

**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017  
5:30 p.m.**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Soular, East Range Police Chief; Linda Cazin, Interim City Clerk-Treasurer; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes as presented: Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 4, 2017; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 11, 2017; Local Board of Appeal and Equalization held on April 19, 2017.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the receipts for April 2017 in the amount of \$97,685.19 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Lislegard to approve the disbursements for April 2017 in the amount of \$165,934.13 and Payroll in the amount of \$67,878.99. MOTION CARRIED**

ADVANCED MINNESOTA	1,200.00	DEMCO INC.	190.17
AMERICAN BANK 3761	464.55	DISTINGUISHED TROPHY CO.	250.25
AMERICAN BANK 7110	104.68	EAST RANGE POLICE	
AMERICAN BANK 8217	1,211.96	DEPT	30,804.24
AMERICAN BANK 8977	1,018.15	EAST RANGE SHOPPER	797.22
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	50.00	FERGUSON WATERWORKS	1,519.49
APG MEDIA OF MN	225.20	FIRSTLAB	50.95
AT & T MOBILITY	212.96	FRONTIER	1,125.55
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	488.54	GOODIN COMPANY	999.64
BISS LOCK INC.	536.50	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	21.60
BIWABIK PUBLIC UTILITIES	9.45	GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
BRADACH LUMBER	152.27	HAWKINS INC.	502.20
CARQUEST AURORA	336.80	HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	200.00
CELEBRATE AURORA	5,000.00	ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSN	38.32
CHEMSEARCH	323.11	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	57.03
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	K & K CLEANING	495.00
CITY OF HOYT ALKES	365.55	KUSSMAUL ELECTRONICS COMPANY	400.40
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	940.00	LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	20.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MN	37.75	LMCIT	54,363.00

MCQUEEN EQUIPMENT	2,142.22	RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	163.43
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	390.97	RANGE PAPER	105.75
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	1,606.89	ROYAL TIRE, INC.	386.72
METRO SALES	337.91	RUSSELL SILTMAN	288.10
MICROMARKETING LLC	67.50	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC.	178.00
MIDWEST TAPE	21.04	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	3,426.83	ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	587.65
MINNESOTA POWER	9,302.74	SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	41.86
MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS	9,792.00	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
MINNESOTA TELECOMUNICATIONS	349.80	TOMAHAWK FORD	12,742.72
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	305.00	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
MN STATE FIRE DEPT. ASSOC.	148.00	U.S. POSTMASTER	383.30
MPCA	1,450.00	UNITED ELECTRIC	4.70
NARDINI FIRE EQUIP. CO.	384.10	VERIZON	15.19
NORTHERN STATE BANK	12,500.46	VERIZON WIRELESS	64.64
NORTHLAND FIRE & SAFETY, INC.	475.00	WALKER PROCESS EQUIPMENT	1,100.81
NORTHWOODS MECHANICAL	250.45	WISCONSIN CENTRAL	294.73
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	717.20	ZEP SALES & SERVICE	110.93
PORTABLE JOHN	139.14		
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	164.64		

MOVING PERMITS  
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT  
NONE

#### CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following correspondence: 2017 Annual Budget for the Arrowhead Library System; MN Dept. of Natural Resources on how and when to notify the DNR for maintenance work on state land and public water utility license crossings; St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department classification of State tax forfeited land-Board Resolution #17-195; MN Dept. of Health regarding Quarterly Report, TOC/Alkalinity Monitoring for the Control of Disinfection Byproducts Precursor; MN Dept. of Natural Resources Quarterly PolyMet Permitting Update; CenturyLink regarding 2017 construction season; RAMS Weekly Update; Celebrate Aurora Committee sincere thank you for generous donation to the children's portion of patriotic day celebration. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve Councilor Lislegard to work with newly hired City Clerk to develop a positive response letter to the MN Department of Natural Resources regarding PolyMet permitting. MOTION CARRIED**

## TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve travel request to allow an employee to attend the MCFOA Region II Training on Friday, May 19, 2017 in Coleraine, MN. MOTION CARRIED**

## PUBLIC FORUM

Lance Fondie representing the Ranger Snowmobile & ATV Club was present to ask if committee put anything together for the use of all-terrain vehicles on County Roads within the City of Aurora. The committee recommended that the ATV Club consider changing their route map to allow all-terrain vehicles in areas of the city as presented. Lance will bring the recommended changes to the club for consideration.

## REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman reported the Friends of the Library spring mini book sale went well; many thanks to the Friends of the Library for the many hours they volunteered, and to everyone who came and “shopped” and donated!

May’s main event will be a Minnesota Woodcut hands-on, guided watercolor painting workshop with artist Sarah Guy-Levar. The workshop will be held at the library on Thursday, May 11, at 1:00 p.m. There is a limited number of spaces available so pre-registration is required. We are able to provide this program, in partnership with the Arrowhead Library System, with funding from Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

We of course continue to regularly purchase and circulate books, audio books, and movies, but I would like to highlight 2 special kits assembled with funds provided by the Aurora Friends of the Library. The first is our newest story time bag. The bag features 4 books by Minnesota authors, along with puppets and a flannel board set that children can use to re-tell the stories or make up their own stories, and a children’s music CD by Minnesota artist Glenn Everhart. The second kit is our Nature Walk Backpack, with guidebooks to Minnesota’s flora and fauna, and a pair of binoculars. We also included printed GoogleEarth Maps to the Lake St. James walking trail area, and encourage everyone to check out the bag and enjoy our area’s walking trails! Both kits circulate for 4 weeks.

Chief Soular gave an update on blight. People are doing a good job calling in making note of blight in their area. Offenders can be charged as a public nuisance. Need to work to resolve this issue. Mike Kearney lay out guidance to site offenders.

## REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess reviewed the list of reports from Boards & Commissions.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – March 28, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – April 12, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – March 20, 2017 Minutes; Library Board Minutes – April 25, 2017 Minutes; Planning & Zoning – April 25, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – March & April Monthly Report; Aurora Cemetery Board Meeting – April 26, 2017 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board – March 13, 2017 Minutes; Ambulance Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Lislegard to approve the Zoning Permits for: Marissa Thomas – 321 South Main Street – install chain link fence in back yard and Robert Thuringer – 716 Maple Drive – build new 28’ x 32’ detached garage. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the Residential Improvement Permits for: Greg Nelson – 19 East 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North – replace roof on house; Wendy Belka – 21 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North – replace roof; Mike Hawley – 16 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South – replace roof on house; Arlene Grebenc – 38 South Erie Street – replace deck; Richard & Michele Lammi – 613 West Central Avenue – replace windows on south side of house, replace 1 basement window and Donald & Linda Lucachick – 101 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North – replace roof on house and garage. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the Commercial Improvement Permit for: Roland & Christina Roland – 303 North Main Street – renew Commercial Improvement Permit No. 2015-44-IP – Masonry wall repair (interior & exterior) and painting, replace 1 or 2 commercial windows, new entrance doors on lower level, misc. sheetrock & ceiling repair, EPDM rubber roof repair on dome. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to table footing installation for a second set of columbarium's until more information is obtained on cost. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to table the roadway problem which skirts around tree are straightened between Blocks 20 and 21 in the cemetery until get cost figures. MOTION CARRIED**

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that he met along with Councilor Lislegard with Town of White concerning the janitor position. He hasn't heard back from Brian from St. Louis County concerning the repair of the road but invited him to the next meeting. Mike Gornik was gone so Chuck hasn't met with him yet.

Councilor Lislegard followed up with Councilor Worshek on moving forward with the janitor position with the Town of White. He questioned if the tar trailer could be shared with the Town of White. The trailer is currently shared between the City of Aurora and City of Hoyt Lakes. This request will be researched further. Questioned who fixes damaged guard rails.

Councilor Lakso thanked the East Range Lions Club for their annual spring cleanup. Thanked them for the work they do.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

It was another very successful Volunteer Recognition Day. There was a very good turnout. Thanked all who helped. She attended the Mayor's Meeting in Mt. Iron. Steve Giorgi from RAMS gave an update on what is going on in the legislature. All cities are trying to get funding.

#### MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Rudy Ceglar questioned if there was any time frame on when the guy was coming back to deal with the pigeon problem. Asked what as a City Council are they doing to resolve the County road condition or are they going to do nothing until the scheduled repair in 2019.

**Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to have Councilor Lislegard attend the earliest possible County Board meeting in regard to the Railroad crossing problem. MOTION CARRIED**

Butch Ceglar questioned the status of MDN reporter reporting on council meetings. Was told the city uses them as a legal newspaper so any reporting is up to them to provide. Reported he will no longer mow city property across from his home.

Chassica Rasmusson wanted to give a big thanks on behalf of Celebrate Aurora for contribution the city made to make the festivities in July continue. Thank all community members who have stepped up and are helping continue the legacy that has been set by patriotic days and their committee as well. Thank you for the legacy that was already built upon patriotic days and their assistance through all the paperwork. Keep asking for generous support by everyone.

The City Code Land Usage language is still being worked on.

The idea of joining the Regional Safety Group through the League of MN Cities is still being researched. Need to determine what OSHA requires for training. Questions need to be answered.

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve \$350.00 ad in the 2017 Freedom Fete Event Booklet. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to set up a Health Savings Account for 20% of current wage for sick leave hours earned when qualifying employee reaches the maximum hours. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the Agreement between the City of Aurora and Non-Union Employees for January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2019. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2017 - #04 A Resolution Adopting Lien For Unpaid Delinquent Utility Charges. MOTION CARRIED**

The communication from Celebrate Aurora Committee regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration needs clarification.

Ben Dickinson of Red Top Construction was present regarding the gate at E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. It was noted that this issue was resolved at a Council Meeting held the prior year. No notification was given to Mr. Dickinson at that time. The city will work with Mr. Dickinson moving forward.

Anne Clayton asked if Child Evangelism Fellowship could have a 5-Day Club for children ages K-6<sup>th</sup> in Aurora for children from Hoyt Lakes, Aurora and Biwabik. Would the city be willing to rent the Community Center at a much reduced rate or free for the 5-Day Club?

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to table Anne Clayton request for use of the Community Center until check the calendar for availability. MOTION CARRIED**

John Jamnick, JPJ Engineering was present regarding the 2015 Street Project and Maple Drive Street Project punch list. The completion date for these projects is August 24, 2017. Warrantee walk through with contractor will be the middle of July. There is a 2% retainage on both projects. Residents need to contact the city if they have any issues. A punch list will be forwarded to JPJ Engineering to give to the contractor.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to place an ad in paper as a reminder that residents give notice to city clerk's office by June 15<sup>th</sup> any problems resulting from the street project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve the following list of coaches and umpires contingent on passing background check: Coach for T-Ball Cyndi Worshek, Pitch Chad Sahr, Minors Eric Butler, Majors Chad Sahr, Babe Ruth Garrett Larsen and umpires Chris Baudhuin and Keith Berdice. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lakso to schedule Monday, May 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for a Special Council Meeting for the following purpose: overpayment of school utility bill, dog ordinance, pigeon problem, authorize City Clerk-Treasurer Tim Kauppi as signatory on all city accounts, cleaning position for city hall, city street assessments/budget, summer employees, casual laborer position, cemetery footings and road, shared tar trailer with Town of White, use of the community center and 4<sup>th</sup> of July ad. MOTION CARRIED**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Linda Cazin, Interim City Clerk-Treasurer