

Minutes
Year End Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, January 7, 2020
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Lakso, Cromley, and Jofs

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Paula Chapman, Aurora Librarian; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Jofs and supported by Worshek to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5. Approval of Minutes –** Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – December 4, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – December 9, 2019
Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – December 17, 2019
- 6. Approval of Receipts –** December 2018 – \$910,783.40
- 7. Approval for Payment –** Disbursements for December 2018 – \$422,687.67
Payroll for December 2018 – \$67,862.97
- 8. Correspondence –** Greater Minnesota Cities request to join.
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission ballot.
Aurora Public Library Strategic Plan Implementation Steps.
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department request for information on tax forfeited parcels.
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department proposed sale of tax forfeited land.
- 9. Travel and Training –** None.
- 12. Community Comments –** 07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2nd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
07/02/2019 – Blight concern on in alley on 200 block between W 2nd Ave and W 3rd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/05/2019 – Blight concern at 312 S. Main St.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/19/2019 – Pot holes between 3rd Ave W and 4th Ave W, and 1st Ave S.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/22/2019 – Road repair at 324 S 1st St E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/23/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/25/2019 – Blight concern at 321 W 3rd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1st Ave N.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2nd form.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

08/20/2019 – Blight concern on 709 Summit Street.

Resolution: City Council has received the complaint.

08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 321 W. 2nd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/13/2019 – Blight concern 200 S 6th St E.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/20/2019 – Blight concern on 20 Erie St.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/30/2019 – Construction issue on S. 3rd St. W.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

10/30/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6th St. E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

10/31/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6th St. E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

11/08/2019 – Blight concern at 315 W. 4th Ave. N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

12/30/2019 – Damages to lawn at 429 S 3rd St E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

01/01/2020 – Issues with water discharge on W 4th Ave N.

Resolution: City Council has received the complaint and is investigating.

01/02/2020 – Vehicle parked on 1st Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

**13. Reports from Boards
and Commissions –**

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – November 13, 2019

Aurora Public Library Board – November 21, 2019

Aurora Cemetery Board – December 11, 2019

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – December 11, 2019

Motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 3,218.72
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$ 1.25
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 238.97
AUTO VALUE	\$ 15.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 384.30
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 118.70
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 931.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 320.92
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 431.48
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	\$ 50.00
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CINTAS	\$ 385.55
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 520.00
COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 201.70
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 956.00
DAVID BEISE	\$ 50.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 33,932.24
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 612.86
F.I.R.E.	\$ 440.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	\$ 190.83
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION	\$ 22,250.00
FRONTIER	\$ 935.24
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 8.10
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
J & R WASTEWATER SERVICE	\$ 1,900.00
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 1,085.55

LMCIT WC	\$ 26,095.00
LEHTINEN MACHINE	\$ 118.00
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 6,413.80
METRO SALES	\$ 358.92
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 31.49
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 140.18
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$ 1,416.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 2,559.20
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,630.78
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	\$ 335.00
MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	\$ 937.50
NTS	\$ 457.50
OSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC.	\$ 85.00
POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE	\$ 282.81
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 93.00
POSITIVE PROMOTIONS INC.	\$ 576.56
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 108.38
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 538.92
RANGE PAPER	\$ 94.71
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,102.00
SEPPI BROS.	\$ 1,000.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.60
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 2,469.44
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 13,355.00

TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	\$ 576.05
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 729.99
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	\$ 250.00

VERIZON	\$ 15.70
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 35.01
ZIEGLER INC.	\$ 876.70

APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Betty Burke – 103 W. 4th Ave. N.

Ms. Burke stated she has heard loud noises two times over the past year. There has been moss growing between the two houses this summer. There was a hole discovered with water in it; she spoke to her neighbor regarding the issue. She believes her neighbor is discharging water between the houses; it may be washing machine discharge. Mayor Gregor stated it sounds like a dispute between neighbors and stated the City could facilitate if she had concerns.

