

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council**  
**City/Town Government Center**  
**Tuesday, April 2, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Lakso, Cromley, Jofs

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Clerk; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Paula Chapman, Aurora Librarian; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the following consent agenda items:**

- 5. Approval of Minutes –** Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 5, 2019  
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 20, 2019
  
- 6. Approval of Receipts –** March 2019 – \$98,677.35
  
- 7. Approval for Payment –** Disbursements for March 2019 – \$117,130.30  
Payroll for March 2019 – \$60,062.66
  
- 8. Correspondence –** Lance Johnson, Aurora Chamber of Commerce  
David Rindal, Minnesota Department of Health – Quarterly Report, TOC/Alkalinity Monitoring for the Control of Disinfection Byproduct Precursors, Aurora, St. Louis County  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – NPDES Permit Compliance Summary for 10/01/2017-09/30/2018
  
- 9. Travel and Training –** Doug Gregor – League of Minnesota Cities Mayors Association Annual Conference, April 26-27, 2019 in Stillwater, MN.  
Becky Lammi – League of Minnesota Cities Conference, June 26-28, 2019 in Duluth, MN.
  
- 12. Community Comments –** 10/30/2018 – Lighting in Pine Grove Park.  
Resolution: The City Council has approved purchase of lights from Minnesota Power.  
01/30/2018 – Blight complaint – 102 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.  
Resolution: ERPD has received the complaint and spoken to the homeowner. The homeowner feels he is being harassed.  
02/28/2018 – Snow berm on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. E.  
Resolution: Public Works has inspected; the berm is caused by lack of snow removal on the private driveway.  
03/06/2018 – Snow removal damage – 412 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E.

Resolution: Public Works has discussed the issue with the loader operator, will assess damage once snow melts.

03/11/2019 – Plow truck damaged mailbox – 102 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St. W.

Resolution: Public Works will repair when the snow melts; mailbox is not up to legal City Code; will send proper City Code mailbox guideline.

03/13/2018 – Blight complaint – 107 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. W.

Resolution: ERPD has received the complaint and is investigating.

03/14/2019– Large amounts of snow being plowed on to private property – 5195 Highway 110.

Resolution: ERPD has spoken with the hospital.

03/19/2018 – Pigeons and recycle containers.

Resolution: Public Works and ERPD have received the complaint and are investigating.

03/26/2018 – Blight concerns – 318 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N.

Resolution: The ERPD has received the complaint and is investigating.

03/26/2018 – Deer population concern.

Resolution: The City Council has received the complaint.

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

East Range Public Safety Board – February 11, 2019  
Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – February 12, 2019

East Range Joint Powers Board – February 26, 2019  
Planning and Zoning Commission – February 26, 2019

Aurora Library Board – February 28, 2019

East Range Public Safety Board – March 11, 2019

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – March 13, 2019

Aurora Library Board – March 21, 2019

**MOTION CARRIED.**

ACTIVAR PLASTIC PRODUCTS GROUP	204.01
ADVANCED MINNESOTA	1,370.00
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	2,604.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	211.87
AT & T MOBILITY	211.34
AT&T MOBILITY	253.05
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	421.71
BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC.	7,615.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	118.70
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	4.58
BRADACH LUMBER	141.60
C & C WINGER, INC.	3,481.00
CARQUEST AURORA	469.18
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	8.27
CINTAS	46.80
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	2,605.22
COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES	100.00
COLD SPRING GRANITE COMPANY	8,231.52
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	498.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	1,175.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	78.75
CW TECHNOLOGY	2,900.75
EAST RANGE DAC	50.00
EAST RANGE FIRE DEPT. COALITIO	100.00
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS	3,750.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	33,726.00
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	680.08
ESSENTIA HEALTH	25.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	83.83
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	550.00
FRONTIER	805.39
GALE/CENGAGE LEARNING	102.65
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	5.40

GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	140.00
HAWKINS INC.	222.35
ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	154.22
IRON RANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	12.00
K & K CLEANING	495.00
KRISTOPHER DICKINSON	123.19
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	906.66
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	240.00
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	61.20
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	2,875.66
MAIL FINANCE	217.80
MANION FOODS	574.57
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	245.41
MESABI DAILY NEWS	206.00
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	2,317.42
METRO SALES	353.74
MICROMARKETING LLC	122.37
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	5,392.83
MINNESOTA POWER	7,328.08
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80
MITEL	171.78
PETERSEN DRILLING INC	1,103.75
PORTABLE JOHN	201.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	109.66
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	207.88
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	198.76
RANGE PAPER	74.32
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	19,514.71
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	1,240.00
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION	3,069.96
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	112.00
SHRED RIGHT	15.00
ST. GERMAINS GLASS COMPANY	2,985.00
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	490.00

ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	13,355.50
STATE OF MINNESOTA	24.00
SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	170.96
THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	12,839.87
U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00

ULTIMATE SAFETY CONCEPTS INC.	320.82
USA BLUE BOOK	136.58
VERIZON	15.19
VERIZON WIRELESS	35.01
WARREN, PATRICIA OR WILLIAM	396.19
WEVE-FM	266.00
ZIEGLER INC.	710.40

**APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM**

Beth Pierce, Tony Jefferies – Iron Range Tourism Board

Beth and Tony presented information on the benefits of the Iron Range Tourism Board, including: their funding of 3% lodging tax, service of communities from Hibbing to Hoyt Lakes; trails taskforce; area representation; reorganization of board; increased community involvement – attract, retrain, and retain.

Jacie Cherro, Susie Parkhurst – Caring for Kids

Jacie presented information on their remodel of the East End Park for 2019. The estimated cost is \$41,203.57. Caring for Kids is requesting a \$5,000 donation from the City, with the remaining costs being paid by Caring for Kids. They would like the removal to occur prior to mid-May 2019, so the new equipment can be installed this summer. The City commitments would be the \$5,000 donation plus City Public Works time. Councilor Worshek stated there is a Park Meeting on April 15; the park will be discussed further at that time. Requested City Clerk Lammi add this topic to the special meeting agenda for April 2019.

Susie presented information for one of the long-term plans of Caring for Kids – they would like to put a splash pad in Pine Grove Park in 2020. They estimate installation costs at approximately \$100,000. City Clerk Lammi stated she spoke with the City of Hibbing and the estimated cost to run a splash pad is \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year.

Cory Winger – C&C Winger

Cory introduced himself as the owner of C&C Winger; his company won the bid for the Mesabi East Athletics Complex project. He asked if they would be able to use the dirt haul road between the school property and Scheuring’s to haul material, instead of traveling on the city road.

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to allow C&C Winger to use the haul road to move material between Mesabi East and Scheuring Speed Sports. MOTION CARRIED.**

Lance DeMent

Lance requested forgiveness of the assessment against the properties he recently purchased in Holland and Sunset Acres Additions. The council took no action to forgive the assessments.

Lance also had questions as to if the city plans to extend Erie Street under as platted. The council deferred to Public Works Director Thuringer and City Clerk Lammi to research and get back to Mr. DeMent.

Al Hodnik

Mr. Hodnik presented information in regard to a donation he would like to make to the city to improve park and recreation facilities and the Aurora welcome sign located on the west side of the community.

**Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2019-08 Accepting Donation for Park & Recreation Facilities, pavilion roof, and City Sign. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Paula Chapman

April is starting off the way it will continue, with lots going on at the library this month!

Earlier today, the library brought Minnesota author Mary Casanova into the school; she shared her own story as well as some of her books with our Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students.

The 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Elementary Art class is meeting at the library right now, working on a project exploring color. There are 3 class sessions remaining. At the end of the month, on Tuesday, April 30, from 5:00-6:00 pm, the students' art work will be on display, and the Aurora Friends of the Library will host a reception honoring the student artists. Please come!

The Aurora Friends of the Library Spring Mini Book Sale starts next week. It will run at the library during regular library hours on Thursday, April 11; Friday, April 12; and Monday, April 15. This sale will include hundreds of hardback and paperback fiction and nonfiction titles for adults, as well as some children's nonfiction titles and many magazines. There are no set prices; the Friends simply ask that you make a donation.

The new book club will hold their second meeting at the library on Thursday, April 11, at 6:00 pm as well. This group decided to start out with a different structure. Rather than reading and discussing the same book, everyone who comes is simply asked to briefly talk about a book you are reading or have recently read, so drop-in members are always welcome. Be prepared to leave with a list of titles you might like to read next!

The Aurora Public Library, in partnership with the Arrowhead Library System, is starting a new Reading Ready initiative—"1000 Days of Reading Before Kindergarten." Parents and caregivers can sign up their pre-kindergarten-age children, the younger the better. The children will receive a small incentive for every 100 days someone reads to them at least 15 minutes a day.

And finally, next week is National Volunteer Week. I am thankful for each and every person who volunteers at the Aurora Public Library; we couldn't do everything we do without them. I hope to see all of them, as well as the many others who volunteer throughout the City, at the volunteer social later this month!

Police Chief – Tim Soular

There have been reports of large numbers of deer in town. Aurora has had an ordinance restricting the feeding of deer, however, that has not reduced the number of deer in town. There is difficulty with hunting in Aurora as there isn't much wooded or open land.

**Moved by Cromley supported by Lakso to authorize Chief Soular to speak with the DNR on the City of Aurora's behalf in regard to a potential DNR sponsored archery deer hunt. MOTION CARRIED.**

City Clerk – Becky Lammi

The recreation position was added as an addendum to the agenda; the contract and job description was reviewed and approved by the committee and the City Attorney.

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs –

Councilor Jofs has been reaching out to businesses to bring them in to the area. One franchise in particular has responded after quite some time. She would like to thank the council for giving her the chance to serve.

Councilor Worshek –

Welcome Norma Jean! He has concerns on the broadband meeting with the St. Louis County Board and requests Mayor Gregor speak to that. There's a new resource officer in the school. The East Range Public Safety Board has been pushing Chief Soular to hire an administrative assistant and sergeant. The new officer will start in the middle of April. Councilor Worshek requested an update on the waste water plant digester. Public Works Director Thuringer stated there is a forensic accountant with the LMCIT meeting within the next few days; the inability to remove the material is becoming an issue. Councilor Worshek indicates it is exciting to see things happening at the school.

Councilor Lakso –

There was an issue with the water system on Saturday; he would like additional information from Public Works Director Thuringer on what took place. Public Works Director Thuringer stated the system was failing, so the water tower emptied; this caused a temporary loss in water for the community.

Councilor Cromley –

The Tri-City Ambulance meeting went well. ALS paramedics are working hard to maintain the program. There is a transition of Jim Theodore and bringing someone new through the ranks. Currently 25 staff; there may be an increase in the future. The fire department is hiring. Please remember crosswalks. Public Works did a great job all winter; let's get through repair without issue.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

There was a disappointing response from one member of the St. Louis County Board when Mayor Gregor presented about broadband, but there was an overall positive feeling to the meeting. There are a number of meetings around broadband in the area. There is legislation for dewatering St. James Pit by the DNR, and an additional bonding bill request of \$6 million for the joint water project. Being Mayor is a whirlwind experience.

#### OLD BUSINESS

City Clerk Lammi gave brief updates about job descriptions and the policy manual.

**Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to table the discussion regarding mailboxes. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the council vacancy policy. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Gregor gave an update regarding the vacation time error. The matter will be further discussed during contract negotiations.

**Moved by Cromely supported by Jofs to table the animal ordinance and rental ordinance. MOTION CARRIED.**

Mayor Gregor and Police Chief Soular left at 7:03 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Lakso supported by Cromley to approve temporary summer student laborers advertisement and hiring. MOTION CARREID.**

**Moved by Cromley supported by Jofs to write off balance for parcel no. 100-00080-01185 as requested by St. Louis County. MOTION CARREID.**

**Moved by Lakso supported by Cromley to table the Lake County Franchise Agreement transfer until a response is received to Mayor Gregor and Councilor Lakso's request for additional information. MOTION CARREID.**

**Moved by Cromley supported by Jofs to approve \$150 per employee for City of Aurora apparel. MOTION CARRIED.**

No action taken on dedication of ski trails to Don Langie.

**Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve hire of firefighters as recommended by the Fire Department Secretary, pending physical and background check. MOTION CARRIED.**

Ayes: Worshek, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Cromley

**Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to table Mr. Scheuring's request to purchase land, and direct City Clerk Lammi, Public Works Director Thuringer, and City Attorney Kearney to research the sale of the land and the St. James Pit Trail relocation. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Cromely to direct City Clerk Lammi, Public Works Director Thuringer, and City Attorney Kearney to research the sale of the land to Mr. Thompson. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to table approving SEH appropriation permit and intake design phases. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the Mayor's Proclamation. MOTION CARREID.**

City Clerk Lammi announced Spencer Igo, Field Representative for Pete Stauber will be at the Aurora City Hall on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 12:00. No action.

**Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to call for bids for the Watermain Improvement / Cemetery Turn Lane project, with an add-alternate request for sidewalk improvements. MOTION CARREID.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to table the joint recreation contract and job description.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to set a special meeting for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 5:30 pm  
at the City/Town Government Center. MOTION CARRIED.**

Next Special Meeting: April 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City/Town Government Center  
Next Regular Meeting: May 7, 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 8:00 p.m.

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Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Becky Lammi, City Clerk