



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026
5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Steve King, Council Member-At-Large Jeff Austin, Council Member Rebecca Waller, Council Member Mike Postma, Council Member Laura Helle, Council Member Paul Fischer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Jason Baskin, Council Member Oballa Oballa

MEMBERS LATE/EXITING:

STAFF PRESENT: Captain Todd Clennon, Interim Fire Chief Troy Tigner, Public Works Director Steven Lang, Planning and Zoning Director Holly Wallace, Library Director Julie Clinefelter, Park, Recreation and Forestry Director Jason Sehon, City Attorney Craig Byram, Human Resources Director Tricia Wiechmann, Finance Director Emily Burns and City Clerk Brianne Wolf

APPEARING IN PERSON: Austin Daily Herald, Discover Austin Representative Nancy Schnable

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

1. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving the agenda. Carried.

2. Approving minutes from June 1, 2026

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, approving Council minutes from June 1, 2026. Carried.

3. *Consent Agenda

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, approving the consent agenda. Carried.

a. Licenses

Tree Service: Koehler's Yard Service, Austin, MN

Mobile: Essential Foods, Joplin, MO

Low Potency Hemp Edible Registration: Cheers Vape, Austin, MN

Low Potency Hemp Edible Registration: Bell Liquor, Austin, MN

b. Events

%k Fun Run and Walk on June 26, 2026

We the People on June 27, 2026

Darren Dash on July 3rd, 2026

c. Financial Reports

Pre-list of Bills

4. Recognitions and Awards

None.

5. Proclamation

a. Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor King read a proclamation declaring the month of July as Parks and Recreation Month.

6. Presentation

a. Discover Austin - Nancy Schnable

Nancy Schnable from Discover Austin presented their annual 2025 report to Council.

Public Hearings

None.

Bids & Awards

7. Hazardous Housing Asbestos Removal - 104 3rd Avenue SE

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated they identified this home through the Planning and Zoning Department as a hazardous structure. The first step is asbestos abatement. The City received two bids for asbestos abatement. JMax Specialty Contracting was the low bidder for asbestos abatement at \$6345. This will come out of our nuisance fund, and they would recommend approval.

a. Resolution — Awarding Bid for Asbestos Abatement

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution awarding a bid to JMax Specialty Contracting for asbestos abatement at 104 3rd Avenue SE. Carried 5-0.

8. 2026 Street Striping Project

Public Works Director Steven Lang stated the City requested line striping bids and Sir Lines-a-Lot was the low and only bidder at \$13,554. This will come out of the Sign Department general fund and they would recommend approval.

a. Resolution — Awarding Bid for Pavement Striping

Moved by Council Member Postma, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution awarding a bid to Sir Lines-a-Lot for the 2026 street striping. Carried 5-0.

Petitions and Requests

9. WWTP Expansion & Phosphorus Reduction Project, Change Order 012

Public Works Director Steven Lang reviewed Change Order #12 and stated that seven work change directives are being presented to Council. Mr. Lang stated there is a credit in the amount of \$323,434, which includes 7 WCD's valuing a \$175,301.23 credit to the Domestic budget and a \$148,132.77 credit to the Industrial budget. He requests approval of Change Order #12.

a. Resolution — Approving Change Order No. 12

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Waller, adopting a resolution approving Change Order #12. Carried 5-0.

10. Interim City Administrator Agreement

Mayor King stated they are looking for approval of an agreement with Dave Unmacht to work as the Interim City Administrator. Mr. Unmacht would be in the position until at least September 25th at the rate of \$175.00 per hour. He would recommend approval of the contract.

a. Resolution — Approving an Independent Contractor Agreement with Dave Unmacht

Moved by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a

resolution approving an agreement with Dave Unmacht as the Interim City Administrator. Carried 5-0.

11. I-90 Business Park Plat

Planning and Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace provided information about the I-90 Business Park Plat. She stated that the property is owned by the Austin Port Authority, which is proposing the plat to facilitate its development. The area covers approximately 25 acres and consists of 11 lots, two utilized for stormwater ponds. Ms. Wallace noted that the Planning Commission, comprised of seven members, voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval of the final plat to the council. Ms. Wallace requests Council approval of the plat.

a. Resolution — Accepting Final Plat for I-90 Business Park

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, adopting a resolution approving the I-90 Business Park Plat. Carried 5-0.

12. Audit Assistance Services Contractor Agreement

Mayor King stated Bradley Carlton was recommended by the auditors at CliftonLarsonAllen to assist with the financial audit. Mr. Carlton's rate would be \$175.00 per hour; he would work 60 hours and complete the audit by July 15th. Mayor King stated there is another proposal on the agenda and that he was unsure how it was placed on the agenda. Mayor King asked Finance Director Emily Burns for more information.

