

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Lakso, Cromley

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Clerk; Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief; 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 –** Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – February 5, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – February 12, 2019
- 6. Approval of Receipts –** February 2019 – \$115,913.51
- 7. Approval for Payment –** Disbursements for February 2019 – \$218,617.72
Payroll for February 2019 – \$60,067.95
- 8. Correspondence –** Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce – Capitol Days.
Northern Natural Gas – notification of facilities.
David Dorn, Special Olympics Minnesota – request for donation.
Karen Zeisler, St. Louis County Land and Minerals Dept. –
classification of State tax forfeited land.
Al Becicka, Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and
Rehabilitation – release of mortgage for Cina Properties, LLC.
Barb Cederberg, Gopher State One Call – Notice to Local
Governmental Units.
League of Minnesota Cities – C.C. Ludwig Award and James F.
Miller Leadership Award nomination form and 2019 City of
Excellence Award nomination form.
- 9. Travel and Training –** Becky Lammi – MCFOA Institute, May 6-10, 2019 in St. Cloud.
- 12. Community Comments –** 10/30/2018 – Lighting in Pine Grove Park.
Resolution: The City Council has approved purchase of lights
from Minnesota Power.
01/30/2018 – Blight complaint – 102 W. 3rd Ave. N.
Resolution: ERPD has received the complaint and is
investigating.

02/28/2018 – Snow berm on S. 3rd St. E.
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint.

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

Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – December 10,
2018

Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – January 4, 2019

East Range Joint Powers Board – January 22, 2019

Aurora Library Board – January 29, 2019

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – February 13, 2019

Aurora Cemetery Board Special Meeting – February 20, 2019

MOTION CARRIED.

1st Ayd Corporation	121.08
ACTIVAR PLASTIC PRODUCTS GROUP	48.91
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP	375.00
AMPTEK INC.	2,230.44
APG MEDIA OF MN	70.90
AT & T MOBILITY	211.34
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	485.11
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	356.10
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	346.58
BRADACH LUMBER	176.57
CARQUEST AURORA	1,364.24
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
CINTAS	46.80
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	3,630.00
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	3,403.65
COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES	.00V
COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES	.00V
COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES	100.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	740.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	52.25
CW TECHNOLOGY	1,684.00
DEMCO INC.	138.04
DISTINGUISHED TROPHY COMPANY	48.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	33,365.88
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	552.90
ECONO SIGNS LLC	393.16
EVELETH FLORAL CO. & GREENHOUSE, INC	60.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	163.44
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	1,144.30
FRONTIER	909.34
FSSOLUTIONS	302.20

GALE	20.14
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	1.35
HAWKINS INC.	1,205.20
HOMETOWN FOCUS.US	41.95
K & K CLEANING	495.00
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	60.00
LMCIT	51,610.00
LUNDGREN MOTORS INC.	463.05
MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	875.89
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	98.83
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	239.93
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	2,116.38
METRO SALES	476.50
MICROMARKETING LLC	155.47
MIDWEST TAPE	110.21
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	7,135.03
MINNESOTA POWER	9,930.38
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATION S	349.80
MITEL	433.54
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	1,346.00
MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	200.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF HIBBING	208.05
PORTABLE JOHN	101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	130.79
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	324.09
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	82.07
RANGE PAPER	136.45
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	12,760.01
REVIZE LLC	700.00

RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	1,688.01
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	56.00
SHRED RIGHT	15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	15.76
SYNCHRONY BANK	261.55
AMAZON	
THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	13,592.95

TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	500.00
U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
U.S. POSTMASTER 1	210.10
VERIZON	15.19
VERIZON WIRELESS	35.01
WARREN, PATRICIA OR WILLIAM	396.19
ZIEGLER INC.	183.66
Z-TECH	29.00

APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Carol Haasl – Anchor of Hope

Mrs. Haasl submitted a letter requesting use of the city streets and barricade of related streets, as well as waiver of the rental fee for the community center for a breast cancer 5K fundraiser being held on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve request for use of city streets and barricades on Saturday, May 18, 2019 and waive the rental fee for the community center on the same day. MOTION CARRIED.

Chasica and Bobbie – Celebrate Aurora

Members of the Celebrate Aurora Committee requested gambling funds in the amount of \$5,000 to go towards kids’ entertainment and games for Aurora Patriotic Days.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to donate \$5,000 of gambling funds to Celebrate Aurora for Aurora Patriotic Days. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Dave Worshek

March will be another active month at the library! Next week, a 7-week art class for upper elementary students will begin. Reading Corps volunteer Jamie Herzmann is teaching the class, and the Aurora Friends of the Library are sponsoring it. To date, 8 students have signed up; there are 2 open slots remaining if any 3rd-7th grade students are interested. The class will meet on Tuesday’s from 4:00-6:00 at the library, starting March 12 and concluding April 23. The library and the Aurora Friends of the Library will host a reception for the students, with a display of their work, at the library on Tuesday, April 30.

A new book club will hold an organizational meeting at the library on Thursday, March 14 at 6:00 pm. Anyone who might be interested is invited to come!

The following week, one of the Friends of the Library will visit Carefree Living for a presentation about Judy Garland—a topic they requested. Additionally, the library will be bringing Minnesota author Ryan Schroeder to Mesabi East to present his book “The Colors of Minnesota” to the early childhood classes. This program is funded through Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Finally, for any who would like to see this year's Academy Award-winning movies—the titles not already owned by the library have been ordered and should begin arriving this month.

Police Chief – Tim Soular

There was a little bit of action on 2nd Ave. N. in Aurora. Citizens should remember to stay back and stay away for their own safety; the incident was resolved peacefully. The department has hired a new officer, Brent Mathison, who begins at the end of the month. Officer Chiaverini sang the national anthem at a hockey game over the weekend; it is gaining good traction on Facebook and Chief Soular hopes to utilize social media more in the future.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek –

He appreciates having the resource officer in the school. Councilor Worshek stated security glass has been installed in the Clerk's Office and there are some additional funds going towards security updates in the building. Hopes to have a Park Committee meeting soon, as Caring for Kids has some funds for a park they would like to use this year. RAMS has been focusing on Broadband across the range.

Councilor Lakso –

Blanding Foundation meeting on February 20 went well. It was more of a classroom style. Hopefully a \$75,000 grant was secured for broadband funding. Rural broadband issues were brought up and a lot was learned about them.

Councilor Cromley –

A few applications are on file for firefighter; would like to do interviews within the next month. Departments everywhere are struggling to find members. Caring for Kids is looking at remodeling East End Park, and they have another project planned for two years. The 8th Annual Vin Run went well – 154 sleds were registered. An ad was overlooked in the shopper, but the spaghetti feed still had a good turn out.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Testified at a State Senate hearing on Representative Lislegard's bill for \$4.5 million for dewatering three area mine pits – including the St. James. Governor Walz is looking to restore LGA to 2002 levels, which would increase the statewide LGA by \$30 million. There was a range mayor's meeting sponsored by RAMS. The joint water committee has been meeting and hopefully there will be some action down the line. April 18 is the Volunteer Recognition Event – details to follow.

OLD BUSINESS

Pinpoint Holdings has not responded to the letter regarding the Lake County Connections Purchase. No Action.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to hire Bolton and Menk for the Waste Water Digestor repair. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve purchase of exterior lights for the Community Center from AMPTEK. MOTION CARRIED.

The council would like to discuss the vacancy applications at greater length and will hold a special meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to support a combined recreation director position for \$10,000 per year, contingent on further clarification and a final contract approval. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lakso supported by Cromley to approve 2018 year end transfers. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to direct City Clerk Lammi to begin the process for vacating Railroad Avenue again, with the corrected language. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution 2019-07 Declaring April Sexual Assault Awareness Month. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to deny D1 Athletics request for funds for the old Tacora Theatre, and to pass his information along to the ERJPB. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to direct City Clerk Lammi and City Attorney Kearney to investigate the dedication of the park on parcel 100-0053-00360. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo from the Knights of Columbus Council 4477 on 04/07/2019 and 10/27/2019. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve purchase of the 64 niche columbarium as recommended by the Cemetery Board in the amount of \$24,944.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to deny C&C Winger's request to hire Public Works to sweep streets for the ISD 2711 Athletics Complex project. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Gregor called for a special meeting to be held on Friday, March 15, 2019 at 10:00 am at the City/Town Government Center.

Next Regular Meeting: April 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City/Town Government Center

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Clerk