced that Dr. Bhatnager will be the Arbor Day guest speaker this year. Hagan will attend the event and sign a proclamation declaring March 18, 2020 as Arbor Day in the City of Anchorage. The presentation will be followed by the Spring Tree Give-away Program. Residents are allowed three free trees per property. The Forestry Board will collect tree related books for the Betty Willets Library. Spickard announced the City was designated a Tree City USA for the 30th year and it received the Growth Award for the 10th year in a row.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Adjusting Insurance Premium Tax – Second Reading

Hagan conducted the second reading of the ordinance amending the Anchorage Code of Ordinances Chapter 113 to decrease insurance premium fees. Walters motioned to approve the ordinance as read. Wetherton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Deer Assessment Report Southern Wildlife Resources LLC Final Report

The City hired Southern Wildlife Resources LLC to survey the deer and coyote populations in Anchorage. Deputy Mayor Hagan stated that she approved the creation of an advisory committee, chaired by Cook, to review the final report and make recommendations, which could include a residents meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ABC License Application by Whet Your Palette

Whet Your Palette placed a legal ad in *The Courier Journal* newspaper stating its intentions to obtain an ABC license but has not submitted an application. City Council only needs to approve if the application requests a Sunday license. Anchorage ABC Officer Cooper Robertson is in contact with the business about obtaining a license.

Hagan asked about ABC regulations that require group events held at Owl Creek Country Club which provide alcohol to get an ABC license, for example the Anchorage PTA Auction. Even though Owl Creek Country Club has an ABC license, any event that includes an auction of alcohol requires a separate license as previously stated by Anchorage ABC Officer Robertson.

Bid to Add Stone Veneer to Hazelwood Road Pedestrian Bridge

The City wishes to add stone veneer, that would match the stone and stone caps on the Nutwood Road/Evergreen Road bridge, to the new Hazelwood Road pedestrian bridge. A bid was received from Flynn Brothers, the company that did the original stonework on that bridge. Ramsey questioned the need for an angle iron footer listed in the bid and whether stone was needed on the walking path side of the bridge. The bridge was constructed with exterior side wall footers and may not need stone on the interior or path side since caps will cover that area. Cook and Walters agreed to investigate further and report back if necessary. No motion was made.

Bid to replace Hobbs Memorial Chapel Entrance Steps (2 sets) and Platform

Major informed Council that any repairs or improvement work at Hobbs Chapel is the responsibility of the City of Anchorage. The City will receive revenue from weddings held at the Chapel. Flynn Brothers submitted a bid, which included a heavier mixture of sand to blend with the existing masonry. Ramsey remarked that the rise and run of the steps should be changed from the bid for safety reasons. He asked if colored concrete is an option. Cook talked about adding a path to make the property wheelchair accessible. Wetherton stated Hobbs Chapel and Cemetery are very historic and changes to the type of material such as concrete or the addition of a path need Historic Preservation Commission approval and safety measures take priority. Spickard requested the path be located to the left of the Chapel to allow maintenance trucks to access the property. Cook said a large tree and low limbs on the left of the walkway make that side impractical for a path. The path should be placed on the right.

Ordinance Amending OR Zoning Permitted Use – First Reading

Hagan conducted the first reading of the ordinance amending the OR-office residential zoning classification to allow arts and crafts studios as a permitted use. McGarvey confirmed with Louisville Metro Planning and Zoning that this permitted use change can be made by approving an Anchorage ordinance and it will not require a conference at Louisville Metro.

Announcements included the March 18th Arbor Day presentation and tree give-away, and March 22nd tree give-away.

An executive session was not needed.

With no further business to discuss, Cook motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Walters and was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt, Mayor

Reneé M. Major, City Clerk