

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

October 12, 2015  
6:00 p.m.  
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Cece Hagan, Connie O'Connell, 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, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guests Lucy Spickard on behalf of the Forestry Board, and Anchorage School Superintendent Kelley Ransdell.

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

**MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 17, 2015, Special Meeting of City Council were reviewed. Wetherton motioned to accept the minutes as presented, and Hagan seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**POLICE REPORT**

The September Police Activity Report was presented. There were no questions regarding the report. Hayes informed Council that Officer Atchison will be having hip surgery and will be off several months. He also hired part-time Officer David Hans, a replacement for McIntire. Officer Hans come to Anchorage after retiring from the Jeffersontown police force. Hayes also advised Council of 3 burglaries that occurred last month. Spickard commented that she just reported a theft at her home, although she hesitated reporting it because only a large, decorative, potted plant was taken off her patio.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes from the September 16, 2015 meeting were shared with Council. Wetherton had nothing to add to the minutes. He did state, however, that Commission members would like input from Council regarding the ability to levy fines when violations occur, the same as Forestry. McGarvey inquired as to the type of violations, and Wetherton said primarily windows, but certainly other situations as well. McGarvey replied that the Commission has the power to force residents to restore or replace non-compliant windows or features. He also explained that fines are a criminal sanction, so they would have to be civil penalties. McGarvey asked Wetherton for a list of possible violations, and then an amount that they would like to see assessed. Wetherton will ask the Commission to discuss at their next meeting.

**FORESTRY BOARD**

Forestry Board minutes from the September 14, 2015 meeting were presented. Spickard informed Council that the 2016 Forestry Calendars are finished and will be handed out at AnchorFest.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Cell Tower Update** – Major notified Council that the guy wires are in, but the protective or reflective sleeves to make them more visible are not in place yet. McGarvey asked if Council was prepared for him to advise T-Mobile that the City is ready to accept ownership of the tower. It was noted that T-Mobile has not paid rent during the repair period. Wetherton entered a motion to authorize acceptance of ownership if all back rent is paid. Cook seconded, and the motion was opened for discussion. McGarvey said the City should ask for all back rent, but to be prepared to accept a counter offer. Hagan requested written

assurance that all recommended steps to stabilize the tower have been completed by AT&T. McGarvey said the tower was cleaned of all unnecessary equipment, the top 20-ft section was removed, lighter replacement equipment reduced the load further, and guy wires were put in. Wetherton said they had done a superb job. McGarvey suggested that the AT&T engineers compile a list of all the recommended improvements, and validate that each item has been completed. He expressed the need to get the current tower in the City's name quickly. A vote was taken on the original motion, and all approved. Major informed Council that Verizon still wants on the tower. With Alaska Broadband (Cricket) coming off, the question is, would their position on the tower meet height requirements of Verizon? Wetherton suggested Verizon engineers determine if the Cricket spot will work. Major reported that despite the modifications completed to the existing tower, AT&T expressed that they still want the new monopole tower built. Major was asked to confirm with AT&T that they will take the lead to build it.

**Evergreen/Nutwood Culvert Update** – Cook reported that the City has requested new stone, 9 to 11-inch size. There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow morning to address the remaining concerns.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Replace Alice McKinley as Signer on Bank and Morgan Stanley Accounts** – Hagan made a motion to approve a Resolution to add Cook as a signer on the city financial accounts at Commonwealth Bank and Trust and at Morgan Stanley. The motion was seconded by Wetherton, and carried unanimously.

**Waive Civic Club ABC License Fee for AnchorFest** – Hagan entered a motion to approve waiving the ABC license fee for the AnchorFest event. Seconded by O'Connell, and opened for discussion. Cook asked why the City did not simply give the Civic Club a permanent fee exemption. Mayor Hewitt explained why it would not be prudent to issue a blanket waiver and the reasons why it should remain discretionary. A vote was taken and all approved the motion.

**Budget Approval of Wagner Park Improvements** – Cook reported that the committee held a meeting with the adjacent property owners, and walked them through the plans previously submitted to and approved by Council. She said that everyone was on-board with the design plans. Cook's request from Council is for a general budget approval of \$29,000 to complete all work excluding the walking path. When asked to clarify, Cook said this would include fencing, stonework, signage, design development costs, and landscaping. Hagan made a motion to approve a Resolution to complete the listed components at a cost not to exceed \$29,000. Seconded by O'Connell and all approved.

**Budget Approval of Station Road Triangle Improvements** – Cook advised Council that the dead tree and shrubs had been removed, and that soil was brought in and sod installed today. No other action by the City is planned at this time. Council approved moving the anchor from Park Road to the triangle at the September 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Meeting. Evergreen Real Estate will not know until spring 2016 if they will move forward with the traffic circle. If they do, the City will assist in relocating the anchor to the traffic circle once it's completed. If the traffic circle project is not completed in 2016, Cook wants the City to be prepared to move forward with the anchor relocation without Evergreen Real Estate. The estimate for engineering, the actual move and placement, installation of a stone knee-wall, and landscaping is \$23,000. Cook was asked about all the various expenditures the City is taking on at one time: street signage, Wagner Park, the Station triangle, and the Glenbrook circle. She expressed that it feels like the City is spending a lot of money on improvements, but there has been no investment into City beautification for years. Repairs were made as needed, but no one has looked at what the City would be like for our children. She considers all of these improvements as investments in the City's future. O'Connell entered a motion to approve a Resolution to set a limit at \$23,000 for triangle improvements. When asked about timing, Cook said as soon as Evergreen Real Estate makes a decision on the traffic circle in the spring. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and all approved.

**MSD Sewer Project** – Council was given a sample of the letter mailed to the owners of the 133 properties (name and address list included) that will be impacted by this project. Major reported that MSD has scheduled an open house meeting for next Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Luke’s Church Hall, where residents can stop in anytime between 4 and 6 p.m. to learn of the potential impacts and have their questions answered. MAC Construction received the bid and is scheduled to begin work in November. They will start at Old Harrods Creek Road and Owl Creek Lane and move towards the two Anchor Estate pump stations to be eliminated. Work is scheduled to be completed before January 2017. Major has scheduled a meeting next week with MAC to review their plans and secure the required Anchorage permits. She noted that all trees in the easement are scheduled for removal, and affected residents have been financially compensated for the trees to be removed on their properties. Hewitt asked that MSD be made aware of the additional sewer taps requested by the City and residents.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Anchorage School** – Ransdell invited Council members to the annual Halloween Parade, Dinner and Carnival on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, sponsored by the eighth grade class, and to the annual Holiday luncheon to be held in November. She mentioned that the school’s next big project is the replacement of 170 windows (probably completed in stages), and advised Wetherton that they will be bringing the master project to Historic Preservation. Wetherton asked if they had considered repairing rather than replacing the windows. Ransdell said the windows are not original, but already replacements. Ransdell was asked about enrollment, and she stated they have remained steady, about 375 students. When asked about the school’s drop in ranking from first to third in the state, she explained that the formula is not all student achievement, and is heavily weighted towards GAP students – special needs, free lunch, and minority. Ransdell said there’s little room to grow when you’re already in the 99 percentile. The school remains number one in Jefferson County. She stated there would be an extended program at the next school board meeting about this topic.

At 6:52 p.m. Council moved to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Council returned to Regular Session at 7:28 p.m. No action was taken, and the meeting adjourned.

W. Thomas Hewitt  
Mayor

Reneé M. Major  
City Clerk