

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 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 5:36 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 – May 5, 2020
- 5.2 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – May 19, 2020

6. Approval of Receipts –

- 6.1 May 2020 – \$110,631.16

7. Approval for Payment –

- 7.1 Disbursements for May 2020 – \$206,403.14
- 7.2 Employment for May 2020
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$57,578.54
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$22,106.89

8. Correspondence –

- 8.1 Steve Paddock, Wells Fargo Advisors – New associates.
- 8.2 Minnesota Department of Revenue – Mineral hearing virtual meeting notice.
- 8.3 Minnesota Department of Health – Splash pad approval.

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 cleaned up the yard.
- 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.
- 12.5 05/18/2020 – Damage in boulevard by utility company contractor.

Resolution: Utility company has been contacted to make repairs.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

- 13.1 Range Association of Municipalities and Schools – April 23, 2020
- 13.2 East Range Joint Powers Board – April 28, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – April 20, 2020
- 13.4 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – April 24, 2020
- 13.5 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – May 11, 2020
- 13.6 COVID-19 Response Team – April 30, 2020
- 13.7 COVID-19 Response Team – May 7, 2020
- 13.8 COVID-19 Response Team – May 14, 2020
- 13.9 COVID-19 Response Team – May 21, 2020
- 13.10 COVID-19 Response Team – May 28, 2020
- 13.11 Aurora Public Library Board – May 21, 2020
- 13.12 Planning and Zoning Commission – May 26, 2020

Zoning Permits

Tyler Bakos – 717 Summit Street

- Adding privacy fence

Scott Henry – 409 South 3rd Street West

- Adding 12x20 shed

Residential Improvement Permits

Talicia & Barrett Honkola – 130 Linda Drive

- Replacing gutters

Becky Lammi – 319 South 1st Street East

- Repairing and replacing roof on garage

Sharon Hilton – 12 South 3rd Street West

- Replacing roof on garage

Vincent Jones – 16 East 4th Avenue South

- Replacing windows

Gary Valimaki – 205 East 3rd Avenue North

- Replacing roof on house

Marion Hitner – 308 South 2nd Street West

- Replacing roof

Matthew & Megan Uhan – 733 Maple Drive

- Replacing doors

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

3-T TREE TRIMMING	\$ 775.00
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 145.05
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSN	\$ 334.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 339.12
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 163.19
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 1,136.77
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 52.30
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$ 31,973.20
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 112.77
C & C WINGER, INC.	\$ 3,076.32
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 114.49
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 110.48
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 874.34
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 510.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 520.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,595.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 34,739.16
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 455.49
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$ 319.00
FRONTIER	\$ 1,243.22
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 28.35
GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	\$ 68.10
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 1,055.72
ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	\$ 86.46
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 224.84
J & R WASTEWATER SERVICE	\$ 6,998.75
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 51.98

LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$ 80,978.00
LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS	\$ 166.21
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$ 792.79
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	\$ 73.29
METRO SALES	\$ 243.37
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 143.93
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$ 2,165.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 2,835.12
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,433.71
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 172.20
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$ 260.90
NORTHLAND FIRE & SAFETY	\$ 475.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF HIBBING	\$ 212.50
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 111.99
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$ 553.82
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 56.80
RANGE PAPER	\$ 356.93
RENEE KOROSHEC	\$ 525.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 2,197.00
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.56
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 14,313.08
TOWN OF WHITE	\$ 2,345.69
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 215.00
U.S.POSTAL SERVICE (QUADIENT-POC)	\$ 250.00
VERIZON	\$ 15.27

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

Several citizens have been asking about the resolution passed by nearby communities regarding constitutional cities. After some rough calculations, it was determined Aurora would have to increase the tax levy by approximately 65-70% if the resolution was passed and Local Government Aid was cut. Additionally, the City has \$8,200,000 of bonding requests with the Legislature. The City Departments have been on a spending freeze for the past month, so current projects are on hold. Reminder that curbside pick-up is delayed until further notice; when the date is announced, an advertisement will be placed in the shopper.

Library – Paula Chapman

The theme for this summer's reading programs is "Dig Deeper! Read, Investigate, Discover." Both the children's and teens' reading programs started yesterday and will continue through July 31. At this point, 10 children and 5 teens have signed up; summer readers can sign up at any point throughout the program.

Because they are not able to offer the scheduled KidStuff programs this summer, Arrowhead Library System will provide additional summer reading program funding, and this summer's programs will include a variety of elements!

