

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council**  
**City/Town Government Center**  
**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Lakso, Honkola, 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; Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Jofs to approve the following consent agenda items, excluding item 7.1:**

**5. Approval of Minutes –**

Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 06, 2020  
Year End City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 7, 2020  
Reorganization City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 7, 2020  
Special Joint City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 14, 2020  
Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 21, 2020

**6. Approval of Receipts –**

January 2020 – \$227,626.33

**7. Approval for Payment –**

Disbursements for January 2020 – \$132,408.23  
Payroll for January 2020 – \$ 58,731.18

**8. Correspondence –**

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Rate Increase Request for Minnesota Power.  
Minnesota Department of Health Quarterly Report.  
Community Development Block Grant recommendation for award.

**9. Travel and Training –**

Jim Gentilini – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Training in Brooklyn Park, MN

**10. Community Comments –**

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N.

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

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave and W 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave W and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave W, and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/22/2019 – Road repair at 324 S 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N.  
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N.  
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/13/2019 – Blight concern 200 S 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

10/30/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Resolution: Sewer line was cleaned and inspected; no blockage was found. Any further resolution pends council action.

10/31/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

11/08/2019 – Blight concern at 315 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.  
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

12/30/2019 – Damages to lawn at 429 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St E.  
Resolution: Public Works will investigate complaint after snow melt and city staff will repair damages if found.

01/01/2020 – Issues with water discharge on W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave N.  
Resolution: City Council has determined it is a neighbor dispute.

01/02/2020 – Vehicle parked on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N.  
Resolution: East Range Police Department met with home owner to move vehicle.

#### **11. Reports from Boards and Commissions –**

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – January 8, 2020

Aurora Cemetery Board – January 15, 2020  
Aurora Public Library Board – January 16, 2020  
Planning and Zoning – January 28, 2020

Zoning:

- Mark & Terri Crep – 307 South 2nd Street W  
- Extension to existing porch  
Laura Berg – 211 South Main Street  
- Frame new garage on existing foundation

1st Ayd Corporation	\$ 164.64
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 2,282.64
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 1,436.80
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 222.77
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 487.20
Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC	\$ 800.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 171.05
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$14,839.50
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 65.88
C & C WINGER, INC.	\$ 625.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 358.05
CENGAGE LEARNING INC / GALE	\$ 186.41
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 29.88
CINTAS	\$ 179.67
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
Civic Systems, LLC	\$ 3,317.00
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	\$ 3,046.13
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,521.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$35,224.81
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 734.88
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	\$ 200.00
FRONTIER	\$ 845.34
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 50.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
H & L MESABI	\$ 1,281.70

HAWKINS INC.	\$ 615.71
JOBSEQ	\$ 759.50
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 370.59
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	\$ 275.00
LUNDGREN MOTORS INC.	\$ 610.86
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 3,657.86
METRO SALES	\$ 377.75
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 54.98
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTR	\$ 70.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 5,659.99
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 9,223.94
MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS	\$ 565.00
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 172.92
MN DNR WATERS	\$ 1,191.25
MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	\$ 300.00
MSA SAFETY SALES LLC.	\$ 2,476.48
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$ 505.75
NORTHERN ENGINE & SUPPLY INC.	\$ 365.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF HIBBING	\$ 460.00
POMP'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.	\$ 578.78
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 108.38
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 269.05

RANGE PAPER	\$ 475.72
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	\$ 1,790.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,110.00
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 208.15
STAR TRIBUNE	\$ 908.65
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$13,981.71
TOWN OF WHITE	\$ 5,815.01
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 388.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	\$ 250.00
UNITED PAINTING & SANDBLASING INC.	\$ 8,305.00

USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 78.95
VERIZON	\$ 15.41
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 35.01
VIVID DESIGN	\$ 52.00
WISCONSIN CENTRAL	\$ 327.79
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	\$ 108.81
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**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve January 2020 Disbursements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

Mark Goerd

Mr. Goerd introduced himself as the new Youth Activity Coordinator. He stated he has been busy learning about the job. Basketball is wrapping up and we are looking forward to baseball starting. Mr. Goerd stated online registration will be coming soon. The Berdick Field maintenance and concession stand were also discussed.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

City Administrator Lammi reports Kimberly Berens began last week and is catching on quickly.

Library – Paula Chapman

We are two weeks into this year’s Adult Winter Reading Program and to date, the 40 adults signed up to participate have reported reading at least 97 library books, audiobooks, ebooks, or magazines. The program runs through February 28, so there’s still plenty of time to sign up and read. Every library title read is a chance to win a prize, as well as an opportunity to enjoy a book.