Ms. Burns stated that Craig Clark, the exiting City Administrator, sent her an e-mail that asked, "What are the constructs of Tom's availability, and how did she see this moving forward. This agreement should outline the specific tasks and have an hourly rate. Did she see any issues with this?" Ms. Burns stated that this pertained to a request she was preparing for Tom Dankert. Ms. Burns stated she emailed the Mayor and Human Resources Director, Trish Wiechmann, on Sunday, June 7th, to notify them of her intent to present this agreement to Council at the June 15th Council meeting. Ms. Burns also stated at the June 1st Council meeting that she had requested an extension for the audit. During that update, she indicated she would like to have Tom Dankert assist the finance department with the audit, as he has historical knowledge. It was indicated to her that she should contact Mr. Dankert.

Council Member-at-Large Austin stated Mr. Dankert has been willing and able to assist the City from the beginning, and he would like to turn down the contract with Mr. Carlton and move forward with Mr. Dankert.

Ms. Burns stated they do not lack the knowledge to perform an audit; they lack the knowledge to perform one with the specifics related to Austin.

Mayor King would be in favor of working with Mr. Carlton; they have already prepared a contract for him.

Council Member Helle asked if Mr. Carlton had begun any work on the Audit.

Mayor King stated Mr. Carlton had been given a laptop and access to the network, and that he has been working remotely.

- a. Resolution - Approving an Independent Contractor Agreement with Bradley Carlton

Motion by Council Member Helle to **not** approve a resolution for an agreement with Bradley Carlton for audit assistance, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin. Carried 4-1. (Council Member Fischer Nay)

13. 2025 Audit Update

Council Member-at-Large Austin made a motion to approve temporary assistance from Mr. Dankert with Mr. Byram reaching out to Mr. Dankert to approve a contract at the proposed rate.

- a. Resolution — Approving Temporary Assistance for the 2025 Financial Audit

Motion by Council Member-at-Large Austin, seconded by Council Member Helle, to approve a resolution approving temporary assistance for the 2025 financial audit from Mr. Tom Dankert. Carried 4-1. (Council Member Fischer Nay)

14. Council Chambers Panic Hardware, Door Replacement, and Lock Replacement

City Clerk Brianne Wolf has been reviewing the safety and security measures in the Council Chambers. Following an inspection by the State Fire Marshal, it has been determined that panic hardware must be installed on all doors within the Council Chambers. Additionally, a new door slab is needed, as the southern door leading to the hallway no longer closes properly. Clerk Wolf collaborated with Brian Mason from Building Maintenance to obtain a quote. They received an estimate from Southern Lock and Glass for \$6,750.91, which includes installation and hardware. Funding for this project will be sourced from the contingency budget.

Furthermore, another basement door equipped with a cipher lock has failed and requires replacement. Mr. Mason has secured a quote from Sellers Lock and Key to replace this lock for \$1,172.00. The funding for this replacement will come from the building fund.

They request Council approval for the installation of the hardware, replacement of the door and lock.

- a. Resolution — Approving City Hall and Council Chambers Safety & Security Improvements

Moved by Council Member Helle, seconded by Council Member-at-Large Austin, adopting a resolution approving the safety and security updates to Council Chambers.

Carried 5-0.

Citizens Addressing the Council

Members of the public may address the City Council on items that are not otherwise on the agenda. Each speaker is limited to two minutes. The Council will listen to comments but may not enter into a dialogue, take immediate action, or answer questions during this time.

None.

Honorary Council Member Comments

None.

Reports and Recommendations

Council Members

Public Works Director Steven Lang gave an update on the Point of Sale Ordinance. Mr. Lang stated as of June 8th, all the backlogged inspections were now up-to-date. Mr. Lang also gave an update on the bridge reconstruction in the area.

Council Member Waller stated she was disappointed in this evening's Council meeting. She is excited to have Mr. Unmacht on board. She stated the City needs a strong leader who will build the culture and strong relationships.

Council Member-at-Large gave an update on the Library Board meeting.

Council Member Helle stated a friend of hers was in downtown Austin this weekend with a companion, enjoying a night out. Suddenly, a stranger approached them and asked to know the gender of her companion. When he didn't get the answer he wanted, he attacked both of them. This is not acceptable and not the Austin she wants to live in. This is why June is Pride Month and why people like her will keep speaking out. Austin is still a place where some people face hate and harm just for who they are. She believes physical violence often starts with dehumanization. It begins with name-calling and labeling people as less than human or as animals. Just a year ago, she spoke about the tragic death of Melissa Hortman. People need to step in when they see people dehumanizing others. It is our responsibility to create the Austin we want. This is our community, and we must take care of it. We have the power to decide what behavior is acceptable. She urges everyone to take this seriously: Interrupt and call out dehumanization when you see it. Help her make Austin a place where everyone feels safe and belongs.

Council Member Fischer stated he was at the Downtown Dish event on Saturday, and it was great to see a lot of people attending. He thanked all who were able to come out to the event.

Mayor King stated The Hormel Institute hosted the 7th Global Cancer Consortium. The City has the top doctors from all over the world visiting Austin. This was the first time in its history it was hosted in the United States, and they chose to host it in Austin.

Adjourn

Moved by Council Member Fischer, seconded by Council Member Helle, adjourning the meeting to July 6, 2026. Carried.

Adjourned: 6:29 p.m.

Approved: 07/06/2026

Mayor: Stephen M. King

City Clerk: Brianne D. Wolf