

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, March 10, 2020
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Lakso

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

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:

5. Approval of Minutes –
 - 5.1 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – February 4, 2020
 - 5.2 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – February 18, 2019
6. Approval of Receipts –
 - 6.1 February 2020 – \$157,203.95
7. Approval for Payment –
 - 7.1 Disbursements for February 2020 – \$205,320.25
 - 7.2 Payroll for February 2020 – \$60,494.75
8. Correspondence –
 - 8.1 Hoyt Lakes Water Carnival Committee – Request for sponsorship.
9. Travel and Training –
12. Community Comments –
 - 12.1 07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
 - 12.2 07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2nd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
 - 12.3 07/02/2019 – Blight concern on in alley on 200 block between W 2nd Ave and W 3rd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
 - 12.4 07/05/2019 – Blight concern at 312 S. Main St.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
 - 12.5 07/19/2019 – Pot holes between 3rd Ave W and 4th Ave W, and 1st Ave S.
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.
 - 12.6 07/22/2019 – Road repair at 324 S 1st St E.
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

- 12.7 07/23/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.8 07/25/2019 – Blight concern at 321 W 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.9 07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1st Ave N.
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.10 07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2nd form.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.11 08/20/2019 – Blight concern on 709 Summit Street.
Resolution: City Council has received the complaint.
- 12.12 08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 321 W. 2nd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.13 09/13/2019 – Blight concern 200 S 6th St E.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.14 09/20/2019 – Blight concern on 20 Erie St.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.15 09/30/2019 – Construction issue on S. 3rd St. W.
Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 12.16 11/08/2019 – Blight concern at 315 W. 4th Ave. N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
- 13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –
 - 13.1 East Range Joint Powers Board – January 28, 2020
 - 13.2 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – February 12, 2020
 - 13.3 Aurora Public Library Board – January 20, 2020

Motion carried unanimously.

AHRENS INSURANCE AGENCY	\$ 798.56
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 1,818.87
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP	\$ 375.00
AMPTEK INC.	\$ 1,164.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 163.13
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 171.37
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 541.16
BENCO EQUIPMENT	\$ 296.00
BISS LOCK INC.	\$ 15.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 559.50
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$ 19,169.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 121.36
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSIO	\$ 60.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 148.26
CENGAGE LEARNING INC / GALE	\$ 44.83
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 2,879.34
CINTAS	\$ 535.78
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 3,630.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 2,512.50
CORE & MAIN LP	\$ 6,578.09
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,576.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 35,547.32
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 106.25
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$ 821.00
FINANCE & cOMMERCE, iNC	\$ 330.97
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	\$ 1,100.00
FRONTIER	\$ 871.24
FSSOLUTIONS	\$ 500.00
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 9.45

GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 241.85
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 117.42
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 203.36
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 88.33
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITES	\$ 149.00
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES INSURANCE TRUST WC	\$ 56,153.00
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 83.36
MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 206.00
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 3,438.74
METRO SALES	\$ 278.13
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 98.98
Mid-State Truck Service	\$ 65.34
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$ 2,165.00
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTR	\$ 200.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 4,502.68
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 9,239.20
MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS	\$ 6,531.90
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATION S	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 172.92
MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	\$ 1,450.00
MSA SAFETY SALES LLC.	\$ 1,360.00
NORTHERN ENGINE & SUPPLY INC.	\$ 282.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF HIBBING	\$ 393.75
PETTY CASH	\$ 4.60
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 101.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 111.99

RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 91.28
RANGE PAPER	\$ 140.43
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,315.00
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION	\$ 1,019.87
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 112.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SNAP-ON TOOLS	\$ 676.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.74

THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 28,727.26
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 215.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	\$ 250.00
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 830.46
UTILITY SYSTEMS OF AMERICA, IN	\$ 32,537.61
VERIZON	\$ 15.41
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 35.01
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	\$ 82.11
ZIEGLER INC.	\$ 220.27

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

Rudy Ceglar –

Mr. Ceglar inquired about a home which was damaged in a fire. City Administrator Lammi indicated action was required to be taken 180 days from the date of the insurance payout. Mr. Ceglar also had questions

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Public Works – Wayne Thuringer

The skating rink is now closed for the season. A new emergency siren has been installed near the fire hall.

Library – Paula Chapman

This year's Adult Winter Reading Program has reached its conclusion. In the end, 43 adults signed up to participate. They reported reading at least 460 library books, audiobooks, ebooks, and magazines during the program.

This morning, the Becky Schlegel Trio presented a wonderful program of original, classic country, and bluegrass music! The library partnered with Essentia Health-Northern Pines and offered the concert onsite there, so residents could easily attend, but the event was also open to the public. At least 47 adults, including residents and staff at Northern Pines as well as members of the public, were in attendance. All spoke well of the concert, which included a special "happy birthday" song for a resident and a guest appearance by a Northern Pines staff member for one piece.

Coming up, the Aurora Public Library is again borrowing scanning equipment from the Minnesota Digital Library and will be offering another round of "Scan for Keeps" from March 24-26. Anyone can sign up for a 1-hour time slot and bring in slides, photo negatives, photos, and documents to have scanned and saved to a flash drive. We still one time slot open!

Also this month, the informal book group will next meet at the library on Thursday, March 19, at 2:00 pm. New members as well as drop-in's are welcome! Finally, library will host a dinosaur-themed preschool play date at the library on Friday, March 27, at 11:30 am."

Spruce Up Aurora – Jan Moore

Community Members are encouraged to volunteer.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs is excited to see the new emergency siren go in. She also stated the East Range Police Department is doing a great job.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek inquired about the drainage issue by Lakehead/Greenhouse/EVFCU. City Administrator Lammi stated a quote of approximately \$600,000 was received to correct the drainage in the area. Public Works Director Thuringer stated the department will work on the ditch on the west side this spring. Councilor Worshek indicated the railroad crossing is getting rough again. He also stated RAMS would be meeting with Congressman Stauber on Monday.

Councilor Honkola

Thank you to those members of the community who are picking up trash.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor stated there will be an insert put into the East Range Shopper next week in hopes of improving transparency. On April 2nd, there will be an event recognizing the work of our volunteers. Splashpad is short \$58k from full funding goal; contributions are still very much welcome! The Childcare Taskforce had a meeting, where the school reported that they are trying to get their need survey completed.

OLD BUSINESS

City Administrator Lammi reviewed the sanitation request and information. No action taken.

Moved by Gregor to table the discussion of the combination specialist II position to the June 2020 meeting. Motion fails for lack of support.

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to keep the Combination Specialist II position, and to lose one personnel through attrition at a later date. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Allen gave a brief updated on the Mesabi East Schools and Athletics Complex.

Moved item 17.7 to allow Superintendent Allen to comment.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve the Mesabi East Schools and Bradach quit claim deed, subject to the attorney committing to record Bradach's request to quit claim the deed to Mesabi East Schools and not themselves. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to have the homeowners, Public Works Director Thuringer, Councilor Worshek, Councilor Jofs, and City Administrator Lammi discuss possible options for the drainage issue at W. 3rd Ave. S. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve contracting with Guardian Pest Solutions for removal of pigeons, with a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00.

Ayes: Honkola, Jofs, Gregor

Nays: Worshek

Motion carries.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to direct the City Attorney to amend animal ordinance regarding pigeons, and direct the City Administrator and City Attorney to write an overall pigeon control plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to approve Ordinance 86 Amending Chapter 94: Cemetery Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve Aurora Chamber of Commerce dues in the amount of \$300.00 for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve payment to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$51,890.90 for the 2nd St E/1st St W project. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to table the purchase of a boiler for the Aurora Fire Department Fire Hall until additional quotes are received. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve the Home Occupation Conditional Use License for Perfect Paws for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to approve the LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Lawful Gambling for Celebrate Aurora for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to approve the LG240B Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for the Knights of Columbus Council 4477 for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve the Volunteer Day Proclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to post summer student hire advertisement for 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to direct City Administrator Lammi to research grants, funding, and information for a campground. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to advertise the opening on the Parks Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to call a public hearing for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 pm to hear comments on the Facility Plan for the Waste Water Plant in accordance with PFA funding regulation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to close City Hall from 7:30 to 1:00 on June 10, 2020 for OSHA training. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to hire Carrie Braaten for 12 hours per week at \$13.00 per hour, with pro-rata sick and vacation benefits, for the Library Circulation Clerk position, contingent on background check. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to hire Erik Olson, Andrew Collins, and Adam Slayden as paid-on-call Firefighters pending background check. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola and supported by Worshek to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator