

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

September 2, 2015
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, 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, Deputy Treasurer Sara Ritchie, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guest Fire Chief Bill Rockwood.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hewitt at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Minutes from the August 10, 2015, Regular Meeting of City Council were reviewed. O’Connell motioned to accept the minutes as presented, and Rublein seconded. The motion unanimously carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The August 2015 Check Register and the Preliminary August Financial Report were presented. There were no questions for Major.

POLICE REPORT

The August Police Activity Report was presented. Hayes was asked if the number of citations were issued tickets. Hayes replied that, for the report, citations are both tickets and written warnings. There were no other questions regarding the report. Hayes informed Council that Officer Atchison has returned to light duty, and that he is still interviewing for a new part-time officer to replace McIntire. Anchorage had one victim from the most recent waive of scam phone calls. Once the email about the scams was sent, additional residents reported receiving calls as well, but there were no other losses. Ramsey reported that someone killed a deer on his property and cut off the buck’s head – most likely for trophy antlers – leaving the carcass. The perpetrator cared neither about illegal trespass nor poaching. Cook had asked Hoskins to provide her with statistics for crimes committed by juveniles, and thanked him for providing that information. She was surprised by the eight charges, but Hoskins reported it was the same kids, each with multiple charges.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

No report. Minutes from the August meeting have not yet been compiled. They will be shared at the next meeting. There were no questions for Wetherton.

FORESTRY BOARD

No report. The Forestry Board meeting was moved to September 14 due to the holiday. Minutes will be shared at the next Council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading, Ordinance Dedicating Greten Lane to Public Use – Wetherton made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Ramsey seconded, and the motion was opened for discussion. Mayor Hewitt asked if the (Oak Meadows) homeowners association had paid in full, and Major confirmed they had. Cook asked Major to send the HOA a letter to remind them that maintenance of the island remains their responsibility so there is no confusion in the future. With no other discussion, a vote was taken and all approved.

Public Works Employee – Booth reported that a new, full time maintenance person was hired and starts Friday, September 4. John Bishop is a Metro Public Works retiree who has been working on the Belle of Louisville the last year. Once officially on-board, Booth will introduce him to Council. Ramsey complimented Booth on the Glenbrook Road island clean-up efforts. Cook inquired about the status of Wentworth. Major said she assisted, as much as legally possible, with his paperwork to secure long-term disability. As reported last month, his employment was terminated on August 7.

Reach Alert Notification System – O’Connell stated that Hayes and she looked closely into this system, and it is her recommendation that the City move forward to secure this emergency notification program. A number of neighboring small cities, including St. Matthews, Lyndon, Douglas Hills, and others have contracted with Reach Alert. Residents select their method of contact: text, email, or voice. O’Connell said the cost is \$2 per household, and up to four contacts in each household are included in that charge. It is affordable; there is no upfront system cost, but the City will probably have to hire and pay someone to set-up the initial data base. O’Connell noted that Reach Alert has extended special pricing of \$1 per household during the first year while the data base is being created. The school has agreed to join the City in this effort once their existing contract expires on August 16, 2016, which will further reduce costs. It was recommended that the city initially use the system only for emergency notifications. O’Connell entered a motion to approve a contract with Reach Alert to establish their system, up to a cost of \$2,000. Cook seconded, and the motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Anchorage Fire Department Update – Rockwood informed Council that they had 4,100 EMS and 579 fire runs during the previous year, an average of 13 runs per day. Anchorage Fire & EMS billed \$2.449 million last year, 71% of that based on EMS runs, and are okay financially. Cook asked what portion of the \$2.449 million was collected, and Rockwood replied about 50% which is extremely good. Anchorage Fire & EMS uses a billing company for invoicing, and Lloyd & McDaniels performs bad debt collections. Ramsey inquired what percent of the runs were within Anchorage, and Rockwood said less than 1% EMS and less than 20% fire. The run numbers are up because Metro automatically dispatches the closest EMS and fire unit based on GPS location to a call. Once they take a call inside Louisville, it’s sometimes difficult to get back to the station. But Rockwood clarified that, of the three Anchorage ambulances, one never leaves Anchorage and is exclusive to serve residents. He said the recent drowning and heart attack victim would most likely never have survived if he lived outside of Anchorage. Rockwood is extremely proud of the work they do. It was suggested that Rockwood write an article for the newsletter to share this information with residents. It was also suggested that the

Nutwood resident be contacted to see if he would allow his story to also be shared. McGarvey said that HIPA would require his expressed consent to disclose his name and medical information, and that he should probably have editing rights over the story as well. Rockwood agreed to handle.

Waiving ABC Fees for Non-Profit – Mayor Hewitt acknowledged that he had erroneously agreed to waive the \$45 fee for the Civic Club’s AnchorPalooza ABC license; McGarvey informed him that only City Council could waive the fee. Mayor Hewitt asked Council if they would approve the fee waiver. Ramsey asked if this was a blanket approval for all their events, and Mayor Hewitt replied it was not. Ramsey entered a motion to waive the ABC fee for the Civic Club’s AnchorPalooza music festival and Cook seconded. All approved.

City Triangle, Island, and Landscaping Project Updates – The Landscape Committee (Cook, Wetherton, Booth, Diane McAllister, Lelia Sublett, and Ann Ross) recently met to discuss the Station/Evergreen triangle as well as the Glenbrook Road island. Cook contacted Landscape Design & Development to submit their suggestions for both locations as well.

Evergreen/Station Triangle: Cook reported that Evergreen Real Estate said the Evergreen/Station Road roundabout project is on indefinite hold. Since the City does not have funds to move the roundabout project forward, the committee provided suggestions for the triangle that currently sits barren now that the dead and dying trees and shrubs have been removed. The committee recommends that the anchor symbol for the City, currently on Park Road, be moved to the Evergreen/Station triangle. Wetherton reported that he presented this suggestion to Historic Preservation last month, and 90% were in favor. Cook said, that as a first pass only, there would be no shrubs or trees, just grass. The stone marker with the plaque would also be relocated. It was proposed that mounting the wheel on a train rail would emphasize the rail history of the City. McGarvey suggested CSX might donate a rail for the project. Wetherton made a motion to approve a resolution to move the anchor. Rublein seconded. With no objections or discussion, a vote was taken and all approved.

Glenbrook Road Island: Adjacent property owners were invited to a meeting to discuss the circle and its issues. Nine homeowners attended and shared complaints of speeding, semis getting lost and trying to navigate the circle, and too much thru-traffic. The Police Department ran a traffic count which showed 480-500 cars pass through this intersection a day. LD&D offered suggestions to slow traffic, install better directional signage, and to keep parking off the island. Ramsey suggested the circle be removed, and to T the intersection as was done at Evergreen and Nutwood. Cook also expressed interest to T the intersection and eliminate the circle. Booth said residents would complain because, despite all the problems and complaints, they still like their little circle. No action taken.

Wagner Park: Cook shared the LD&D concept plans from the July meeting and said the Committee now has ballpark estimates for the project. With stonework, fencing, signage, and shrubbery, the range is \$20-\$25,000. No action taken.

Police Station Window Repairs – Booth presented three bids to replace the windows in the Chief’s office. Booth recommended accepting the low bid submitted by Gilkey. No vote was required.

Public Works Surplus Equipment – Booth asked that Council declare two items as surplus so they could be retired, a Stihl chainsaw that is damaged and a Kawasaki weed-eater that is worn

out. Ramsey made a motion to approve a resolution declaring the items surplus, seconded by Cook. There being no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

First Reading – Ordinance Setting Time of Regular Council Meetings – Cook conducted the first reading of an Ordinance to correct an error discovered in the codification of the City’s Ordinances to accurately state the date, time, and place of the regular meeting of City Council as required by Kentucky Revised Statute.

Evergreen Road Culvert – Booth stated that the west wall of the culvert on Evergreen near Valley View was leaning and that United Construction was hired to make repairs. During the process, the company noted five large holes in the old stones holding up the culvert. Over time, all of the mortar holding the stones together has been washed out by repeat flooding. Booth shared photographs taken of the huge gaps, and requested this be declared an emergency project since the road could collapse at any time. Mayor Hewitt declared this an emergency situation and asked how quickly someone could start repair. Booth said that United Construction could start back-filling with rebar and concrete as early as this week. Flynn Brothers has too much on their plate and did not want to bid. Booth was confident United Construction would be fair with pricing and recommended that they receive a Notice to Proceed.

Date of Additional Special Meeting – Major said the due date for the City Downtown Street Sign Project bids was scheduled for Thursday, September 3 so they could be reviewed at the Regular September Council meeting. Now that the Council meeting date was changed, the bids won’t be reviewed until Council meets in October. Cook stated she would like to get started on this project so the signs can be constructed and installed before the weather turns bad. Mayor Hewitt said that if the low bidder is selected another special meeting strictly for this purpose would not be required; the project could proceed since funds were allocated in the budget. A special meeting date would be set once the bids were reviewed.

At 6:53 p.m. O’Connell entered a motion for Council to move to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. The motion was seconded by Rublein. Mayor Hewitt, Council, and McGarvey were joined by attorney Ken Sales. Council returned to Regular Session at 7:23 p.m. No action was taken, and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor

Reneé M. Major
City Clerk