

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

Monday, April 13, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Teleconference

Councilmembers in attendance were Diane Cook, Matt Delehanty, Neil Ramsey, Jason Walters, Hunter Wilson, and Bill Wetherton. Also in attendance were Mayor Tommy Hewitt, Deputy Mayor Cece Hagan, City Attorney John McGarvey, Assistant City Attorney Richard Edwards, City Administrator Renee Major, Police Chief Dean Hayes, Clerk/Receptionist Angie Chick, Forestry Chairperson Lucy Spickard, and Anchorage Public School representative Wendall Harris.

Call to Order

Due to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) requirements to maintain social distancing for the Coronavirus pandemic, and pursuant to KY Senate Bill 150 of the 2020 KY Legislature signed into law on 30 March 2020, this meeting was conducted as a public teleconference, in lieu of a physical meeting of City Council at Anchorage City Hall.

Mayor Hewitt called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

MINUTES

Ramsey motioned to approve the March 09, 2020 City Council regular meeting minutes. Delehanty seconded the motion. Ramsey, Delehanty, Wetherton, and Walters approved the minutes. Cook and Wilson joined the teleconference following the vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There were no questions or comments on the treasurer's report.

POLICE REPORT

At this time, Anchorage Police Department employees remain healthy. Each employee's temperature is checked at the beginning of every shift. The department has a supply of personal protection equipment (PPE) that includes gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer. Chief Hayes thanked the Anchorage Public School for providing an electrostatic ionizer (sanitizer) for the department to use.

The Police Department has received and responded to less than ten complaints of people congregating and not social distancing.

There was a theft in the parking lot behind the Post Office on Friday, April 10th. The suspects immediately left the scene and went to Target.

On April 10, 2020, a Centerstone Bellewood Campus resident assaulted a supervisor and ran away. The resident was located about one hour later and returned to the Bellewood Campus. No charges were filed.

Former Anchorage Police Officer Chris McIntre, who retired in 2014, passed away suddenly last week at the age of 48. Services were held last Friday.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

Wetherton reported that the last two Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meetings were cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic restrictions on gatherings. Wetherton is working with City Hall to find ways the Commission can move forward with most of the applications for certificates of appropriateness.

The St. Luke's Episcopal Church fellowship hall addition plans are being finalized. There were about seven changes made on the last plans submitted that differ from the plans approved by HPC. St. Luke's Church will modify these changes to meet the approval, otherwise the changes need to be presented and approved by HPC. McGarvey stated that if the church substituted an exterior material it would require HPC approval. Wetherton agreed, but stated that is not part of their current plan.

FORESTRY BOARD REPORT

Spickard reported that the April Forestry Board meeting and the March 18th Arbor Day presentation were cancelled due to the Coronavirus regulations. She thanked Public Works and City Hall employees for implementing social distancing procedures that allowed for a successful Spring Tree Give-Away to be held on Tuesday, March 17th. This year's Arbor Day speaker, Dr. Bhatnagar is already reserved for next year's Arbor Day presentation. Spickard will return a check to the City that would have gone to Dr. Bhatnagar's program this year.

Spickard announced, Anchorage was recognized as a Tree City USA for the 31st year in a row. The City also received a Growth Award for the tenth year in a row, which designated the City as a Sterling City USA. The Forestry Board plans to hang the Arbor Day Foundation's Sterling City USA sign it received at City Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

2020 Tax Rate Ordinance - First Reading

Mayor Hewitt stated the tax rate will remain at .336 and the discount rate will increase to 10% for early payments. Ramsey conducted the first reading of the 2020 tax rate ordinance. Hewitt confirmed for Hagan that this is the same rate as last year, just the discount was changed or increased. Hagan asked what the net change would be to tax revenue. The net difference is expected to be a decrease in revenue of approximately \$185,000, which is less than the projected additional revenue generated from the increased insurance tax premium rate.

Ordinance Adopting a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances - First Reading

Ramsey conducted the first reading of the ordinance adopting a supplement to the Code of Ordinances.

Resolution to Proclaim May 2020 National Historic Preservation Month in Anchorage

Wetherton motioned to proclaim May 2020 as National Historic Preservation Month in Anchorage. Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bid to Add Stone Veneer to Hazelwood Road Pedestrian Bridge

Burkhead stated the lowest bid came from Flynn Brothers, which is the contractor that did the stonework on the Evergreen Road/Nutwood Road bridge. Ramsey asked if the City got a price for the work without putting stone on the inside walls. The price was about \$1,400 less without that stone. Ramsey asked whether the City should spend money on this project if there may be trouble collecting taxes this year due to the current economy. Major confirmed that this project was already in the budget for this year. Discussion turned to the bid for replacing the Old Harrods Creek Road bridge/culvert, a vote was taken on that project, and discussion returned to the Hazelwood Road pedestrian bridge bid. Cook supplied site visit photos and shared that she did not believe caps alone (as discussed at last month's council meeting) would be sufficient to cover the exposed rusty metal rings and rough rocky concrete on sides of the culvert. She reminded that work on the Hazelwood pedestrian bridge had been underway for several years (since October, 2016) and the decision to move forward with a concrete culvert always included a stone facade — like the stone-faced culvert across the street (photo provided). Cook motioned to accept the lowest bid to add stone veneer to all sides of the Hazelwood pedestrian bridge and complete the project as planned. Wetherton seconded the motion. Ramsey voted against the motion. Delehanty voted against the motion, explaining that this project is not a safety issue, therefore, it is not a necessity at this time. Cook, Walters, Wilson, and Wetherton voted to approve the motion. The motion passed with a vote of four in favor and two opposed.

Bid to Replace Old Harrods Creek Road Bridge/Culvert

Hagan asked if there are concerns about revenue in the upcoming budget. McGarvey noted, with regards to tax revenue, that many property taxes are paid by mortgage companies from escrow accounts. Hunter said the City has sufficient funds in reserve. Hagan expressed concerns about revenue for the next year and pension expenses. Major stated there will be a 12% increase in next year's pension expense, which is approximately \$24,000.

Hagan asked what the total cost is for all three bids on tonight's agenda. The total is approximately \$176,000. Major stated that the Old Harrods Creek Road bridge/culvert is not an optional project. It needs to be repaired due to safety concerns. Mayor Hewitt confirmed that the project is in the budget and recommended taking the low bid of \$142,267. Cook confirmed bid approval would include "Corten steal" to match the nearby pedestrian bridge. Ramsey motioned to accept the low bid. Walters seconded the motion. Cook, Delehanty, Ramsey, Walters, Wilson, and Wetherton unanimously approved the motion.

Bid to Extend Old Harrods Creek Walking Path to Beech Road

Major reported that the MSD and the City resolved the drainage issue at 903 Old Harrods Creek Road and worked with the property owner to obtain the last easement needed for the walking path. Burkhead described the walking path plans, which includes a trench close to 901 1/2 Old Harrods Creek Road that would allow water to run underneath the walking path making the path lower and safer. Major noted that property owner Hageman will pay to replace his own driveway and fix his own drainage. Major explained all pedestrians are currently routed off the walking path into the street in front of Mr. Hageman's property on Old Harrods Creek Road. Ramsey said he is in favor of this project because it is a safety issue and the community benefits from it. For those reasons, he motioned to accept the lowest bid from Roederer Construction to extend the Old Harrods Creek walking path to Beech Road. Wilson abstained from the vote. Cook, Delehanty, Ramsey, Walters, and Wetherton voted to approve the motion. The motion passed with a vote of five in favor and one abstention.

Coyote Assessment Report Final Report

Major said the Southern Wildlife Resources LLC coyote report is final. One coyote den was found, which contained four coyotes. Two dominate, male coyotes were removed. Traps remain on the Evergreen Real Estate farm and Dillman's farm in an effort to capture the two remaining coyotes. Major stated that there have been few reports of coyotes, except in this area, and once the last two coyotes are removed the area will be at a safer level.

Confirmation of City Council for the Executive Order of Emergency Powers through 30 April 2020

McGarvey stated that Mayor Hewitt and Deputy Mayor Hagan issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency in Anchorage through April 30, 2020.

Ramsey motioned to adjourn the meeting. Delehanty seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

W. Thomas Hewitt, Mayor

Reneé M. Major, City Clerk