

MINUTES
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Cromley, Lakso; Mayor Hess arrived at 5:57 p.m.

ABSENT: Councilor Lislegard

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, City Attorney;
Tim Soular, East Range Police Chief; Linda Cazin, Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

Meeting was called to order at 5:57 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes as presented: Year End Meeting – January 9, 2017, Reorganization Meeting – January 9, 2017 and Special Meeting held January 17, 2017, Special Meeting held January 24, 2017 and Special Meeting held January 30, 2017. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the receipts for January 2017 in the amount of \$113,234.58 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the disbursements for January 2017 in the amount of \$354,573.46 and Payroll in the amount of \$73,511.57. MOTION CARRIED

AMERICAN BANK 8977	251.76
AMERICAN BANK 9587	18.56
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	60.27
AMERICHEM	918.00
AMPTEK INC.	718.36
APG MEDIA OF MN	758.81
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY	6.25
AT & T MOBILITY	247.93
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	250.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	290.89
BRADACH LUMBER	122.87
C & C WINGER, INC.	3,687.00
CARQUEST AURORA	337.12
CASPER CONSTRUCTION INC.	13,562.43
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	36.65
CHEMSEARCH	353.78
CHRISTENSEN PARTS INC.	92.39
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	458.00

COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	470.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA	90.00
DEMCO INC.	116.45
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT	34,199.08
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	647.17
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	556.50
FRONTIER	1,212.41
G & K SERVICES	55.76
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	104.05
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
H & L MESABI	1,226.00
HAWKINS INC	229.50
HOLIDAY INN ST. PAUL	318.15
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	118.80
K & K CLEANING	755.00
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC	14.86
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	298.51
METRO SALES	340.78
MICROMARKETING LLC	127.79
MIDWEST TAPE	32.12
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	5,398.37
MINNESOTA POWER	9,784.11
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	32.00
MN RURAL WATER	250.00
NORTHERN COUNTRY HEATING	6,000.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23
NORTHERN STATE BANK	9,003.82
NORTHERN STATE BANK	5,000.00
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	769.43
PORTABLE JOHN	101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	36.05
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	256.73
RAMS	700.00
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	198.12
RANGE PAPER	4,991.50
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC.	540.00
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC.	89.00
SHRED RIGHT	30.00
SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	290.33
SPRINGSTED INC.	800.00
STATE OF MINNESOTA	24.00
SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	205.55

THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	12,267.38
TOWMASTER	98.06
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
U.S. POSTMASTER	374.71
US BANK	225,920.00
VERIZON	15.26
VERIZON WIRELESS	70.04
VREELAND, CHRIS	201.18
WISCONSIN CENTRAL	327.79

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following correspondence: Aurora Chamber of Commerce welcoming letter; Minnesota Power regarding Notice of and Order for Hearing in Minnesota Power's Rate Review; Steve Nelson, Senior Planner St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department regarding CDBG Funding Recommendations; U.S. Department of Homeland Security regarding 30 Day Engineering Models Notification; Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in regard to funding for trails and recreation areas; Brian Larson MnDot District One Project Manager regarding Proposed Hwy. 135/County Road 100 Intersection Change; CLIMB THEATRE Lawful Gambling Report. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley that Councilor Worshek and Wayne Thuringer work together with the Park Committee and schedule a meeting to develop a plan for funding for trails and recreation areas before March 31st. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to request Brian Larson MnDot District One Project Manager attend the March meeting to explain reasoning and actually what they are doing. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the travel request of Jim Gentilini to attend the MPCA 80th Annual Wastewater Operator Conference, March 29-31 in Brooklyn Park, MN. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

Beth Peterson Director of Planning - AEOA is looking at expanding some senior service programs in your community and throughout Northern St. Louis County through grants that we want to submit to the Live Well at Home Grant Program from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. This grant would allow us to provide care coordinators for seniors that are homebound receiving home delivered meal service and that have need for two or more activities of daily living. This grant would allow us to expand

to check for those homes for safety and health issues. We are looking for a match for the materials for seniors who can't pay for the services. The request is for \$10,000.00. Would the city be interested in the program? I have requested out to other communities which include Hoyt Lakes/Biwabik/the Quad Cities/Cook/Orr and will be meeting with those city councils. The City would like to consider this request and will make a determination at another date.

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman – We are now 3 weeks into the Adult Winter reading program. To date, 43 adults have signed up to participate, and several folks have already won prizes. The program will run through March 3, so there's still time to sign up—and we still have sign-up incentives left!

This month, we are offering brave readers a “Blind Date With a Book.” Library staff have wrapped up several titles from the library collection and put ‘teasers’ on the cover. Anyone welcome to give an unknown book a chance is welcome to come check one out!

Last month's “Night at the Library” preschool story time went well, so we will be holding a “Night at the Library II” story time on Thursday, February 16, from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Children are welcome to come in their jammies and to bring their favorite bedtime stuffed toy or blanket.

Tim Soular wanted to make the council aware that Officer Stephanie Mathisen just graduated from the DARE Instructors training down in the cities. She was there for two weeks with pretty intense training. She will be bringing the Drug Abuse Resistance & Education Program back to Mesabi East next school year. We are excited about that as it is long overdue and the school is excited. It will be part of the Resource Officer responsibility at the school. We will do some local fundraising. The Hoyt Lakes Police Department did fund raising years ago. Will be attending the Hoyt Lakes Council meeting to request Hoyt Lakes transfer the remaining funds to the East Range police
We did have a burglary at Vision Pro Optical. We were able to arrest two suspects and executed a search warrant. Felony burglary charges have been filed.

Parking still a issue. I am surprised at the amount of tickets issued in Aurora. Not sure how to get the message across. Is a safety issue and a problem for public works for plowing.
Councilor Worshek commented on the blurb in the paper appreciating Chief Soular. He wished to express his appreciation to Tim and all the officers on good job they do. Tim stated they get a lot of support from the community.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess reviewed the list of reports from Boards & Commissions.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – December 20, 2016 Minutes; Animal Control Report – January 2017 Report; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – January 11, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – November 15, 2016 Minutes; Library Board Minutes – January 31, 2017 Minutes; Planning & Zoning – January 24, 2017 Minutes; East Mesabi Joint Water Study – May 24, 2016 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board – November 14, 2016 Minutes; Ambulance Report – 4th Quarter 2016; Aurora Cemetery Board Meeting – January 25, 2017 Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lakso and supported by Cromley to approve the Residential Improvement Permits for: Alan Braaten – 713 Arrowhead Street – replace entry door and Doane & Malinda Scheunemann – 720 Summit Street – replace window. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lakso reported salesman contacted Utility Billing Clerk Karin on a proposal to come and demonstrate software for Planning & Zoning Commission on building permits, inspections, code violations and stuff. Karin told them we don't do any inspections or code violation enforcement or anything. Is a company that sells software for Public Works and Community Development. Is a subscription based thing good for a larger city but for the few permits we do It is very expensive. Have a brochure for council to look at if interested.

Councilor Cromley reported that it is our 6th Annual Vintage Snowmobile run for Saturday, March 4th. Mayor will be there to pick her sled. Come out and support us. It is a great time. Every year it gets bigger and bigger. We do the run and a fund raiser. Will be having a Spaghetti Feed at the Legion. Welcome to come and join that as well.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess apologized for being late tonight. Had to serve as parent tonight.

I was down to the cities last week to the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. They sponsored the conference and we had the opportunity to go meet with PolyMet. We met with one of the officials, Bruce Richardson from PolyMet had a really good meeting. Everything sounds good. We talked a little bit about the lawsuits and things that might come up. I think we had a very good meeting and sounded very good. We also met with some of our legislators. We told them our needs. Don't know if there will be a bonding bill or not. We let them know what we wanted and talked about the Giants Ridge proposal. Was a good day, we accomplished something anyway.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tim Korpi requesting the city plow the walking path around Lake St. James. Public Works Director Thuringer stated he would make a real effort to get it done by end of the week.

Rudy Ceglar was present and questioned the ad in the East Range Shopper concerning the snow removal on sidewalks being the business owner's responsibility. There was some confusion on what was intended. He had to help several elderly get around the banks to get into businesses. He felt it was not the snow removal on sidewalks being the issue but rather the snowbanks. We need to support our local businesses and snow removal should be a priority. Don't know the policy as to where do they put the snow? It is a gray area as to where it should be placed. The real problem is the snowbanks. The city should remove the banks as we want to entice people to frequent our downtown business district. It is not a good way to present ourselves.

It is only February but what if anything is being looked at with the pigeon problem. Something has to be done as it is unsanitary. The council will request Chuck Williams report back as to what he has been working on to resolve the pigeon problem.

Have been complaining about why the railroad track issue with St. Louis County and CN Railroad hasn't been resolved. It was supposed to be addressed by end of summer. CN Railroad the big ostacle. What other course of action can be taken. Mayor will look into the matter.

Another issue is the blight. Cars, and junk in yards. Need to get rid of vehicles. It is embarrassing to have this blight in our city. The law and ordinances need to be enforced. Police Chief Soular stated the city has a long way to go to bring the standards up to where we are all comfortable.

Butch Ceglar questioned why there wasn't a reporter from the MDN our legal newspaper at the meetings. Would be able to read it if can't make it to the meeting or watch it on t.v. Questioned why the city is changing from City Administrator to City Clerk-Treasurer position. Who is going to do the work the Administrator did. Is the city going backwards. Mayor addressed issue. Doesn't feel we are going backwards. We need a strong financial person. The Public Works Director, ERJPB Coordinator and city council who has representation on boards will pick up the shifting of duties.

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley that Aurora is not interested in participating in forming a Regional Safety Group through the League of MN Cities at this time. MOTION CARRIED

Update on City Code Land Usage language. Mike Kearney will meet with Rod Salo and Clerk Cazin to discuss this issue. Still trying to iron out what would work. Will have discussions and keep meeting with Rod to see what we can come up with. Need to get more info from Rod.

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to appoint Jim Lakso liaison to Cemetery Board and Dave Lislegard as alternate. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to appoint Dave Cromley as liaison to the Planning & Zoning Commission for 2017. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to Adopt Resolution No. 2017 - 2 Approving An Increase in Residential and Commercial Water & Wastewater Rates Effective March 1, 2017. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to approve sponsorship of up to three (3) Attendees at the Young Leader Conference in the amount of \$150.00. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Lakso to approve Home Business License for Debra Schermann D/B/A Perfect Paws. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to table until next month the request from Leif Okstad and Rachel Breeden for use of Pine Grove Park until their plans can be discussed. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to send a letter to Karen Zeisler Tax Forfeited Land Coordinator regarding tax forfeit property 100-0077-00420 and 100-0077-00540 that the city would be interested in these parcels for the price of \$500.00 each. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve hiring of Tyler Ritter and Todd Sampson as Basketball Referees at \$15.00 per game contingent on background check. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Lakso to appoint Councilor Lislegard, Councilor Worshek, Linda Cazin, Wayne Thuringer and Paula Chapman as the Interview Committee for City Clerk-Treasurer position. MOTION CARRIED

Next Regular Council meeting date: March 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Cazin, Interim City Clerk-Treasurer