

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

May 8, 2017

6:00 p.m.

City Hall

The City 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, City Attorney John McGarvey, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Director of Public Works Erwin Booth, Deputy City Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, and Forestry Board Chair Lucy Spickard.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hewitt at 6:04 p.m.

**GUESTS**

**Jason Nemes**

Jason Nemes, Kentucky Representative 33<sup>rd</sup> District, commented on the special meeting that will be called later this year. Tax and pension reform for the state will be the main focus of the special session. Mr. Nemes opened the floor for comments and questions.

**Northeast Regional Library**

Jim Blanton, Director of the Louisville Free Public Library, and Chandra Gordon, Executive Director of the Library Foundation, presented plans for the Northeast Regional Library. The library will be a 40,000-square foot facility that will serve over 170,000 residents and 80 schools within a five-mile radius. The cost of the library will be \$17.8 million. Funds for the project from the City of Louisville and the state will total \$14 million. The Library Foundation will privately raise the remaining \$3.8 million. They are asking for community support and volunteers. Anchorage residents Steve Gault and Bob Schalow, who were in attendance, have already shown their support for the new library. The current library branch in Westport School will close, and its employees will transfer to the new library. The Middletown branch will remain open. The plan calls for ground breaking to occur later this summer and construction to be completed in 2018.

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the April 12, 2017 City Council special meeting were reviewed. Hagan requested for the minutes to reflect that she noted there is a six-month permit revocation if a helicopter permit holder has more than five offenses within twelve months. O'Connell motioned to approve the minutes with noted changes. Cook seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The April 2017 Check Register and Financial Report were presented. There were no questions or comments.

**POLICE REPORT**

Chief Hayes informed City Council that he conducted the use-of-force investigation into the March shooting in Anchorage. He concluded that Anchorage officers used appropriate means to handle the situation. Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) has submitted their own use-of-force investigation to the state as standard procedure to ensure all KRS rules were followed. Response from the state could take several months. Wetherton inquired about autopsy results for both of the deceased. Hayes said it could take six to eight weeks to get the results.

Hayes pointed out the higher-than-normal dispatcher overtime expense shown in the financial statements. The recently retired dispatcher had an ill family member and had to use his vacation off. Dispatcher Taylor has been off work for two weeks due to a broken arm, and a part-time dispatcher resigned, so other dispatchers have been working overtime to cover the shifts.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Wetherton conferred with Council members and concluded that plans for each project presented to HPC should continue to be included with the HPC minutes in Council member's information.

## **FORESTRY BOARD REPORT**

Lucy Spickard announced that the Forestry Board will be volunteering at USpiritus to do a recycling project using old Forestry calendars, as well as, a science project. Spickard stated that thanks to Mayor Hewitt, a "wishing tree" will also be planted at Bellewood. The kids will be able to watch the tree grow and be able to decorate it. Forestry Board member Don Walker is very involved with USpiritus and has helped facilitate the projects.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Ordinance Establishing Helicopter Landing Sites and Permit Procedures – Second Reading**

Mayor Hewitt stated that there were two first readings of the helicopter ordinances at the April City Council meeting. Both the same except for the permit term. One ordinance had a two-year permit term. The other had a five-year permit term. Council agreed that the helicopter permit should be issued for a two-year term. O'Connell conducted the second reading of the Ordinance establishing helicopter landing sites and permit procedures that included a two-year permit term. O'Connell motioned to approve the ordinance. Wetherton seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Hagan thanked Mayor Hewitt, Cook, City Council, and McGarvey for all of the work they did to develop this ordinance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Variance Request – Brad McCoy, 1801 Springhill Drive**

Mr. McCoy presented his plans to construct a kitchen addition, new walkway, and concrete parking area, which would put his property over the maximum permitted impervious surface. Mr. McCoy worked with the City Engineer, Greg Smith. Mr. Smith recommended the request for variance be granted by City Council. Ramsey motioned to approve the variance. O'Connell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Ordinance Amending §35.25 – First Reading**

Amendments to Ordinance §35.25 are needed to bring the City of Anchorage into compliance with state laws. Hagan conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

### **Ordinance Establishing the City's Board of Tax Supervisors and Repealing Section §35.26 – First Reading**

An ordinance establishing the City's Board of Tax Supervisors and repealing the existing Section §35.26 is needed to bring the City of Anchorage into compliance with the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Hagan conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

### **Ordinance Relating to Property Assessment Procedures for Ad Valorem Taxes Section §35.01 and amending §35.02– First Reading**

An ordinance to establish §35.01, a new section of the ordinance is needed to conform to the provisions of KRS 92.412. McGarvey stated this ordinance directs the City Council to designate the early discount rate annually in the same ordinance that sets the tax rate for that year. Cook asked if reducing the City's property tax rate, given the uncertainty of the pension fund contributions, could have ramifications on the budget. Mayor Hewitt replied the City has sufficient reserves to cover any projected deficit. Hagan conducted the first reading.

### **Ordinance Adopting the City of Anchorage Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018 – First Reading**

Mayor Hewitt presented a balanced FY2018 Budget and commented that capital projects are the only discretionary expense items. Ramsey noted that the City may possibly incur an additional expense related to the current state CERS Pension liability. McGarvey stated the City may receive a delinquent rent check for approximately \$55,000 from cell tower tenant T-Mobile. Wetherton asked when other antennas will move from the old tower. Major said Sprint had contacted the

City, and she sent their engineers drawings to help them decide whether to move old equipment or install new equipment. T-Mobile contacted Major on Thursday and are facing the same decision. Major estimates that it will take four to five months for antennas to be moved and then the old tower can be removed. The City will incur approximately \$10,000 additional cost to remove the existing equipment from the old tower, if Sprint and T-Mobile antennas are not transferred to the new tower. Hagan conducted the first reading of the ordinance.

Hagan asked if the City used a new CPA firm for the audit. Major explained that the old firm stopped doing government audits. However, the auditor at our previous firm moved to the new firm the City is now using called Blue CPA/Advisors. Major noted that the delay in receiving the audit was due to BLUE CPA/Advisor's comprehensive review of our records as a new client.

Cook thanked Public Works Director, Erwin Booth, for the work done at the Glenbrook CSX intersection. Ramsey concurred that the work was a welcomed improvement.

Hagan asked when the Mozzipi restaurant will open. Major said the owners are currently working on obtaining an ABC license, so it should open soon.

Mayor Hewitt noted that a City resident, John K. Bush, has been nominated by President Trump to serve on the U.S. 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

McGarvey commented on the City's tax statute, which has a current interest rate of 12% on top of the 25% penalty after 125 days. He said the interest rate environment has changed since the ordinance was enacted. He asked Council to consider lowering or eliminating the interest rate.

At 6:45 p.m. Ramsey motioned to go in executive session to discuss pending litigation. Wetherton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

At 7:14 p.m. City Council returned from executive session. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

---

W. Thomas Hewitt  
Mayor

---

Reneé M. Major  
City Clerk