

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, February 5, 2018
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Lakso, Cromley

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Clerk; 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 Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5. Approval of Minutes –** Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 3, 2019
Year End City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 8, 2019
Reorganization City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 8, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 17, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – January 31, 2019
- 6. Approval of Receipts –** January 2019 – \$125,369.24
- 7. Approval for Payment –** Disbursements for January 2019 – \$130,488.16
Payroll for January 2019 – \$61,825.82
- 8. Correspondence –** St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department – Notification of Pending Sale.
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department – Proposed sale of state tax forfeited land.
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department -- Proposed sale of state tax forfeited land.
Minnesota Power – Changes in calculation of bill.
Celebrate Aurora – Receipt for 2018 donations.
- 9. Travel and Training Requests –** Becky Lammi – LMC Regional Training, February 22, 2019 in Mountain Iron, MN.
Becky Lammi – LMC Loss Control Workshop, April 11, 2019 in Biwabik, MN.
Hillary Hartleben – LMC Loss Control Workshop, April 11, 2019 in Biwabik, MN.
- 12. Community Comments –** 10/30/2018 – Lighting in Pine Grove Park.

Resolution: The City Council has approved purchase of lights from Minnesota Power.

01/03/2018 – Snow Removal in Pine Grove Park.

Resolution: Public Works has plowed the trail at Pine Grove Park.

01/07/2018 – Blight complaint – 102 W. 3rd Ave. N.

Resolution: ERPD has spoken to the homeowner, who stated the property is being cleaned up. He believes these complaints are harassment.

01/30/2018 – Blight complaint – 102 W. 3rd Ave. N.

Resolution: ERPD has received the complaint and is investigating.

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

East Range Joint Powers Board – December 18, 2018

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – January 9, 2019

Aurora Cemetery Board – January 23, 2019

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTIVAR PLASTIC PRODUCTS GROUP	20.11
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	956.08
AMERICHEM	2,995.00
AMPTEK INC.	2,631.87
AT & T MOBILITY	276.91
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	250
AUTO VALUE VIRGINIA	20.99
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	257.22
BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC.	54,315.00
BISS LOCK INC.	18
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	316.77
BRADACH LUMBER	243.81
CARQUEST AURORA	345.21
CELEBRATE AURORA	10
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
CINTAS	46.8
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350
Civic Systems, LLC	5,888.36
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	38.75
CW TECHNOLOGY	515.71
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	32,906.17
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS	305.04
EOC-TRIMARK	175.56
FRANCIS J. BELAY	16.6
FRONTIER	1,018.86
GALE	65.7
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	50
H & L MESABI	1,382.60
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC.	100.39
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	1,618.69
METRO SALES	343.47

MICROMARKETING LLC	31.5
MICROMARKETING LLC	134.98
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	6,102.29
MINNESOTA POWER	9,969.51
MINNESOTA POWER	166.27
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.8
MINNESOTA UI	12
MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	240
MPFF	60
PAPPAS MACHINE SHOP	1,525.00
PETTY CASH	50
PORTABLE JOHN	198
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	321.42
PROBLAST TECHNOLOGY INC	700
RAMS	700
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	160.93
RANGE PAPER	2,200.51
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	862
SHARON GRESLEY	55.47
SHRED RIGHT	15
SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	191.62
SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	220.26
TEAM LAB	373.25
THE CONTROL COMPANY	960
TOMAHAWK FORD	13,206.46
TOWN OF WHITE	2,317.90
U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250
U.S. POSTMASTER 1	225.42
U.S. POSTMASTER 1	22
USA BLUE BOOK	58.44
VERIZON	15.19
VERIZON WIRELESS	35.01
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	93.88

APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Gregg Allen, Mesabi East School District –

Superintendent Allen reviewed the timeline for the Mesabi East Referendum projects, including auditorium, pool, science classrooms, greenhouse, and athletics complex. Currently, bids for the concessions stand and all-purpose courts are on hold. Bid requests for the fields, parking lots, and preparation were put out 02/05/2019 and are due by 02/26/2019 at 2:00 pm. They are expected to be approved at the March School Board meeting.

Councilor Cromley asked if the reason the project is smaller now is due to leasing Plagemann's. Superintendent Allen stated no, only the first lease payment came out of the funds, and the remaining lease will come from the general fund. Councilor Cromley also had concerns about drainage and bus routing. Superintendent Allen stated drainage was included in the plan, and bus routing will be discussed further with Chief Soular, the City, and the drivers.

Mayor Gregor asked about the construction timeline. Superintendent Allen hopes staking will take place soon and equipment will be onsite prior to road restrictions. The plan is to play football on the field this year, and baseball on the grass field in 2020.

Additional discussion took place on the combined recreation position.

Rod Salo, HRA –

Mr. Salo presented information on the Borealis Plat. Wetlands were discussed, along with covenants on the properties, easements, etc.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to table to an upcoming special meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Paula Chapman

This year's adult winter reading program is in full swing with 36 readers signed up to date. They have reported reading 38 books so far, and several readers have completed their reading activity punch cards. The program goes through March 8, so there's still plenty of time to sign up and read!

February will be another full month; library activities will include day care story times, a visit by a Friend of the Library to Carefree Living with reading and discussion about lighthouses of the Great Lakes, a presentation to a high school English class about using the library databases to do research, and a program by the band duo Pushing Chain for the Mesabi East Freshman Band.

Of course the library continues to provide new books, movies, audiobooks, and magazines for our community's reading and viewing and learning pleasure. I would like to thank everyone who donated money to the library in memory of Bill Ojala. Money designated for books has already been used to purchase a few new titles for the library. This month, by the Library Board's direction, I sent in orders for some new audiobooks, and several seasons of popular mini-series on DVD—as well as the usual monthly book order. A couple of new magazine subscriptions include Midwest Living and National Geographic History. We've had good weather for reading and I encourage everyone to continue to make good use of the library!

Finally, a Reading Corps volunteer has expressed a willingness to provide a free 7-week hands-on art program for upper elementary students, and a free 7-week program for parents, caregivers, and teens who babysit young children about interactive reading. Both programs would be held once a week at the library and will begin in March if enough people sign up to participate. The library will host a display of

the student's artwork, and a reception to honor the student artists, if the art class is offered. One of our Library Board members, working with Assistant Librarian Sharon Gresley, also plans to start a new book club, which would meet at the library, starting in March. Anyone interested can talk to library staff for more information!

City Clerk – Becky Lammi

Security glass should be installed this week. The new phone system is up and running. City Clerk Lammi went over the ongoing Childcare Meetings being held.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek –

The Library Board had two people apply for the position, and they have a recommendation for the council for the open seat. The Safety Committee has a new chair – Paula Chapman. An employee did slip and fall at one of the City locations. The railroad crossing is getting rougher. Councilor Worshek read a citizen kudos to the Public Works Department for their snow removal.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to direct City Clerk Lammi to contact CN on the Railroad Crossing. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilor Cromley –

Spent time in St. Paul; finished the first year in the St. Louis County Fire Chief's Association. March 2nd is the 8th Annual Vintage Snowmobile run, followed by a spaghetti feed.

Councilor Lakso –

Thanks to Public Works on snow-blowing around the school area. Nice to see the North Main Business Center listed in the shopper. Please contact Councilor Lakso on his home phone number, not his cell phone number.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Attended an event sponsored by the Greater Coalition in St. Paul; met primarily with the legislators and Governor. The group attended a need to restore LGA amounts, which the Governor echoed.

Representative Lislegard is making a good impression at the State. Daycare continues to be an economic development issue. There is a visioning session on broadband on February 20 at 5:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion took place on the purchase of Lake County Connections by Pinpoint Holdings. No action.

City Clerk Lammi stated the Water/Waste Water Contract was approved by the Town of White with the changes. No action.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to table Bolton and Menk for engineering on the waste water plant digester pending written confirmation from the LMCIT of coverage and directing City Attorney Kearney to contact for confirmation. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve the 2019 Pay Equity Report. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to rescind the motion to table Bolton and Menk for engineering on the waste water plant digester pending written confirmation from the LMCIT of coverage and directing City Attorney Kearney to contact for confirmation. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to direct City Clerk Lammi to get coverage specifics from the LMCIT in writing, have City Attorney Kearney review proposals and determine more specific numbers/hours, and have City Clerk Lammi and Director of Public Works Thuringer write a written recommendation for the waste water plant digester. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to request a quote from Amptek to replace the four exterior lights on the Community Center Building. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to update the snowmobile trail – the trail will now follow the property line on the south side of the railroad tracks, stay behind the rail crossing arms, follow the sidewalk on the east side of Main St. and cross the property where the tennis courts used to stand. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to appoint City Clerk Lammi as authorized signatory for banking, contracts, and legal documents. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to authorize Benchmark Engineering to begin work on the Cemetery Turn Lane Project. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to direct Public Works Director Thuringer and City Clerk Lammi to prepare a proposal of services for the Biwabik Water and Waste Water Department to be brought before Council. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve support in the amount of \$150.00 for the St. Louis County Youth in Action Leadership Conference Sponsorship. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to approve the CW Email project to transition all departments and the mayor and council to city email addresses with a mail filter and archiving. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to write off the amount of \$4,210.53 for parcel 100-0080-01185 as requested by St. Louis County. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve the 2019 Schedule of Rates and Fees with the removal of copies and faxes. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve Resolution 2019-05 Accepting Resignation and Declaring Vacancy. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to post application requests in the East Range Shopper and Mesabi Daily News for the vacant council positions, due by February 22, and to request applicants include a resume. The Council will meet to interview applicants. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to have a special meeting scheduled for February 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

Next Special Meeting: February 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City/Town Government Center

Next Regular Meeting: March 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City/Town Government Center

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Douglas Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Clerk