

MINUTES
OF THE
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 2011
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Cece Hagan, Dan Heiskell, Susan Mitchell, Neil Ramsey, Brian Rublein and Bill Wetherton. Also in attendance were Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk Alice McKinley, Treasurer Renee Major, Public Works Director Erwin Booth, Chief of Police Chris Winders, City Attorney, John McGarvey, Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler, and guest Stephen Kottkamp.

The meeting began at 6:08 p.m. In the absence of Mayor Hewitt, the Council members unanimously voted fellow Council member Susan Mitchell to preside over the meeting as Mayor Pro Tem.

MINUTES

The minutes from the February 14, 2011, Regular Meeting of City Council were presented. McKinley requested a correction regarding the amount spent thus far on the Bellewood Road quiet zone study. She indicated just over \$4,000 had been spent, and that a \$5,900 balance exists in the CSX engineering study fund. Wetherton questioned the statement that "No action was taken by Council" on this project. He thought that Council agreed not to proceed. McKinley and Kunzler both confirmed that a motion was not made, and no vote was taken; minutes are accurate. Wetherton recommended that the project be placed back on the agenda for April so this issue can be addressed and does not remain outstanding. Wetherton motioned to approve the minutes with the correction. Hagan seconded. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The City's February Check Register and Financial Report were presented. Council had no questions for Major.

POLICE REPORT

Winders stated that the City has been fortunate to have no further break-ins as Louisville Metro continues to have problems. Wetherton asked if the police would enter a home if dogs inside accidentally trip the alarm. Winders indicated that unless there was visible evidence of a break-in, such as an open or damaged door or window, they would check to

make certain the home was secure and not enter. Heiskell questioned why investigations were up, and Winders replied they are follow-up activities concerning the prior break-ins.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

No meeting in February.

FORESTRY BOARD

Chair Diane McAllister has been out of town and minutes were not available from the February meeting. McKinley stated that Forestry's Arbor Day Event is scheduled for March 23rd from 6-7 p.m. at City Hall, and residents attending the program will have first selection of a tree to take home with them. Remaining trees will be given away on a first come basis on Sunday, March 27th.

OLD BUSINESS

T-Mobile Easement Request – Ramsey and Wetherton met with a T-Mobile representative regarding the fiber optic line to be installed to the cell tower. They concluded there are two choices: underground (bore) and underground (trench). They recommend allowing T-Mobile to trench. Ramsey stated that before proceeding further, Council will want to see a disruption plan and an economic plan, to insure access remains open for the police and there is benefit to the City for granting the easement. Heiskell asked about the integrity of a trench. Ramsey and Wetherton stated trenching should not create any problems down the road. T-Mobile is to be allowed 45 days to dig once approved. McGarvey noted that some time ago a 500 tank was buried at the police station. Booth's recollection was that the location of the tank is under the two parking spaces to the right of the front door. The tank was drained, and filled with sand. It was recommended that T-Mobile be advised to conduct soundings to locate the tank before trenching is started. Heiskell asked if the City could secure additional revenue by adding another service provider. McKinley stated that Verizon has expressed interest, but it's very early in the discussion stage.

NEW BUSINESS

2010-2011 Tax Rate Ordinance – Hagan did a first reading of an ordinance establishing the City of Anchorage tax rate on real and personal property for the tax year 2010-2011. It was noted that the tax rate did not change, and that the discount rate of 1% has remained the same since 2009.

Tree Damage First Responder Resolution – The City published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contractor to act as first responder in case of severe tree damage in the public rights of way following major weather events. Only one bid was received, Grasshopper Lawn Care and Landscaping, Inc. - ArborWorx, the contractor currently taking down

hazardous trees for the City, is already a first responder to Louisville Metro, and could not bid. Asked if the City had ever contracted with Grasshopper before, McKinley stated they had not. Ramsey indicated Grasshopper performed tree clean-up at his home after the straight-line winds last year, and said they had good equipment and did a very nice job. McKinley said Public Works has the capacity and equipment to handle small trees, but needs help clearing roads if large trees or limbs block passage. Booth confirmed that 22 inches is probably the maximum diameter Public Works can address. Heiskell questioned if Grasshopper would remove trees associated with downed power lines, and McKinley confirmed they would not. LG&E does not want anyone touching their lines even if it's thought they are not live. Ramsey then made a motion to accept Grasshopper's bid. Rublein seconded. Approval was unanimous.

Presentation of Audit to Council – Major provided Council members with a copy of the annual audit from Richardson Pennington & Skinner, PSC. She noted that the audit is not qualified, and is opinion only. It is a state requirement that a summary audit is published. An insert will accompany the March newsletter that will be sent first class to all Anchorage property owners. Wetherton inquired if anything suspicious turned up with regards to the prior Treasurer Jim Johnson. Major said that some background work was completed, but that nothing was found that would cost justify pursuing further investigation.

Ridge Road Failure – McKinley provided an overview on the recent problem with Ridge Road. Standing water and drainage appear to be issues with the repeated road failure. The City stopped LG&E from cutting down trees along this section of Ridge Road, as the root systems aid in holding up the embankment in spots. Mitchell asked if the situation were serious enough to be a danger to cars, and it was affirmed that if one gets too close to edge it could be a problem. Safety warning equipment is currently in place. She also inquired if repairs were made, would the City consider reopening Ridge Road. McGarvey and McKinley confirmed that is not planned. Ramsey said that every alternative could probably include drilling into the rock bed to stabilize. Some suggested alternatives were discussed. McKinley asked if Council wanted Stantec to provide some viable options. McGarvey was asked to contact CSX to ascertain if they will help resolve the problem, as CSX cannot want to have the embankment collapsing near their rail line.

Hagan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.; seconded by Ramsey. All approved.