

Minutes
Year End Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2021
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Paula Chapman, Aurora Public Library Director; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Mitch Brunfelt, Aurora City Attorney

Meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Worshek at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA-

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to pull Item 5.1 for further discussion and to approve the following consent agenda items:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

5.2 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – December 8, 2020

5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – December 15, 2020

6. APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS-

6.1 December 2020 – \$1,120,850.98

7. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

7.1 Disbursements for December 2020 – \$279,645.13

7.2 Employment for December 2020 – \$81,881.66

7.2.1 Payroll: \$60,423.53

7.2.2 Benefits: \$21,458.13

8. CORRESPONDENCE-

8.1 Resident letter regarding noise issues – no action requested by resident

8.2 Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) – election notice and year end information

8.3 ISO – building code enforcement

9. TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS- None

12. COMMUNITY COMMENTS- On file in the City Clerk's Office

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD AND COMMISSIONS-

13.1 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – December 9, 2020

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

1st Ayd Corporation	\$121.27
AIM ELECTRONICS	\$75.00
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$1,188.81
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$84.10
ARAMARK	\$49.75
ASSOCIATED EXTERIORS, INC.	\$50,262.29
AT&T MOBILITY	\$204.09
AUTO VALUE	\$478.81
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$792.08
Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC	\$3,100.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$134.50
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$370.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$171.16
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	\$100.00
CHRIS VREELAND	\$201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$378.99
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$350.00
CIVIC SYSTEMS, LLC	\$13,183.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$520.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$2,062.00
DEMCO INC.	\$341.90
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$35,452.81
FRONTIER	\$944.31
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$35.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$305.40
LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$121,188.79
LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS	\$23.74
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	\$95.00

MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	\$13.35
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$463.97
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$10,000.00
METRO SALES	\$350.72
MIDWEST TAPE	\$245.88
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$3,764.75
MINNESOTA POWER	\$8,577.45
MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS	\$5,116.34
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$349.80
PORTABLE JOHN	\$101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$135.56
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$57.08
QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	\$217.80
RAMS	\$700.00
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$17.29
RANGE PAPER	\$5,027.99
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$1,303.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY, LLC	\$146.97
SHRED RIGHT	\$15.00
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$461.71
SULLIVAN CANDY	\$400.00
TECH SALES CO.	\$140.00
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$570.00
TOWN OF WHITE	\$3,565.44
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$215.00
UTILITY LOGIC	\$4,959.00
VERIZON	\$15.98
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	\$174.03
ZIEGLER INC.	\$153.97
ZITO MEDIA	\$133.07

Councilor Jofs asked if we've heard anything from SEH regarding feasibility of moving project relocation. Administrator Lammi expects report later in the week.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve Item 5.1 Special Joint City of Aurora Council Meeting Minutes-December 3, 2020.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public requested to join the meeting or submitted items of concern.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

City Hall has been open for a while now. It has been going well with everyone being respectful. Please use contactless options if possible. There is a payment box next to the library door and you can also call and pay via credit card.

Library – Paula Chapman

This year's low-key adult winter reading program started yesterday and will go through February 28. Anyone age 16 and up can sign up to read library books—or magazines—or eBooks—or audiobooks and enter weekly drawings to win prizes. There are lots of new books and audio books, as well as a couple of new magazine titles, on the shelves! We were able to distribute all 24 of the take-and-make Tied Fleece Pillow craft project in December. This month's take and make project is painting a wooden train, airplane, or race car. Kits are available to pick up at the library—one per household—while supplies last.

Finally, the Aurora Public Library is participating in a region-wide Public Library Art Project and is seeking project proposals from regional artists. The art created by the selected finalist will be displayed either in, or outside of, the Aurora Public Library. We are looking for a piece of art, in any media, that honors and inspires our community by reflecting our local history and culture, and that reinforces the perception of a library as a place to experience arts, culture, and history. Interested artists must submit a Request for Qualifications by February 12, 2021, and the approved project must be completed by June 30, 2021. Anyone interested may contact the library or visit the library's web page for further details and the Request for Qualifications.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola reports that her children participated in the December take & make pillow project that the Aurora Library offered. She really appreciates the library events. Trails are in pretty good shape but could use more snow. Reminds everyone to be respectful of where you are riding and avoid the cemetery, city parks, etc. Thanks to Public Works for doing the above-and-beyond work.

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs reports that the holiday season and come and gone and days are getting longer. Sport season has started and reminds everyone to stay cautious & practice good health & hygiene. Drive carefully as roads are slippery.

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso reports not much snow but enough for snowmobiles to go through our parks. Please use appropriate trails and stay out of city parks. Hopeful that the Governor will open businesses up at his announcement tomorrow.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek thanks Public Works on snow removal. Reminder to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and continue to stop for people in the crosswalks. Thanks to the Aurora Fire Department for taking Santa around town.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor sympathizes with those affected by COVID-19. Thank you to City Councilors for attending another special council meeting and for their time/ideas/etc. East Range Joint Powers Board will consider seeking funding from St. Louis County for COVID-19 relief fund at \$19.25 per citizen. We would like to use the monies received to get grants out to businesses asap.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to accept the offer from Nicole Baudek from the Cutting Edge to purchase parcel no. 100-0020-01030 from the city for \$1800.00 and \$250.00 in closing costs and direct City Attorney and City Administrator to prepare documents and resolution of sale.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Thanks to Scott Norcia of The Control Company & the City wishes him well in retirement.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve the City of Aurora Snow Removal Policy.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to hire Erik Skelton at \$14.00 per hour for the seasonal part-time rink attendant position.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Lakso to approve sending a letter of support to St. Louis County's application to MNDOT to place a sidewalk along Highway 110 from Holiday intersection to the hospital.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to hire David Drown as the financial advisor for the East Range Joint Water Project to be paid out of East Range Joint Water Project funds in the amount not to exceed \$7,000.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to adopt revised Resolution 2020-32 approving the Saint Louis County HRA to act within the city jurisdiction.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the separation agreement for Joshua Benda to extend family health insurance benefits through June of 2021 and allow the employee to retain recall rights for 18 months.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator