

**MINUTES
OF THE
ANCHORAGE CITY COUNCIL**

May 12, 2014
6:00 p.m.
City Hall

The Council members in attendance were Diane Cook, Cece Hagan, Neil Ramsey, Brian Rublein, and Bill Wetherton. Mayor Hewitt presided. Also in attendance were Assistant to the Mayor/City Clerk Alice McKinley, Treasurer Renee Major, Public Works Director Erwin Booth, Police Chief Chris Winders, and Clerk/Receptionist Sandra Kunzler. Guests included Tom Blackburn, Paul Wessel, Jane Brown, Mary Carpenter, Lucy Spickard, Diane McAllister, Billy Bright, Lelia Sublett, Tara Hagerty, Eric Haner, Stuart Ray, Gail Albright, Lorie Davenport, and Page Ochs.

Mayor Hewitt called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Before proceeding to the agenda, Mayor Hewitt introduced guests Judge Eric Haner and Tara Hagerty, judicial candidates in next week's primary election, and allowed them to address those in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes from the April 14, 2014, Regular Meeting of City Council were presented. There were no corrections. Ramsey motioned to approve the minutes, Cook seconded. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The City's April Check Register and Financial Report were presented. There were no questions for Major.

POLICE REPORT

The April Police Activity Report was shared with Council. Winders said it was a very quiet month – even the week before Derby. There were no questions for Winders.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The minutes from the April 15, 2014 meeting were presented. Wetherton had nothing to add, and there were no questions from Council.

FORESTRY BOARD

Council received a copy of the March 3, 2014, Forestry Board minutes. McAllister had nothing to add, and there were no questions for her.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Easement Ordinance, Second Reading – Hagan completed the second reading and made a motion to approve the ordinance. Wetherton seconded. Mayor Hewitt opened the floor to discussion. For the benefit of those in attendance, he summarized that property owners could donate a land easement, through an environmental trust, to preserve the land from development. It also provides a federal tax break for the property owner. Cook noted that the conservation easement follows the land, even if the property is later sold. Wessel asked how the land value is determined. Mayor Hewitt replied that the IRS requires specialized appraisers to be utilized; this prevents homeowners from overstating the value. With no further discussion a vote was taken and the ordinance was unanimously approved.

Cell Tower Update – McKinley stated that McGarvey has been communicating with AT&T project coordinator Roy Johnson, to finalize the memorandum of understanding. The dollar figure is not to exceed \$200,000. McGarvey would like input from Council, but since he could not attend tonight's meeting, an email will be sent to Council members requesting comment on certain components. It was also noted that emergency repairs, to tighten bolts on the current tower, are required. Chuck Weber will confer with Ramsey and Wetherton on the details.

NEW BUSINESS

Bed and Breakfast Ordinance, First Reading – Due to several modifications to the original document, a second first reading was required. Cook detailed the major changes, which included increasing the minimum acreage requirement to seven acres. McKinley noted that a Conditional Use Permit is also required.

Civil Penalty Appeal, Blackburn, 12700 Lucas Lane – The Blackburns were assessed a Civil Penalty of \$400 for the removal of two trees without a Forestry Permit. Blackburn said that he was told a permit was not required for the removal of dead trees. He said the dead trees dropped a lot of limbs in a winter storm and his landscaper advised that they be removed. Ramsey said he didn't know a permit was required for dead trees either, and suggested the fine be reduced to \$5.00 since Council could not waive the fine altogether. Wetherton seconded. After discussion about the recently increased fines, and the methods used to communicate tree removal requirements to residents several times each year, a vote was taken and the motion to decrease the fine to \$5.00 was unanimously approved.

Hobbs Chapel Repairs – The Anchorage Garden Club informed Council that maintenance on the structure hasn't been done in years and a number of repairs are required to keep it structurally sound. Brickwork needs to be tuck pointed, roof flashing replaced, and the foundation needs substantial work. After viewing photos of current conditions, Mayor Hewitt said there is no question the work must be done, but that the City will need to bid the project since some estimates for tuck pointing were over \$10,000. Wetherton said it has to be done right, as temporary repairs won't last, and the City will face the same situation in just a few years. Everyone agreed that the work must be done this summer, and the funds earmarked in the 2014-15 budget. It was doubtful that one company could do all the work required, so it will be broken into separate projects to bid.

Civic Club City Entry Signs – Before turning the floor over to Wessel to speak on behalf of the Civic Club, Mayor Hewitt asked Cook to address signs in general, as he has appointed her to form a citizen committee to look at reducing signage throughout the city. Cook said her committee is composed of Lelia Sublett, Paul Wessel, Robin Edwardsen, and herself, with Wetherton and Booth as advisors. They plan a physical count of all existing signs, and then determine which, if any, can be reduced or eliminated entirely. Wessel presented Council with the Civic Club's recommendation to replace the six existing green and white City entry signs with more elegant raised-letter bronze signage on the order of the sign in front of City Hall. The Civic Club would also like to add a seventh sign on northbound Old Harrods Creek Road. The Civic Club proposed the same 2x4 foot footprint, while some Council members felt a smaller sign would be more appropriate. There was considerable discussion on alternative materials, the need for break-away aluminum posts under new Department of Transportation regulation, and costs. Wessel submitted an estimate of \$17,680 with the Civic Club contributing \$3,000 of that expense. Cook will have her committee incorporate these signs into their project. It is not known at this time if an RFP or bid process will be required. Funding will need to be budgeted.

Deer Population, Stuart Ray – As a result of residents' complaints this spring, Ray, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' Commission Chairman, was asked by Cook to address Anchorage's large deer population. Ray said Anchorage is not alone. Most cities in Kentucky have excessive

number of deer. Fencing does not keep them out, contraception doesn't work, and they become immune to aggravation methods such as water sprays and sounds. Urban residents provide them with great food sources: shrubs, trees, and ground plantings; many intentionally feed the deer. Most complaints come in the spring when "yarding" occurs (deer congregate to feed on newly sprouted vegetation). Anchorage ordinance prohibits discharge of a firearm within City limits, but residents can bow hunt on their own property during deer season. Fish and Wildlife can authorize controlled hunts (a highly emotional topic) on private land of 5 acres or more with landowner consent, using certified archery hunters.

With no other agenda items, Council went into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. and came out at 7:40 p.m. No action was taken in Regular Session, and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt
Mayor