The first, of course, is reading! Summer readers can borrow books (and of course, also movies) through the Aurora Public Library's no-contact door drop service. They can request items online or by calling, or ask us to fill a "Grab and Go" bag of books for them. They can earn monthly prizes for daily reading, as well as raising some money for the Pine Grove Park SplashPad project and a local animal shelter, if they reach certain reading goals.

We are also offering "Take and Make" craft projects. Children can pick up a bag with directions and supplies for a different craft each week, and we will have monthly "Take and Make" craft bags for teens. Starting next week, there will be a weekly "Hidden Picture" somewhere outdoors in Aurora. Children and teens can call or email to tell us where they found the picture to have their name entered in a drawing to win the book or dinosaur pictured. There will also be 4 scavenger hunts with more prize drawings for summer readers who return completed scavenger hunt sheets. We will share information about additional science, art, and writing project ideas with program participants.

Summer readers can sign up by calling or emailing the library with their names and the grade they will start in the fall (or their age, if preschool).

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola stated the flowers and gardening in town is looking very nice. Spruce Up Aurora is doing a great job; they always welcome volunteers. Thank you to Paula for a great summer reading program. Thank you to the East Range Police Department, local EMS, and local fire departments. The trails look nice in the area; please pick up trash if you are comfortable doing so. It is a time to build community pride.

Councilor Lakso

Construction season is in full swing; thank you to everyone who gets the proper permits.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek would like to have a special budget meeting to discuss and check on the status of the City's financials with the COVID-19 crisis. The summer kids started this week and are doing a good job so far.

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs would like a list of all the items tabled without resolution over the past year. Flowers are looking great. The City is looking beautiful this time of year.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor would like to celebrate Canadian National for clearing out drainage ditches along the tracks. Kudos and thanks to the COVID-19 Response Team. He attended a face-to-face meeting with Senator Klobuchar earlier in the month. The East Range Joint Powers Board issued COVID-19 relief grants in the amount of \$2500 to six Aurora businesses. Kudos to first responders.

Item 17.2 was considered prior to old business.

Discussion took place regarding how to best assist the local businesses during this difficult time. Lance Johnson, Aurora Chamber of Commerce President, indicated he has been forwarding out information as it comes. No business owners have approached him with a need at this time. There are a lot of federal and state programs available right now; the Chamber or Northspan will help anyone with application for funds if they need assistance.

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to set the on-sale, club on-sale, and Sunday liquor license fees to \$0.00 for 07/01/2020 through 06/30/2021, contingent on proper application to the City, current on property taxes, and current liquor liability insurance.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to allow bars and restaurants to serve in appropriate, City approved outdoor areas, leaving a clear walking surface of at least 4 ft. on all sidewalks; must submit appropriate COVID-19 plan, updated premises map, and liquor liability insurance to the City.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to appoint Councilor Honkola as liaison to refine the business requests, working with Chief Soular and City Administrator Lammi.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to purchase picnic tables in the amount not to exceed \$10,000 from the Business Development Assigned Funds, to be owned by the City of Aurora and temporarily leased to local businesses, with input from the Public Works Director and City Administrator.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek table the working relationship between the City of Aurora and the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority to the second meeting in August 2020; the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority will reimburse the City for all expenses occurred in the interim.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve Resolution 2020-07 Approving the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to table the purchase of St. Louis County tax forfeit properties until after the budget discussion takes place.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve assigning the East Mesabi Sanitation contract to a responsible buyer.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve the updated Rates and Fees form to include a decrease in zoning and residential improvement fees to \$20.00 and an increase in variance fees to \$100.00.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve the updated Committee and Board Policy.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to appoint Tyler Lehto to the vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to approve Resolution 2020-08 Authorizing Conveyance of Real Estate regarding the Mesabi East School District Land Transfer.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve 07/01/2020 to 06/30/2021 liquor licenses, contingent on all required documents being submitted:

ON SALE LICENSE

Mark S. Hall d/b/a The Bar

Tim & Jesse Inc. d/b/a Rudy's Bar

SUNDAY LICENSE

Mark S. Hall d/b/a The Bar

Tim & Jesse Inc. d/b/a Rudy's Bar

CLUB LICENSE

American Legion #241 d/b/a/ Quayle/Shuster/Truman/Muhich

OFF SALE LICENSE

Furry's Inc. d/b/a Dino's

Mark S. Hall d/b/a The Bar

Tim & Jesse Inc. d/b/a Rudy's Bar

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Jofs to approve pay request number 1 to Lakehead Constructors in the amount of \$80,978.00.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator