

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018  
5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilors Worshek, Gregor, Cromley, Lakso, Mayor Lislegard

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paula Chapman, Librarian Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer; Tim Soular, Police Chief; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the following minutes as presented: Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on March 15, 2018; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on March 29, 2018. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for March 2018 in the amount of \$115,660.63 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the disbursements for March 2018 in the amount of \$139,275.76 and Payroll in the amount of \$78,232.96. MOTION CARRIED**

American Bank of the North	\$42.00	Demco	\$112.99
American Bank of the North	\$114.35	Distinguished Trophy Company	\$186.00
American Bank of the North	\$471.15	East Range Joint Powers Board	\$100.00
American Bank of the North	\$62.91	East Range Police Department	\$30,359.61
American Legal Publishing Corporation	\$3,013.90	East Range Shopper	\$401.85
APG Media of MN LLC	\$93.13	Emergency Response Solutions	\$3,560.60
Arrowhead Library System	5.99	Fire Safety U.S.A.	\$3,175.00
AT&T Mobility	\$274.60	Frontier	\$989.71
Baker & Taylor	\$408.24	G Men Environmental Services	\$15,250.00
Bennett Motor Express LLC	\$2,500.00	Gopher State One Call	\$5.40
BlueCross BlueShield of MN &		Guardian Pest Solutions	\$35.00
BluePlus	\$108.30	Hawkins Inc.	\$931.16
Bradach Lumber	\$157.22	HotsyMinnesota.com	\$522.83
C & C Winger Inc.	\$1,928.00	Illinois Library Association	\$135.35
CarQuest Aurora	\$140.72	K & K Cleaning	\$495.00
Christensen Parts	\$82.65	Lawson Products Inc.	\$372.53
City of Hoyt Lakes	\$1,159.99	Lundgren Motors Inc.	\$139.95
Colosimo Patchin & Kearney LTD	\$1,970.00	MailFinance	\$217.80

Menards Virginia	\$43.33	Service Solutions Inc.	\$89.00
Mesabi Daily News	\$194.00	Shred Right	\$15.00
Mesabi East High School	\$75.00	St. Louis County Auditor	\$13,522.50
Mesabi East Schools	\$5,118.94	St. Louis County Auditor	\$1,344.71
Metro Sales Inc.	\$352.78	State of Minnesota	\$24.00
Minnesota Energy Resources	\$5,324.60	Synchrony Bank/Amazon	\$260.31
Minnesota Power	\$9,628.80	The Control Company LLC	\$480.00
Minnesota Pump Works	\$100.00	The Control Company LLC	\$480.00
Minnesota Telecommunications	\$349.80	The Retrofit Companies Inc.	\$196.30
MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources	\$150.00	Tomahawk Ford Inc.	\$13,037.04
MN Fire Service Certification Board	\$230.00	Town of White	\$2,478.94
MN Pollution Control Agency	\$1,450.00	U.S. Postal Service	\$250.00
Northern Star Foods Equipment	\$483.22	Ultimate Body & Frame	\$245.00
Northern State Bank	\$6,250.23	USA Blue Book	\$539.21
Pace Analytical Services LLC	\$874.30	Verizon	\$15.50
Portable John	\$201.00	Verizon Wireless	\$35.01
Praxair Distribution Inc.	\$182.27	Ver-Tech Inc.	\$246.99
Range Office Supply	\$42.46	Vreeland, Chris	\$201.18
Range Paper	\$132.85	WEVE-FM	\$266.00
Roger's Online Corporation	\$1,217.15	Zee Medical Service	\$651.05
Schindler Elevator Corporation	\$2,973.36		

MOVING PERMITS  
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT  
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following correspondence: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission regarding the Matter of the Application of Garden Valley Telephone Company for an Amended Certificate of Authority to Provide Facilities-Based and Resold Local Exchange Services; Victor Lund, Traffic Engineer, St. Louis County, regarding increased speed limits. MOTION CARRIED**

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS  
NONE

PUBLIC FORUM  
NONE

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman delivered the Library Report and reported that the adult winter reading program has reached its conclusion. 43 adults signed up to participate, and reported reading a total of 505

library books, audiobooks, and magazines. In April, Robin Anders will present "Drums and Percussions of the World" on Tuesday, April 10, at 1:00 at the library. The audience should have a chance to participate during part of the program as well. The Library and the Aurora Friends of the Library are partnering with Carefree Living, Aurora to bring the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet to Aurora. Their concert will be held on Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 pm at Carefree Living, Aurora, and is open to the public. The Aurora Friends of the Library will hold their annual spring mini book sale, featuring hundreds of hardback and paperback adult fiction and nonfiction, as well as magazines, and some children's nonfiction titles, this month. All book sale items will be available by your donation on Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27 during regular library hours. The sale will wrap up on Monday, April 30 during regular library hours, when all remaining sale items will be available for a donation of a dollar a bag.

The library is also anticipating on doing public library card registration for families attending Mesabi East's Kindergarten and Early Childhood registration fair, and Sue Sowers from Hoyt Lakes and Paula Chapman from Aurora will be teaming up to offer "Fun With Words" early literacy workshops to families in the Early Childhood Family Education program, in the middle of April. The Aurora Public Library will also be bringing an "Animal Tales" program to students in early childhood classes in late April through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Keep watching the library web site and Facebook page, as well as the library newsletter, as there will be some fun history presentations at the library next month.

Jan Moore reported that the Spruce Up Committee is getting ready to do the flower beds and is looking for donations.

East Range Police Chief Tim Soular discussed the increased speed limits instituted on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. Chief Soular stated how he had talked with Vic Lund at St Louis County who explained to him how the increases were determined. He explained how Mr. Lund is in a tough position, and in fairness to the county, Chief Soular feels that while the county did a good job, the county also did not have all of the facts available for them to make a fully informed decision on the speed limit change especially with all the new business development that is occurring on that road just east of the Family Dollar store. Chief Soular informed the council that it was quite early in the process and that his department would be watching that stretch of road very closely over the next 30 days or so to see if there are any problems. The council felt that it was important to continue the conversation and to see if a reduction could still be achieved.

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Gregor to direct Mayor Lislegard to have a conversation with the state transportation officials in Saint Paul about the speed limit increases on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. MOTION CARRIED.**

Chief Soular also explained that his department is putting together new parking tickets that will look a little different than before and that they would begin using the new tickets starting this summer. Finally, Chief Soular reported that the new blight officer is currently finishing up working in the school. Once school is over, she will be riding along with the mayors from Aurora and Hoyt Lakes every other week to identify the blight problems within each city with the goal of getting all residents in compliance with each city's respective ordinance.

#### 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 – February 27, 2018 Minutes; Range Association of Municipalities and Schools - February 22, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department - March 14, 2018 Minutes; Celebrate Aurora Committee – March 7, 2018 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board, February 5, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; February 20, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – February 20, 2018 Minutes; Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting – March 27, 2018; Animal Control Officer – March 2018 Report; Park Committee Meeting – March 19, 2018 Minutes.**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Gregor to approve the Zoning Permit for: G. Michael Radtke – 318 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North, Build 8' x 20' addition to north of home and upgrade existing fence. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Gregor and supported by Worshek to approve the Zoning Permit for: Calvin & Jodi Burgraff – 214 Linda Drive, Install chain link fence in rear yard. MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilor Worshek commented briefly on the Park Committee notes and explained that the proposed skate park is on hold for this year and that they would like to buy new playground equipment and possibly donate money to the city to put new playground equipment in place. Caring 4 Kids also would like to add two park board members and two names would most likely be recommended at the next regular council meeting.

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that a timber sale contract with Doug Hustad Logging was signed today to clear the land needed for the new athletic facility at Mesabi East School. He also noted that the building next to the post office was demolished and thanked the City Clerk for his efforts in getting it torn down.

Councilor Gregor discussed the volunteer recognition event that has been held in past years and commented on the high level of volunteerism in the community and does not want to take that for granted. He asked if it made sense to combine this event with the community meeting at the community center in the fall. Mayor Lislegard indicated that he likes this idea as a lot of the same people attend both events.

**Moved by Gregor and supported by Worshek to have the volunteer recognition event held in conjunction with the community meeting in the fall. MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Gregor also discussed the pumping out of the St. James Pit due to rising water levels and the cost of diesel fuel to pump it out. He explained that he is going to do some more research on solar and wind alternatives and to find out more information as to what happened to a mine pit in Bovey that has acted similar to the St. James Pit.

Councilor Cromley thanked the community for another successful Vintage Run and that the Fire Department Pancake Feed will be held this Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He also stated that the Aurora Fire Department is looking for additional members and that an ad will be placed in the East Range Shopper this week seeking applicants. The department will also be placing an ad to solicit bids to sell the 1975 International Fire Truck.

Councilor Lakso reported that blight in the city is a problem and that he was happy to hear Chief Soular's plan to address the issue. He also mentioned the spring curb side cleanup and noted that it was on tonight's agenda to set a date for that event.

Chief Soular also reported on Councilor Lakso's initial request to check into a city deer hunt. Chief Soular reported that Aurora's deer herd numbers are nowhere near the numbers being seen in Hoyt Lakes but feels Aurora's deer population is slowly becoming a problem and the city could benefit from a deer hunt. He noted that a DNR hosted hunt is a lot of work for city staff and the police department to get it into place and that the city is not ready to do that work for a hunt this year. Chief Soular said that this item should be put on a future agenda for a decision and he could invite the DNR to be present at that meeting.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Lislegard reported that he testified before the Senate regarding the sulfate standards and how the proposed standards would affect the city. The mayor also explained his concern regarding recent Polymet news and that there is still a lot of work to do to get that vision into reality. The mayor also commented on his work with RAMS and Jobs for Minnesotans and how he is trying to push to get positive results.

#### MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

#### OLD BUSINESS

NONE

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to hold the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Hearing for 2019 in the City of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2018-13 to Establish a Local Board of Appeal and Equalization Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 274.014, Subd. 3, Paragraph C. MOTION CARRIED**

The council discussed setting the dates for the yearly spring cleanup noting that the cemetery cleanup is usually the week prior to Memorial Day. The spring cleanup is only for leaves and branches, no pet residue. Branches will only be hauled away if they are less than six feet in length. No trash will be part of this program which includes no tires or appliances. One day will be set aside for pickup on the north side of town with the second day being used for pickup on the south side. An advertisement will be posted in the East Range Shopper one week prior to the selected dates.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to schedule and advertise the spring curbside pickup for May 16<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> with backup dates set for May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> should weather or another issue cancel the original dates. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Lakso to advertise in April for the hiring of up to five temporary summer seasonal laborer positions to assist the public works department this summer. MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Cromley and supported by Lakso to table the discussion regarding the setup of Health Savings Accounts for non-union employees due to the need to obtain additional information. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve a donation of \$5,000 to Celebrate Aurora for the Kids' Games/Prizes offered on July 3rd. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the following requests from Celebrate Aurora for events on or around July 3<sup>rd</sup>: City payment for Porta-Potties, providing city crew to setup and tear down barricades, clean up garbage, garbage cans, and dropping off electrical box; and paying for the annual one-page disclaimer/events advertisement in the East Range Shopper. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to establish a committee to create a job description and hire an Accounting Clerk for the City of Aurora that includes David Lislegard, Doug Gregor, and Linda Cazin. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to establish a committee to review and update the job description to hire a Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Aurora that includes David Lislegard, Doug Gregor, and Linda Cazin. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to schedule a Special Meeting of the Aurora City on Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the City/Town Government Center to approve the Development Agreements and bid packages for the new construction and new business coming into Aurora, hiring of an Accounting Clerk and a Clerk/Treasurer, and to discuss support for the Dig Once Concept. MOTION CARRIED

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

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David Lislegard, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer