

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council**  
**City/Town Government Center**  
**Tuesday, June 4, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Jofs

ABSENT: Councilors Cromley and Lakso

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Clerk; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney

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

Mayor Gregor commended the community for its rally during the power outage on Saturday, and the efforts for moving graduation to the Hoyt Lakes Arena.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Jofs to remove consent agenda item 8.4 Celebrate Aurora and approve the remaining consent agenda items:**

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| <b>5. Approval of Minutes –</b>  | Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – May 7, 2019<br>Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – May 13, 2019  |
| <b>6. Approval of Receipts –</b> | May 2019 – \$165,101.68  |
| <b>7. Approval for Payment –</b> | Disbursements for May 2019 – \$148,785.67<br>Payroll for May 2019 – \$85,268.82  |
| <b>8. Correspondence –</b>       | Team Triumph, Special Olympics – Thank you card.<br>US Census Bureau – 2020 Census New Construction Program.<br>Robert Wagstrom, MN Department of Revenue – Annual hearing on unmined ore assessments for 2019.<br>Connor Boler, Minnesota Department of Commerce – 2017 General Rate Case.<br>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission – Notice of commission meeting.   |
| <b>12. Community Comments –</b>  | 04/08/2019 – Blight complaint on E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. N<br><u>Resolution:</u> ERPD has spoken to the owner.<br>05/06/2019 – Blight Concerns on 711 Maple Dr.<br><u>Resolution:</u> ERPD has attempted to reach the homeowner several times.<br>05/08/2019 – Alley between S. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. W. and S. 1 <sup>st</sup> St. W. drainage and damage concerns.<br><u>Resolution:</u> Public Works is presenting a strategic plan to the City Council about alley replacement; replacement will be dependent on funds and Council decision. |

05/10/2019 – Stop sign location on W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.

Resolution: Public Works has located the sign at the location it currently is so traffic stops out of the intersection with Main St.

05/10/2019 – Pot holes located on W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. E. and N. Main St.

Resolution: Public Works fills potholes throughout the summer; these will be addressed.

05/10/2019 – Street sign for W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Resolution: Public Works has the sign; it will be put up this summer.

05/10/2019 – Status of construction on N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E.

Resolution: Approx. 350 ft. of N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. E. is being replaced – both surface and infrastructure. This begins prior to the intersection with E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N. and ends at the southernmost part of E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

05/10/2019 – Concerns about Central Ave.

Resolution: Public Works has attempted to fill the stress cracks and it has not held; a solution is being investigated.

05/20/2019 – Trucks entering town using engine brakes.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

### **13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –**

RAMS – February 28, 2019

RAMS – March 28, 2019

East Range Joint Powers Board – April 23, 2019

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – May 8, 2019

Aurora Library Board – May 16, 2019

Tri-City Ambulance Hiring Committee – May 20, 2019

Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – May 23, 2019

Planning and Zoning Commission – May 28, 2019

Residential Improvement Permits

- Greg Hinsz – 205 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
  - Replace door, windows, roof, and kitchen floor
- Rodney and Wendy Ross – 102 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North
  - Replacing side door
- Glenn Paavola – 111 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street West
  - Windows and siding
- Kathy Rensink – 320 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West
  - Replacing shingles on house and garage
- Hugh Wood – 315 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street West
  - Improve walkway and extend garage eave
- Jonathan Page – 307 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North
  - Window replacement
- Ray Klein - 109 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North
  - Replacing shingles

- Michael and Kim Zinski – 26 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North
  - Replace existing deck back of house

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to submit an application for the Mayor to appear in the Patriotic Days Parade on July 3, 2019, with the possibility of councilors appearing with him. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Collin Luke – Youth Activities Coordinator, Mesabi East Schools

Mr. Luke introduced himself as the newly hired Youth Activities Coordinator; he will be taking over the recreation programs for the area. His office is located in the Community Education Office.

Rudy Ceglar

Mr. Ceglar had comments on the pigeons in town, as well as the blight situation.

Michael Beech – RA Morton, Mesabi East Schools

Mr. Beech gave an update on the Mesabi East Athletics Project, stating they were approximately two weeks behind at this time. The edges of the fields have been marked. A contractor snagged a guyed wire on Saturday, which took down power. Mr. Beech was awestruck by the community pulling together for graduation being moved to Hoyt Lakes. He also addressed some rumors in regard to quality of work and settlement, stating the School is doing everything as planned and recommended.

#### REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Dave Worshek

The children's and teens' summer reading programs began yesterday, on June 3. The programs will run through July 19, and children and teens can sign up at any time to read and win prizes. There will also be a variety of events for children and families throughout the summer.

This evening, Minnesota Jack Sparrow is presenting a program on pirate history. Other events in June include a children's music and dance show by the Dollipops on June 14; a preschool story time with stories, songs, and crafts on June 18; a story club for elementary-age students with books, games, and a craft on June 21; and Brodini's Comedy Magic Show for the whole family on June 18. Stop in the library, check the library's web page, or wat the library's Facebook page for details.

The Aurora Public Library book group will meet again on June 20 at 6:00 pm. Readers of all ages are invited to come talk about what they have been reading lately and leave with a list of recommendations. Finally, on June 27, at 6:00 pm Aurora-Hoyt Lakes grad Jim Koepke will present a program at the Aurora Public Library about the JFK assassination. His presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer time.

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek –

Councilor Worshek attended the RAMS meeting, where Senator Tomassoni gave an update on the 2019 legislative session. Councilor Worshek asked about the Biwabik water contract; he stated it was unfortunate to have ended, but a discussion on the impact on Aurora will need to take place.

Councilor Jofs –

Councilor Jofs discussed the Joint Advisory Committee for the recreation programs with Mesabi East School.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor discussed a Polymet briefing he attended, the Memorial Day Observance, Spruce Up Aurora, Public Works sweeping, new businesses in town, and the Northern Lights' recent purchase. He stated Celebrate Aurora is having a Kickin' Off the 4<sup>th</sup> event on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Rudy's Bar and Grill. Mayor Gregor addressed the recent uptick in noise in the community, stating it was nice to have the business in town. He also discussed the strategic planning meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to appoint Chief Soular, Councilor Jofs, and Mayor Gregor to a hiring committee for the City Administrator position to finalize job description, salary, and employment contract. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to move the council and mayor mailboxes to the council and mayor office, and to direct City Clerk Lammi to refine options for department head mailboxes. Motion carried unanimously.**

No action was taken on the job descriptions and policy manual updates.

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to move forward with adopting the Animal Ordinance as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to have a public listening session for the rental ordinance the week of July 15, 2019, to be determined by the Community Center availability. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to table the land purchase request from Steve Scheuring, pending additional information on the trail. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve Bolton and Menk in the amount not to exceed \$2,850 for the mercury compliances schedule. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to appoint Mayor Gregor, Councilor Worshek, City Clerk Lammi, and City Attorney Brunfelt to the Contract Negotiation Committee. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to regretfully accept the retirement of Kim Zinski from her positions of Office Aide and Community Center Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to accept the regular meeting schedule with the change of the June 18, 2019 meeting being held at 4:00 pm instead of 5:30 pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to close City Hall at 12:00 noon on July 3, 2019; staff can continue to work until 4:30 or choose to take leave. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to provide exterior door keys to councilors or the mayor if requested, and to keep record of the keys given out. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve Benchmark for staking and construction observation for the Cemetery Turn Lane / Watermain Improvement / County Road 341 Project in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the Chamber of Commerce use of the council chambers, with the understanding the Chamber will yield to any government meetings. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to table the Borealis Addition. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to table the Animal Control Policy, Council Agenda Policy, Media Request Policy, Recruitment and Selection Policy, Rules of Procedure, Social Media Use Policy, Travel and Training Policy to the July working session. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to waive the \$125.00 rental fee for the Community Center for the Up North Quilt Guild for the 2019 Patriotic Days festivities. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve payment to Mesabi Bituminous in the amount of \$69,743.30 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> St E/1<sup>st</sup> St W Improvement Projects. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to deny the land purchase request of Scott Henry. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to call a joint meeting with the Town of White for the next available date. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to call a public hearing for the vacation of Railroad Ave AKA N 3<sup>rd</sup> St W for July 2, 2019 at 5:15 pm. Motion carried unanimously.**

No action was taken on the sponsorship request from the Hoyt Lakes Water Carnival.

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve pull tab gambling at the Copper Nickel. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve Liquor Licenses for the following businesses, contingent on all paperwork and payment being submitted:**

Off Sale: 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  
On Sale: Mark S. Hall d/b/a The Bar; Kruchowski Inc. d/b/a Copper Nickel; Tim & Jesse Inc d/b/a Rudy's Bar

Sunday License: Mark S. Hall d/b/a The Bar; Kruchowski Inc. d/b/a Copper Nickel; Tim & Jesse Inc d/b/a Rudy's Bar

Club License: American Legion #241 d/b/a Quayle/Schuster/Truman/Muhich Post

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Next Working Session: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the City/Town Government Center

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the City/Town Government Center

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Becky Lammi, City Clerk