Last month’s other events went well as well. Readers checked out books with 8 of the 10 golden tickets, and 2 lucky readers have already checked out love stories or Valentine’s Day themed books with 2 of this month’s 12 golden tickets. 6 people signed up for “Scan for Keeps” hours and Sharon was able to scan and save 120 slides, 20 negatives, and 29 photos as digital files for them. 5 children and their

parents or caregivers came to the Tea Party Play date; check out the adorable photos they gave us permission to share on the library's Facebook page.

This morning, our wonderful Friends of the Library met and helped with a volunteer project. Next week, on Tuesday, February 11, at 1:00 pm, Mary Mulari will present a program at the library: "Recycle, Repurpose, Restyle." Everyone is invited to come be inspired and learn how to turn vintage and household linens and textiles into creative new keepsake items. The library will host another preschool play date on Friday, February 28, at 11:30 am. Children, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, are invited to bring their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed toy to play with the library bears.

Finally, we are currently seeking a Circulation Clerk to work 12 hours a week at the Aurora Public Library. Interested applicants are invited to submit a letter of interest, resume, and professional references to the library. The closing date is Monday, February 10, by 7:30 pm.

East Range Police Department Chief – Tim Soular

Chief Soular reports the fire on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W. is a total loss and the Aurora Fire Department handled the call very well. Federal Signal has been up to identify the exact location of the siren at the Fire Hall; they are hoping to get it installed in March. The Department continues to tow vehicles not abiding by calendar parking when plows are out.

#### REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs –

No report.

Councilor Worshek –

Good job goes out to the Aurora Fire Department on the fire on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W. The Public Works Department has been doing well on snow plowing and keeping hydrants clear. General discussion took place regarding the BlueCross BlueShield building.

Councilor Lakso –

Councilor Lakso had concerns regarding the City waiving the Community Center rental fee. He would like the policy discussed at a subsequent meeting.

Councilor Honkola –

Councilor Honkola appreciates all the efforts on maintaining snowmobile trails, but would like to remind riders to stay off private property, cemeteries, etc. Thanks to the volunteers and please continue to volunteer!

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor reports the childcare and broadband task forces continue to meet. The City was awarded \$158,000 from CDBG. The Joint Water Project continues to look at IRRRB coordination, a JPA, and possible bonding monies. Minnesota Power increases were discussed at the Range Mayor's Meeting. The Habitat for Humanity dinner went well, and he learned they have completed over 100 homes in the area. Both the GOP and the DFL caucuses will be held on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Labor negotiations with AFSCME will be going to mediation. Mayor Gregor wishes to set up a blight committee/community meeting for March.

OLD BUSINESS

No action taken on the East Mesabi Sanitation request.

**Moved by Jofs supported by Lakso to pay the final pay amount of \$34,020.61 to Utility Systems of America, unless USA will waive the interest request, then the payment will be less the interest amount. Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve \$14,800 for Bolton & Menk to engineer updates to the SCADA system as requested. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve the Home Business License of Mary's Productions, LLC. for 2020.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso

Nays: None

Abstain: Gregor

**Motion carried.**

**Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to approve the Home Occupation Conditional Use License for RK Welding for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve the Aurora Fire Department's request to have the City purchase insurance coverage for the Vintage Run on March 7, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to hire Allie Alexander-Ridlon at \$16.00 per hour for 4 hours per week for the Community Center Cleaner Position. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to hire Brian Welch at \$11.00 per hour for no more than 15 hours per week for 16 weeks for the Administrative Assistant Intern Position. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to adopt Resolution 2020-04 Approving the Issuance of Health Care Facilities Refunding Revenue Bonds by the Duluth Economic Development Authority to Refinance a Project Located in the City. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to adjust City Councilor and Mayor pay so the monthly pay will be for the previous month instead of the current month which aligns with other monthly paid departments. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to waive the fee for use of the Community Center for Up North Quilt Guild for the Patriotic Days event. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to table the Cemetery Board's request to change City Ordinance 94.14E to match the approved cemetery guidelines. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to approve the Mayor's Proclamation declaring February 23, 2020 as Roxi Jensen Day in Aurora, MN. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion took place regarding the 2020 Census. The Library and Clerk's Office will work together to help citizens and market the Census.

**Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to direct City Administrator Lammi to gather quotes regarding the pigeon issue. Motion carried unanimously.**

NEXT MEETING DATES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

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Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Becky Lammi, City Administrator