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Paula Chapman

The new year is off to a good start—as is this year’s adult winter reading program, which started on Monday and will run through February 28. As usual, adults may sign up and enter their name in weekly drawings for each library book, audio book, e-book, and magazine they read during the program dates. There is also a punch card with reading activities; anyone who completes 8 activities may turn that in for a drawing at the end of the program. We simply ask that those who participate let us know how many titles they’ve read by the end of February.

The library also plans to feature different areas of the collection through selecting ‘golden ticket’ titles throughout the year. Anyone who happens to check out one of those items will find a golden ticket, which they can turn in and exchange for a candy bar, or other prize. January’s theme for adult readers is “Minnesota mysteries”; this month’s theme for young readers is “snow.” One lucky reader has already checked out a golden ticket title; there are 9 left to find this month!

During the week of January 21-24, the library is borrowing equipment to offer “Scan to Keep” sessions. People may sign up for a time slot and bring in old slides, photos, and documents. Library staff will scan and save them onto a flash drive for the patron. The number of items scanned will be limited to those which can be scanned during a 1-hour session.

Finally, the library will be offering “Final Friday” play dates at 11:30 am on the final Friday of each month. This month, parents and caregivers are invited to come enjoy a tea party at the library with their little ones, and to also enjoy some free play time at the library with other children and their caregivers. Dressing up is optional, and there will be a photo opportunity for the little ones.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs –

The Joint Advisory Board for the Recreation Position is waiting on the first meeting with the new hire.

Councilor Worshek –

Public Works plowing is looking good this year. Please remember to keep fire hydrants clear of snow. Town of White is expecting City of Aurora staff to shovel and clean when the cleaner is gone; the council should look at the agreement. Thanks to Dave Cromley for years of service.

Councilor Lakso –

Thanks, Dave, for your service. Wants to discuss sewer gas smell on S. 6th St. E.; it will be discussed later on the agenda.

Councilor Cromley –

Interesting eight years – a lot of time and commitment. He encourages members of the public to come and speak at meetings; it is a learning experience. Councilor Cromley will really focus on the Fire Department going forward. Thanks to the public for voting in him for the past two terms. Encourages everyone to adopt-a-hydrant. The Fire Department Truck Committee is shoveling some of them out around town this month.

Mayor Gregor –

Thanks to Dave for the perspective and learning opportunities. There will be cake available after the meetings for celebration. Thank you also to the Fire Department for escorting Santa around town in December. Mayor Gregor hasn't yet gotten an update in the shopper, but did put in a list of resolutions for the new year. He also appreciates the community members in Sunset for brightening up the area with ice candles.

OLD BUSINESS

City Administrator Lammi stated the sanitation research request would not be completed prior to the February meeting.

Public Works Director Thuringer stated the sewer line on S. 6th St. E. was televised and there were no issues revealed – no belly in the line, the line is clean.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve RAMS dues in the amount of \$700.00 for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the Control Company Contract Renewal for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants maintenance and monitoring for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to authorize not waiving tort liability limits for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to accept the retirement of Rod Salo from the Aurora HRA with regret and a letter of thanks. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to accept Town of White's notice to terminate the water and waste water management contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Lakso to authorize two Public Works employees to assist with the Annual Pepsi Challenge/Great River Energy Rush Races on February 28, 2020, contingent on weather. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to increase Fire Department pay as presented, beginning January 1, 2020:

Monthly Stipends:

Chief - \$400.00

Assistant Chief - \$300.00

Captains - \$175.00

Medical Officer - \$150.00

Treasurer - \$150.00

Secretary - \$150.00

Call Out Pay:

Firefighters - \$12.00 per hour

First Responders - \$14.00 per hour

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to table payment of 5% retainage to Utility Systems of America and direct City Attorney Kearney to review contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to refer Caring for Kids' requests regarding Pine Grove Park to the Park Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting: TBD

Moved by Lakso and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator