

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Gregor, Lakso, Mayor Lislegard

ABSENT: Councilor Cromley

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer;
Mike Patchin, City Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the following minutes as presented:
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on February 1, 2018; Regular City of Aurora Council
Meeting held on February 5, 2018. MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

**Moved by Gregor and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for February 2018 in the
amount of \$102,149.74 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the disbursements for February 2018
in the amount of \$132,823.07 and Payroll in the amount of \$80,487.60. MOTION CARRIED**

Advanced Minnesota	\$75.00	Burgher Office Equipment Company	\$500.00
American Bank of the North	\$95.32	C & C Winger Inc.	\$10,687.50
American Bank of the North	\$471.62	CarQuest Aurora	\$61.60
American Bank of the North	\$303.25	CarQuest Aurora	\$308.62
American Bank of the North	\$219.88	City of Hoyt Lakes	\$350.00
American Bank of the North	\$390.00	City of Hoyt Lakes	\$3,280.00
American Legal Publishing Corporation	\$375.00	Climate Air Inc.	\$1,437.90
Amptek Inc.	\$476.20	Colosimo Patchin Kearney LTD	\$470.00
APG Media of MN	\$59.77	Colosimo Patchin Kearney LTD	\$690.00
AT&T Mobility	\$277.50	Culligan of Northeast MN	\$37.75
Aurora Chamber of Commerce	\$250.00	CW Technology	\$161.25
Aurora Fire Department	\$200.00	DeKalb-Richville Fire District	\$20,000.00
Baker & Taylor	\$505.37	Distinguished Trophy Company	\$227.50
Benco Equipment West Fargo	\$1,236.50	East Range Police Department	\$30,767.81
Biss Lock Inc.	\$586.50	East Range Shopper	\$333.45
BlueCross & BlueShield of MN &		Essentia Health	\$60.00
BluePlus	\$108.30	Fire Safety U.S.A.	\$488.50
Bradach Lumber	\$543.10	Frontier	\$1,081.37

FSSolutions	\$250.00	Pappas Machine Shop	\$4,347.00
G&K Services	\$46.80	Petty Cash	\$159.90
G&K Services	\$46.80	Portable John	\$101.00
Gopher State One Call	\$18.45	Praxair Distribution Inc.	\$1,986.34
Grande Ace Hardware	\$4.95	RAMS	\$700.00
Guardian Post Solutions Inc.	\$35.00	Range Office Supply	\$129.05
Johnstone Supply	\$315.15	Range Paper	\$87.02
K & K Cleaning	\$495.00	Service Solutions	\$89.00
L & M Virginia	\$699.99	Service Solutions Inc.	\$89.00
LaValley, Chad	\$134.03	Shred Right	\$15.00
LMCIT WC	\$2,282.00	Shred Right	\$15.00
Manion Foods	\$494.91	Skubic Bros. International	\$150.82
Menards Virginia	\$133.00	Skubic Bros. International	\$350.62
Menards Virginia	\$18.96	Springsted Incorporated	\$800.00
Metro Sales Inc.	\$327.78	The Control Company	\$480.00
MicroMarketing LLC	\$156.76	Tomahawk Ford	\$13,568.97
Minnesota Energy Resources	\$5,573.27	U.S. Post Office	\$313.45
Minnesota Power	\$10,161.85	U.S. Post Office	\$312.88
Minnesota Telecommunications	\$349.80	U.S. Postal Service	\$250.00
MN Department of Health	\$1,416.00	Verizon	\$15.50
MN Dept of Labor and Industry	\$200.00	Verizon Wireless	\$35.01
Northern Engine & Supply	\$116.16	Vivid Design	\$22.82
Northern State Bank	\$6,250.23	Vreeland, Chris	\$201.18
Pace Analytical Services Inc.	\$962.20	Ziegler Inc.	\$997.86

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following correspondence: Vermilion Community College regarding Tour of Wastewater Facility; Minnesota Department of Health regarding Quarterly Report TOC/Alkalinity Monitoring; St. Louis County regarding Classification of State tax forfeited land to non-conservation – Board Resolution #18-66. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS
NONE

PUBLIC FORUM
NONE

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Councilor Worshek delivered the library report on behalf of Librarian Paula Chapman. Last month's programs went well as there were good groups of people enjoying Mary Mulari's presentation of vintage aprons, learning about and creating Rangoli Sand Art, and hearing the background of Cloquet author Katherine Johnson's recent novel "The Wind and the Drum." The library continues to acquire books by Minnesota authors as well as regular additions to each of the other collections. Many of this year's Academy award-winning movies are now available for check out or to add to your holds list and more of those winning titles are on order and should arrive soon. There is a full slate of events lined up for April. Robin Anders will present "Drums and Percussions of the World" at 1:00 on April 10; the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet will perform on April 19 at 6:30 pm at Carefree Living, Aurora, and the Friends of the Library will hold their Spring Mini Book Sale on April 26, 27, and 30 during regular library hours.

City Clerk Tim Kauppi reported on behalf of Police Chief Tim Soular. Chief Soular noted the speed limit changes by the Holiday Store on the south side of town and on 3rd Avenue North when entering and leaving town on the west. Chief Soular contacted Saint Louis County and was told that the road was thoroughly engineered and that the changes would be safer and more efficient for traffic. Chief Soular expressed his concerns and stated that his department will watch the activity in these areas over the next 30 to 45 days and then follow up. Chief Soular is also working on the proposed deer hunt for the city and has begun working with the DNR. There is a lot of work to make this happen and it requires a lot of work by the DNR as well. Chief Soular also reported that work has begun on the new Emergency Operations Plan.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Lislegard reviewed the list of the following reports from Boards and Commissions.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – January 23, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department - February 14, 2018 Minutes; Celebrate Aurora Committee – January 10, 2018 Minutes; Celebrate Aurora Committee – February 6, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Library Board - February 27, 2018 Minutes; East Range Community Advisory Panel, January 11, 2018 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board, January 8, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; January 16, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – January 16, 2018 Minutes; Range Association of Municipalities and Schools Board Meeting - December 28, 2017 Minutes; Range Association of Municipalities and Schools Annual Membership Meeting - January 10, 2018 Minutes; Range Association of Municipalities and Schools Board Meeting - January 25, 2018 Minutes.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to accept the resignation of Sarah Koski from the Library Board and to have Librarian Paula Chapman send Ms. Koski a thank you letter for her service. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to accept the recommendations of the library board to appoint Mary Lockwood and Nancy Harp to the Library Board. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to accept the resignation of Tyler Rytty from the Aurora Fire Department. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek congratulated the Mesabi East Girls basketball team on going to state and to all of the other athletes who made it to state in other sports as well. Councilor Worshek noted the success of this year's Vintage Snowmobile Run hosted by the fire department as there were 139 entries. He also noted his recent work on the park committee and that group's efforts to find a location for a new skate park.

Councilor Gregor also congratulated the Mesabi East Girls basketball team and commended city residents for their efforts to keep fire hydrants accessible with all of the recent snow. He also thanked the city council and city staff for their patience in getting him situated in his new role.

Councilor Lakso commented on the speed limit issue that was presented in the Police Chief's report and expressed his concern for raising the speed limit on the west side of town by the credit union. He also commented on how the city street lights are slowly being replaced to LED fixtures which should save the city money in lower power costs. Councilor Lakso thanks the public works department for their work in clearing the streets and sidewalks after the recent snow storms. He also inquired with the public works department about a sizable crack in the street near his home and was wondering what could be the cause. Public Works Director Thuringer said he will look into it.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Lislegard reported that the city continues to work with the Town of White on a joint water project and that a lot of work has taken place in an attempt to receive \$8M in bonding. He noted that there are some concerns with the recent Town of White vote that need to be discussed with the Town and that those items will be set for a special meeting later this month. The mayor also reported that the land exchange with the school continues to move forward and noted that it is time consuming because of a lot of moving parts. He also reported that the city sign coming into town may have a private donor willing to invest in creating a new sign and said he would report more on this subject soon. The mayor discussed the blight issue and explained that all residents need to take care of their possessions and if you are not able to remove junk or other types of blight, please ask someone to help. The mayor also discussed his relationship with RAMS and they are going to assemble a group to meet with local judges to address the blight issue from an enforcement standpoint. Finally, the mayor provided an update regarding negotiations and progress regarding the Polymet project.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to table Final Pay Estimate No. 2 to Utility Systems of America, Inc for the 1st Street West Improvements project for \$3,125.37 until the spring so the city public works department and the engineering company can inspect the work before approving the payment. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to table approving the logging contract with Doug Hustad Logging until the school determines the final amount of land needed for the athletic facility project and the city can assess what timber should be removed. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve putting a notice in next month's water bill that asks residents to refrain from feeding the pigeons. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to have Wayne Thuringer amend the water appropriation permit issued by the DNR last year for increased levels of pumping of the St. James Pit and to look into pricing for more permanent pumping options. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to table the request to approve the drainage for the new Mesabi East athletic facility until Larson Engineering can present the proposal at a Special Meeting during the last week in March. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to send a letter to the individual who requested the installation of a light in the recycling center at the city garage location explaining that the city will not be installing a light in that area. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the transfer of the following councilor duties to Doug Gregor: Cemetery Board Liaison from David Lislegard; Fire Department Liaison from Dave Cromley; Planning and Zoning from Dave Cromley; Chamber of Commerce Representative from David Lislegard; Insurance Committee from David Lislegard; and adding Doug Gregor to the Strategic Planning Committee. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to allow the fire department and the city clerk's office to begin the process of selling the 1974 International fire truck. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo by the Knights of Columbus on April 15, 2018 and October 28, 2018 at the Holy Rosary Church. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to adopt Resolution 2018-08 Regarding Participation by Douglas Gregor in matters relating to Colosimo, Patchin, and Kearney. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to adopt Resolution 2018-09 Regarding Cooperative Agreement with St. Louis County on 1st Street West Storm Sewer Project. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2018-10 Approving County Project within Municipal Limits. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution 2018-11 Supporting the Minnesota DNR granting funds to the Ranger Snowmobile/ATV Club to procure equipment for maintenance of the Seven Beavers Trail. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Gregor and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2018-12 Authorizing the City of Aurora to Make Application To and Accept Funds from the IRRRB Community Infrastructure Program. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Gregor and supported by Lislegard to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month that allows the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St Louis County to install teal ribbons on

the light poles along Main Street for the entire month and for the city to publish the proclamation in the East Range Shopper. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to schedule a Special Meeting of the Aurora City on Thursday, March 29th at 5:00 pm in the City/Town Government Center. MOTION CARRIED

Attorney Mike Patchin discussed the effect of the Town of White vote on Tuesday, March 13th. He explained that basically nothing changes other than two notable items. City of Aurora residents can no longer hold positions on the Town of White Board and City of Aurora residents can no longer vote in Town of White elections.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

David Lislegard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer