

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Electronic Meeting
Tuesday, February 2, 2021
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

Mayor Gregor will move agenda items 17.1 and 17.2 to be the first considered.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve Task 2 as presented by Bolton and Menk for inflow and infiltration in the amount of \$15,250.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve pay request number 8 from Lakehead Constructors in the amount of \$9,711.58 for the Waste Water Digester Project and Change Order number 4.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA-

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

- 5.1 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 4, 2021
- 5.2 Year End City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 5, 2021
- 5.3 Reorganization City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 5, 2021
- 5.4 Special Joint City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 13, 2021
- 5.5 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 14, 2021
- 5.6 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 19, 2021

6. APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS-

- 6.1 January 2021 – \$141,889.59

7. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

- 7.1 Disbursements for January 2021 – \$209,150.04
- 7.2 Payroll for January 2021 – \$81,139.21

- 7.2.1 Payroll: \$61,413.72
- 7.2.2 Benefits: \$19,725.49

8. CORRESPONDENCE-

- 8.1 St. Louis County Proposed Sale of State Tax Forfeited Land.

9. TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS- None

12. COMMUNITY COMMENTS-

- 12.1 01/12/2021 – Snow on public sidewalk at 105 E. 3rd Ave. N.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD AND COMMISSIONS-

- 13.1 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – November 16, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Public Library Board – November 19, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – November 23, 2020
- 13.4 Hoyt Lakes 2020 Ambulance Report
- 13.5 Aurora Fire Department – January 13, 2021
- 13.6 Aurora Planning & Zoning Commission – January 26, 2021
- 13.7 Aurora Cemetery Board – January 27, 2021

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

1st Ayd Corporation	\$647.33
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$792.61
AMERICHEM	\$2,197.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$79.93
ARAMARK	\$90.75
AT&T MOBILITY	\$194.41
AUTO VALUE	\$138.12
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$624.57
BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC.	\$425.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$134.50
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$34,723.76
BRADACH LUMBER	\$304.89
CHRIS VREELAND	\$201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$208.41
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$350.00
CIVIC SYSTEMS, LLC	\$3,387.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$3,171.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$1,766.00
EAST MESABI SANITATION	\$14,259.44
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS	\$3,750.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$37,116.54
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$869.36
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$26.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	\$84.92
FRONTIER	\$916.31
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$51.35
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$35.00
HACH COMPANY	\$5,292.95
HAWKINS INC.	\$383.96
HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$534.00
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$105.96
LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$9,711.58
LMCIT	\$53,314.00

MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	\$602.02
METRO SALES	\$439.67
MICHAEL CARLSON	\$161.05
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$62.98
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$4,381.10
MINNESOTA POWER	\$9,014.69
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$349.80
MITEL	\$193.21
MN DNR ECOLOGICAL & WATER RES.	\$547.89
MN FIRE SERVICE CERT. BOARD	\$360.00
MN PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY	\$6,761.72
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	\$1,572.12
PORTABLE JOHN	\$101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$131.76
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$398.00
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$193.24
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	\$1,200.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$1,095.00
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$15.00
TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	\$681.60
THE RETROFIT COMPANIES, INC.	\$209.49
TOWN OF WHITE	\$2,973.47
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$215.00
USA BLUE BOOK	\$717.78
VERIZON	\$16.45
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT	\$16.00
WALKER GIROUX & HAHNE LTD.	\$175.00
WESCO DISTRIBUTION	\$177.56
WISCONSIN CENTRAL	\$327.79
ZITO MEDIA	\$76.82

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

The City may see an increase to the ambulance contract in 2022; Hoyt Lakes will provide estimates prior to budget consideration.

Library – Paula Chapman

This year's low-key adult winter reading program is going well. To date, 38 adults are participating. The program goes through the end of February, so there's still a chance to sign up and win a book!

Families took all 20 of the wooden toy vehicle craft kits last month! This month's "Take and Make" project is a book: Awesome Kitchen Science Experiments for Kids: 50 STEAM Projects You Can Eat. There are still 14 copies available—1 per household, while supplies last.

Finally, the Aurora Public Library has so far received 5 requests for qualification from regional artists for the Public Library Legacy Art project. A few more artists have inquired about the project, and I am hopeful that there will be a couple more submissions by the February 12 deadline. The committee will meet later this month to evaluate the submissions and select the finalists. I'm pleased to see the project moving forward and am looking forward to the results. The completed piece or pieces of art will be displayed either in, or outside of, the library.

East Range Police Department – Tim Soular

Chief Soular discussed the residential parking concerns around Mesabi East Schools. If there continue to be issues, the City may consider going to residential parking permits. He also spoke about snowmobiles going through parks and the cemetery; some issues may be signage and confusion.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve the letter to Mesabi East Schools with the addition of "students" to the no parking request.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola thanked Chief Soular for being on top of the concerns of the community. Also thanks to Paula in the Library for the hard work she is doing on the Legacy Arts program. Thanks to Becky for her help with Caring for Kids. Caring for Kids meetings are open to the public and they take place on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 pm at the American Legion. Thanks to the Cemetery Board and Karin for the help with the exciting donation for signs in the cemetery.

Councilor Jofs

Thanks to Paula for all of the exciting events at the Library. Councilor Jofs thanked public works for their snow removal efforts. Remember to bundle up – it's supposed to be frigid.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek thanked the Public Works Department for sidewalk and walking trail clearing. Thanks also to all the volunteers in the old fire hall stalls. The Police Department is down one officer; they're doing a great job keeping up despite their challenges. Thank you to Karin for her years of service.

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso noted the skating rink lights were on last week when he was coming back in to town in the late evening. He also appreciates the residents adhering to calendar parking. Congratulations to Karin and wishes her a great retirement.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor echoes the thanks for Karin's year of service. St. Louis County has a small business COVID relief grant program with a program deadline of February 3. Applications can be found online. Essentia Health advises anyone who is interested in being vaccinated to complete the online registration through MyChart. The East Range Joint Water Project has moved to high gear with hopes of securing a property for the intake site. Reminder to stay safe.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to propose a 50% tax abatement for 5 years for the Aurora Market Project; to move forward with scheduling a public hearing.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Worshek

Nays: Honkola, Jofs

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to adopt resolution 2021-04 providing issuance of \$240,000 certificate of indebtedness for purchase of capital equipment.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Worshek, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve resolution 2021-05 authorizing the conveyance of real estate to Nikole D. Baudek.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Worshek, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve resolution 2021-06 authorizing the conveyance of real estate to Nikole D. Baudek.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Worshek, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to approve providing \$5,000.00 from Mining Effects monies to the East Range Sportsman Club for matching funds for the DNR Grant for a skeet range.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the water and waste water work order policy and procedure.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve hiring Jennifer Beck for the Library Circulation Clerk position.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve resolution 2021-07 accepting donation from Caring for Kids for snow fence materials.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services request to utilize the Aurora Community Center for a testing and vaccine location.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve the Aurora Fire Department purchase of the 1999 E-one rescue truck from the Swayzee, Indiana fire department in the amount not to exceed \$32,500.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to table revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual for review by the Personnel Committee.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The City Council did not act on the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority memorandum of understanding.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to approve the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority placing a storage filing cabinet in the Celebrate Aurora storage room at no cost.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the St. Louis County solid waste fee increase to \$1.25 per month per resident as of March 1, 2021.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the ongoing cost of memorial bricks for the Community Center to be set at the City's cost of engraving.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve the 2021 Home Business License for Henry Frechette D/B/A Henry Frechette, EA.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to approve the Aurora Cemetery Board request to purchase and places street signs in the Forest Hill Cemetery.

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 7:24 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator