

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Electronic Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Paula Chapman, Aurora Library Director

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

5. Approval of Minutes –

- 5.1 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – March 10, 2020
Approve with corrections.
- 5.2 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – April 7, 2020
- 5.3 Blight Community Meeting – April 16, 2020
- 5.4 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – April 21, 2020
- 5.5 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization – April 30, 2020

6. Approval of Receipts –

- 6.1 April 2020 – \$318,854.90

7. Approval for Payment –

- 7.1 Disbursements for April 2020 – \$110,537.07
- 7.2 Employment for April 2020
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$83,441.29
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$25,997.00

8. Correspondence –

- 8.1 St. Louis County Valuation Notice.
- 8.2 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Plans and Specification Approval.
- 8.3 Minnesota Rural Water – Membership Certificate.
- 8.4 Frontier – Bill Credit or Refund Notification.
- 8.5 Spruce Up Aurora – Request for Donation.
- 8.6 US Bankruptcy Court – Notice of Frontier Communications Petition.

9. Travel and Training –

12. Community Comments –

- 12.1 03/12/2020 – Culvert issue on E. 2nd Ave N.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.

- 12.2 03/24/2020 – Blight concern at 313 W. 3rd Ave. M.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.3 04/09/2020 – Yard damaged during snow plowing activities.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.4 04/09/2020 – Property damaged during snow plowing activities.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

- 13.1 East Range Joint Powers Board – February 25, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – March 16, 2020
- 13.3 RAMS – March 26, 2020
- 13.4 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – March 28, 2020
- 13.5 COVID-19 Response Team – April 9, 2020
- 13.6 COVID-19 Response Team – April 16, 2020
- 13.7 COVID-19 Response Team – April 23, 2020
- 13.8 Aurora Public Library Board – April 16, 2020
- 13.9 Planning and Zoning Commission – April 28, 2020
- Residential Improvement Permits
- Robert Tennison – 213 Central Avenue West
- Replacing windows
- Bran & Sara Blaisdell – 705 Maple Drive
- Residing, painting, replace soffit and fascia, repair front stairs, paid house and garage, window changes
- Mary Hess – 214 West 2nd Avenue North
- Replace roof

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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| ALLIED GENERATORS | \$ 1,168.33 |
| AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH | \$ 2,919.78 |
| AMERICHEM | \$ 1,950.00 |
| AMPTEK INC. | \$10,252.60 |
| APG MEDIA OF MN | \$ 370.06 |
| AT&T MOBILITY | \$ 239.86 |
| AUTO VALUE | \$ 12.79 |
| BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS | \$ 31.02 |
| BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN | \$ 125.90 |
| BRADACH LUMBER | \$ 141.20 |
| CARQUEST AURORA | \$ 34.35 |
| CHRIS VREELAND | \$ 201.18 |
| CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC | \$ 33.91 |
| CITY OF HOYT LAKES | \$ 370.85 |
| COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY | \$ 1,130.00 |
| CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA | \$ 39.00 |
| CW TECHNOLOGY | \$ 1,853.00 |
| EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT | \$38,685.35 |
| ESSENTIA HEALTH | \$ 108.00 |
| FERGUSON WATERWORKS #2516 | \$ 570.57 |
| FRONTIER | \$ 841.29 |
| GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC. | \$ 35.00 |
| HAWKINS INC. | \$ 241.85 |
| HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE | \$ 390.00 |
| LAWRENCE POTOCHNIK | \$ 300.00 |
| LAWSON PRODUCTS INC. | \$ 238.30 |
| LEAGUE OF MN CITIES INSURANCE TRUST WC | \$ 2,028.00 |

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| MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO. | \$ 33.72 |
| MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711 | \$14,771.30 |
| MESABI SIGN COMPANY | \$ 168.00 |
| METRO SALES | \$ 329.89 |
| MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES | \$ 3,360.27 |
| MINNESOTA POWER | \$ 8,826.25 |
| MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS | \$ 349.80 |
| MITEL | \$ 172.42 |
| NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY | \$ 299.00 |
| PETTY CASH | \$ 6.52 |
| PORTABLE JOHN | \$ 97.00 |
| PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. | \$ 104.76 |
| RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY | \$ 39.04 |
| RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES | \$ 1,361.00 |
| SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC | \$ 56.00 |
| SHRED RIGHT | \$ 15.00 |
| SNAP-ON TOOLS | \$ 81.05 |
| ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR | \$ 111.00 |
| THE CONTROL COMPANY | \$ 570.00 |
| TOMAHAWK FORD | \$14,859.20 |
| U.S. POSTAL SERVICE | \$ 215.00 |
| U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST) | \$ 250.00 |
| VERIZON | \$ 15.27 |
| WASCHKE | \$ 113.40 |
| ZIEGLER INC. | \$ 19.99 |

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public requested to join the meeting or submitted items of concern.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

The COVID-19 Response Team continues to meet – anyone is welcome to submit items for discussion if they would like. All of the Aurora staff members are back to their regular schedules. The City has gotten the street sweeper from Hoyt Lakes and street sweeping has begun this week.

Library – Paula Chapman

The Aurora Public Library is delighted that we are now able to offer no-contact curbside pickup of items belonging to the Aurora Public Library. We're beginning to get the word out that this service is available, and look forward to getting books, movies, audiobooks, music cd's, and magazines into the hands of library patrons. Due dates will continue to be extended until the library re-opens, but patrons are also welcome to return items through the book drop. All returned items will be quarantined 5 days and then wiped down before being checked in and re-circulated. Anyone interested in details on this service may visit the library's web page or Facebook page, or call the library at 218-229-2021.

I'm also continuing to post information on the library's web site about publishers currently offering free access to their e-content. Additionally, we're in the process of preparing virtual story times and book discussions; these have been or will be posted on the library's Facebook page for one week.

The other big project in the works is planning this year's summer reading programs! I'll have information about that at next month's meeting.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs

Shout out and thanks to the COVID-19 Response Team, East Range Police Department, and the Aurora Fire Department for their hard work during this time. Please pick up trash and after pets when out walking.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek is glad everyone is back at work. He had questions regarding Patriotic Days – Celebrate Aurora will make a determination this week. Duluth and Virginia are laying off; budgets will be interesting this year.

Councilor Lakso

Thanks to the Public Works department for removing the light pole at the laundromat. Councilor Lakso requested the Planning and Zoning page be updated on the website. Congratulations to the graduating seniors.

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola informed the Council Caring for the Kids Community will have flyers delivered to homes this week requesting donations and notifying citizens of the opportunity to buy bricks for the Splash Pad Project.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor commends the community on donations of masks. He stated the Blight Community Meeting went well. The Water Project Group has discussed the possibility of an intake site closer to the plant site. The East Range Joint Powers Board awarded six \$2500 grants to local downtown businesses; there will be one more round of grant applications. Mayor Gregor has been attending mayors' meetings

and legislative updates. The Childcare Group continues to meet. Thanks to the health care and emergency service workers.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola approve the Costin Group Proposal of Services, contingent on the East Range Joint Powers Board approval and funding from the East Range Joint Water Project Fund (fiscal agent: City of Biwabik), with the cancellation clause being changed to 30 days' notice and the period of May 1, 2020 through June 1, 2021.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: Jofs

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Jofs supported by Lakso to direct Fire Chief Cromley to provide information on how long the bids will last and additional information regarding wiring/electrician requirements; to table the bids to the August 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to complete and submit the loan application for the Waste Water Digester Funding Loan.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to proceed to enact the Ordinance Amending Chapter 90: Miscellaneous Provisions 90.02, 90.23 as presented.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to approve the Credit Card Use Policy with the addition of itemized receipts and the change to "Aurora Fire Department Member(s)" under authorized users.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to call a public hearing to meet Public Facilities Authority at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Honkola to appoint Denise Paulisich to the Library Board for the term ending December 31, 2020.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator