

City Council Regular Meeting Transcript – 05/24/2018

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[10:15:22 AM]

> Mayor Adler: Ladies and gentlemen, Monday, may 28th, is memorial day. It's a recognized federal holiday to pay tribute and respect to the men and women who have fought and died for this country. I will ask you if you will now please stand for the presentation of colors. We will also have the national anthem being sung by our own rod Ziegler, proud army vet, from our human resources department here in the city of Austin. We'll have an invocation and we'll have a proclamation.

[Presentation of colors].

[10:17:31 AM]

> ♪ Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, oer the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say does that star spangled barn yet wave... Oer the land of the free... And the home of the brave, the brave, the brave!

[10:19:32 AM]

[Applause].

> Please join me in prayer. Dear lord god we are particularly mindful today of the freedom that we share as Americans. We ask for your blessing upon this ceremony and this year's memorial day. We thank you, lord, that we live in a country that provides us the privilege to vote for our elected leaders. We thank you, lord, that we live in the state of Texas that has a rich heritage of patriotism, honor and duty. We thank you, lord, for the men and women who have paid the ultimate price and gave their lives on the battle field for the history for the freedom that we enjoy today. We thank you for the American

furniture because in the past the furniture had just been bought from everybody. And there were no standardizations and there was no encouragement to reuse and repurpose and recycle furniture. And those were some of our goals in this particular contract.

> Mayor Adler: I'm going to support this item. I think the comments on the dais were very helpful and I understand from your comments you need to take them into account because I think there's a sentiment that's generally shared. I'm going to support this because I think this falls into the category of things where for me I'm going to rely on the professional expertise of our staff to drive our values. Is there a motion to approve? Mr. Flannigan makes that motion, seconded by councilmember Houston. Any discussion? Any opposed? Councilmember Garza voting no, the others aye, councilmember troxclair off the dais. Councilmembers, we could let a significant amount of staff go if we wanted to take up the hud plan, and which is item number 45 and item number 47, which is the eminent domain matter if there's no one that thinks they're going to discuss those issues, events, should we dispense with them and let staff go. Let's try to do that.

[12:09:21 PM]

Let's call up item number 45. I'm sorry, 47, rather. 47, the eminent domain matter. Is legal here for that? No. With respect to item number 47, this is a non-concept condemnation item. Is there a motion to the effect that the city of Austin authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire the property set forth in the agenda for the current meeting for the public uses described there in. Is there such a motion? Councilmember Houston makes the motion, seconded by councilmember Renteria. Any discussion? Those in favor please raise your hand? Those opposed? It's unanimous on the dais with councilmember troxclair gone. Last item I think we can take care of is item 48, which is the ahfc meeting? Do you have staff for that? We're going to get you guys out before lunch. It's a miracle. So I'll recess the city council meeting here at 12:10 and convene the Austin housing finance corporation meeting. Today is the 24th of May, 2018. We're in the city council chambers. It's 12:10. We have a quorum. You want to lay out for us what we need to do?

> Yes. We have one item on the agenda today. And that is to approve the inducement resolution for private activity bond financing to be submitted to the Texas bond review board for an allocation of up to \$10 million in private activity volume cap multi-family non-recourse bonds for the proposed development known as Elysium Grand on Oak Creek Drive. I do have one item to correct on exhibit A if I could read into the record I could offer it on consent.

[12:11:23 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> And that's to have exhibit A read as description of project, ahfc 001, the project will consist of a 90 unit mixed income apartment community located at Three Hundred Oak Creek Drive in Austin, Texas. The

project will have 12 units at 30 percent median family income mfi, 40 units at 50% mfi. 17 units at 60% mfi and 21 units that will have no income restrictions. And with that I offer it on consent.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay S there a motion to approve the consent agenda?

>> Pool: Mayor, I'd like if I could, this is an important project in district 7. And so I would like to make a motion to approve it and then say a couple of things after we vote on it.

>> Mayor Adler: I would be fine on that. Councilmember pool makes a motion, seconded by councilmember Renteria. Councilmember pool, do you want to address it?

>> Pool: I just wanted to make sure that -- I want to introduce this development more fully to the Austin community and make sure folks know that this work is going forward and it has significant reduced cost units in it, which Ms. Truelove has read into the record. And the reason that I wanted to punctuate this is because there continues to be some misapprehension and misunderstanding, deliberate or accidental, about this project and its support by me and my office and the general support on this dais. I believe that -- so I'm hoping that our passage here today, the few things that I'm saying about it today, making the motion to approve it, will lay to rest any misunderstandings in the community about the importance of this project to district 7 and my complete support of it from the very beginning. Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Very helpful. Thank you. It's been moved and seconded. Ms. Houston?

>> Houston: Mayor, I think it's a great project and I think the range of incomes is good and the unit mix is good.

[12:13:31 PM]

There's nor transit, there's no transit, so I'm going to have to abstain. So we continue to place people in situations where they have to be car dependent. And until we get transit to be able to go to the places where we're building density, then I'm going to continue to vote.

>> Pool: I completely understand that and respect that. We have talked with the developer and I understand that the intent, the last time we talked, was to have support for -- to have shuttles and be able to take people to doctor's appointments and so forth. This was targeted for some supportive housing, additional supportive -- permanent supportive housing. And that would be a requirement I think for that program that I completely -- I completely get what you are saying and so we have worked with the developer on that topic and hope to have that concern addressed once this gets built and they start programming because people do need to be able to get around town pretty simply. And maybe one day cap metro will serve this part of town more robustly.

>> Houston: And thank you, because we've had these conversations before and then the development is built and then we get calls from -- and the promises are made and we get calls from the folks who are living there to say we still don't have any way to get back to our doctors and the church and the pharmacy. So I just say that to make sure that we all understand that just because a developer says they're going to provide shuttle doesn't mean that they will.

>> And able sagebrooke is here if the board needed to hear from them, but I don't know if it's necessary.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Let's go ahead and take a vote. Those in favor of this item please raise your hand? Those opposed? Ms. Houston voting no, the others voting aye, councilmember troxclair off the dais. The matter passes. Thank you very much. We're going to move to citizens communication.

[12:15:33 PM]

I would point out -- I adjourn the meeting of the Austin housing finance corporation here at 12:15. I reconvene the Austin city council meeting also at 12:15. We're going to go to citizens communication. I would point out that at 4:00 or no earlier than 4:00 when we can call the public hearings and possible action it's my intent to call up items 66 and 69 first. There's only one speaker signed up for those two items. And I think we can dispense with them and let staff go before we pick up the waller creek items. On executive session the only item that we're going to be considering in executive session today is item number 53. The other items are withdrawn. That said let's go to citizens communication. And Mr. Pena, you are first up.

> Thank you, mayor. Gus Pena, president of veterans for progress and co-founder. I just wanted to say this. Memorial day is a day when we remember and honor those who died in combat. I don't want anybody to forget what a veteran goes through. You know, we're trained, we're trained killers. I was can recon, helicopter gunner. I was a truck driver, I was a prisoner escort. We just want to make sure that we remember the fallen heros. Toby Rodriguez, Alex, Wiley and booker T Lofton are four of my best friends who died in Vietnam. Alex was the last infantryman to die in Vietnam and I still cry about that. I'm not going to cry today, but I cried at the county commissioners court, citizens communication. I lost my friends. You're trained to be a trained killer.

[12:17:33 PM]

Anyone on the dais a veteran? No. Anyone in the crowd here a veteran? Thank you for your service. Thank you for your service. Clap for them.

[Applause]. I want to say this. I still haven't gotten over the deaths of my friends. I cry everyday. I cried before I got here it's out of my system now. Remember the sacrifices they made. I earlier said Ben Carson, hud secretary, has stated less hud vouchers. It's going to be less money amount. And this town being so affordable, we contain going to be able to afford with with those vouchers. So I have been in Washington twice. I spoke to senator Cornyn's office and Lloyd Doggett's office. I got outstanding results from the senator's office and also the congressman. We need help. Please, when y'all are picnicking or having fun or having a day off Monday, remember the veterans that were killed in combat. I will. I go to the cemeteries and there are a lot of tears. The last item, mayor and councilmembers, and especially you, city manager. Veterans for progress, a lot of veterans organizations have asked me to deliver this to y'all. We want a nationwide search for police chief. None of them knew about how many comments we