

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, April 7, 2020
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief; Paula Chapman, Aurora Library Director

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gregor at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Jofs and supported by Honkola to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 5. Approval of Minutes –
 - 5.1 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 10, 2020
 - 5.2 Emergency City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 13, 2020
 - 5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 24, 2020

- 7. Approval for Payment –
 - 7.1 Disbursements for March 2020 – \$275,930.76
 - 7.2 Payroll for March 2020 – \$ 59,275.51

- 8. Correspondence –
 - 8.1 Pepsi Challenge – Thank You.
 - 8.2 ISO – Aurora Public Protection Classification.

- 9. Travel and Training –

- 12. Community Comments –
 - 12.1 07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
 - 12.2 07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2nd Ave.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
 - 12.3 07/02/2019 – Blight concern on in alley on 200 block between W 2nd Ave and W 3rd Ave.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
 - 12.4 07/05/2019 – Blight concern at 312 S. Main St.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
 - 12.5 07/19/2019 – Pot holes between 3rd Ave W and 4th Ave W, and 1st Ave S.
Resolution: Potholes will be patched after thaw cycle, late spring.
 - 12.6 07/23/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.

- 12.7 07/25/2019 – Blight concern at 321 W 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: Property owner has made progress with cleanup.
- 12.8 07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1st Ave N.
Resolution: The Council is aware of the condition of N 1st Ave W; that street has been placed on the project priority list for future improvements.
- 12.9 07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2nd form.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
- 12.10 08/20/2019 – Blight concern on 709 Summit Street.
Resolution: Property has been discussed with St. Louis County.
- 12.11 08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 321 W. 2nd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department is working with the homeowner to resolve issues.
- 12.12 09/13/2019 – Blight concern 200 S 6th St E.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
- 12.13 09/20/2019 – Blight concern on 20 Erie St.
Resolution: Property will be monitored once snow melts.
- 12.14 09/30/2019 – Construction issue on S. 3rd St. W.
Resolution: The City will attempt to contact the contractor and request the property be returned to its previous state.
- 12.15 11/08/2019 – Blight concern at 315 W. 4th Ave. N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department is working with the homeowner to resolve issues.
- 12.16 03/12/2020 – Culvert issue on E. 2nd Ave N.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.17 03/24/2020 – Blight concern at 313 W. 3rd Ave. M.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the concern and is investigating.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

- 13.1 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – January 22, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – February 19, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Fire Department – March 11, 2020
- 13.4 COVID-19 Response Team – March 17, 2020
- 13.5 COVID-19 Response Team – March 20, 2020
- 13.6 COVID-19 Response Team – March 25, 2020
- 13.7 COVID-19 Response Team – March 26, 2020
- 13.8 COVID-19 Response Team – April 2, 2020

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place regarding a missing credit card receipt.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve receipts for March 2020 in the amount of \$127,716.29.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

1st Ayd Corporation	\$ 124.60
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 1,231.47
AMERICHEM	\$ 3,842.00
AMPTEK INC.	\$ 6,066.19
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 156.22
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 172.77
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	\$ 300.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 539.49
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$45,146.50
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 259.86
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 522.32
CENGAGE LEARNING	\$ 111.11
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 62.98
CINTAS	\$ 176.47
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 3,980.00
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
CITY OF VIRGINIA	\$ 1,000.00
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	\$ 2,725.72
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 510.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 6,458.22
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA	\$ 174.96
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,595.00
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS	\$ 3,750.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$35,581.39
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 960.00

EOC-TRIMARK	\$ 148.26
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION	\$ 6,615.00
FRONTIER	\$ 913.10
FURTHER	\$ 57.00
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 1.35
H & L MESABI	\$ 2,562.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 909.44
IDENTIFIX	\$ 1,428.00
K & K CLEANING	\$ 955.00
LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$11,423.37
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 206.56
MANION FOODS	\$ 511.63
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 20.96
MESABI BITUMINOUS	\$51,890.90
METRO SALES	\$ 272.50
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 31.50
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 22.49
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 4,669.47
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,758.96
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 172.42
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 201.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 111.99
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 809.66
RANGE PAPER	\$ 117.29
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 932.00
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION	\$ 3,312.48

SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SNAP-ON TOOLS	\$ 30.25
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$59,652.50
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$59,530.00
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 122.50
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 215.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	\$ 250.00
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 215.51
VERIZON	\$ 15.41
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 25.36
WATER CONSERVATION SERVICE INC	\$ 1,450.58
WISCONSIN CENTRAL	\$ 312.67

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

The Council discussed possibilities for public participation in future virtual meetings.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Thank you to the area food shelf! Garbage is collecting; please pick up trash on your walks.

Councilor Jofs

Thanks to the East Range Police Department, Aurora Fire Department, Hoyt Lakes EMS, and the COVID-19 Response Team.

Councilor Worshek

No concerns with how things are going currently. Jan Moore is looking for donations and volunteers for Spruce Up Aurora. Councilor Worshek noted some parks are closed in other areas.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

Thanks to staff and citizen for their flexibility during this time. Kimberly is doing very well in the Accounting Clerk role. City Administrator Lammi has been appointed Chair of the COVID-19 Response Team.

Library – Paula Chapman

To let you know what is happening beyond the closed doors:

Since the digital scanning equipment arrived when deliveries were still running, and since we were able to contact most of the patrons who had signed up for the “Scan for Keeps” service to bring in their materials before the library was closed, Assistant Librarian Sharon Gresley spent much of the first closed week providing even more scanning for registered patrons than we had expected to be able to provide! We are looking forward to being able to return the original slides or photos along with the saved digital files to those library patrons. Working from home, Sharon has been working on updating the training manual while looking forward to the day when our new Circulation Clerk is able to begin work and has taken advantage of the down time for some online continuing education.

I have spent much of my time responding to the flurry of emails and phone calls coming from many sources asking how the library is responding to present circumstances and what services are available. Several publishers and organizations are opening up their digital content without charge for various time beings; I have been setting up access and posting information on the library's web page, as well as sharing it on Facebook and communicating it directly to individual library patrons looking for access to books and resources. I am also continuing to build orders for new and forthcoming books, movies, and audiobooks, and looking forward to the day when we can place those orders and make all of those new titles available to our patrons. I have also been engaging in continuing education, and have been communicating with the library board and preparing for the next Board meeting. The Board, Sharon, and I, from our various locations, will also begin discussion about needed revisions to the current strategic plan implementation plan and how we can creatively add strategies to meet the various goals during these strange times, for as long as they last.

East Range Police Chief – Tim Soular

Thanks for everyone's comments; the officers are serving people day in and day out. Northern Pines Essentia Health has been very helpful. The department is still committed to serving and protecting, including arresting individuals if need be. With the help of local organizations Chief Soular feels comfortable with the level of PPE available to them. He's proud of the members of the department.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor stated the ERJPB/Northspan is requesting people fill out the questionnaire. He has set a Blight Community Meeting for April 16th at 10:00 am via Zoom. An additional \$100,000 request to the IRRRB will be considered in May for the Digester Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to have Councilor Lakso, City Administrator Lammi, and the Public Works Department utilize a gas reader in the area of S. 6th St. E. once the State of Emergency has been lifted.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve new agenda format and information.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to appoint Mary Lockwood to the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to appoint Councilors Jofs and Honkola and City Administrator Lammi to the Business Development Committee.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to request early disbursement of 2020 payable taxes from St. Louis County.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to delay the spring clean up event due to COVID-19.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to table the Costin Group proposal for additional information and a presentation from the Costin Group.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to table Celebrate Aurora's Patriotic Days requests until a decision is made regarding the event taking place.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the Utility Policy.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve the Revocation of License 348195 re: Caton Iron Company and St. James Mining Company.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Worshek left the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Moved by Honkola and supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator