

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Lislegard, Cromley, Lakso

ABSENT: Mayor Hess

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Soular, East Range Police Chief; Tim Kauppi, 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 May 2, 2017; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on May 15, 2017. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the receipts for May 2017 in the amount of \$113,808.46 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lakso and supported by Cromley to approve the disbursements for May 2017 in the amount of \$187,715.42 and Payroll in the amount of \$69,645.40. MOTION CARRIED

3-T TREE TRIMMING	9,130.00	EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	30,095.44
AMERICAN BANK 8977	293.10	EAST RANGE SHOPPER	1,108.56
AMERICAN BANK 9587	16.89	ECONO SIGNS LLC	66.86
AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSN	315.00	EDWARDS OIL	146.82
APG MEDIA OF MN	217.97	FERGUSON ENTERPRISES INC.	192.27
ARROW AUTO	385.35	FIRE SAFETY USA, INC	95.00
AT&T MOBILITY	333.27	FREEDOM FETE	350.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	401.95	FRONTIER	1,042.32
BISS LOCK, INC.	596.49	G & K SERVICES	46.80
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	76.57	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	28.35
BRADACH LUMBER	184.66	GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
CARQUEST AURORA	357.73	HAWKINS INC.	226.65
CENGAGE LEARNING	46.50	HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	440.00
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	92.32
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	359.91	IRON RANGE PLUMBING & HEATING	685.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	470.00	JACOBSEN GRAVEL COMPANY	816.05
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST		K & K CLEANING	755.00
MINNESOTA	37.75	LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	601.00
D.L. LINDER INC.	395.00	LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	275.00
DEMCO INC.	78.15		

LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	80.16	RANGE PAPER	483.71
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	1,094.47	ROGERS ONLINE	1,079.00
MCFOA REGION II	30.00	ROYAL TIRE, INC.	81.70
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	105.08	RUSSELL SILTMAN	31.76
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	82,118.29	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
METRO SALES	387.38	SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	493.90
MICROMARKETING LLC	35.99	ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR3	13,733.00
MIDWEST TAPE	78.93	SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	207.54
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	2,316.63	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
MINNESOTA POWER	8,665.37	TOMAHAWK FORD	12,514.52
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	1,559.00	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	385.56
NELSON ROOFING INC.	168.88	VERIZON	15.22
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	VERIZON WIRELESS	70.06
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	1,020.40	VER-TECH INC.	218.15
PAULA CHAPMAN	53.12	VIVID DESIGN	117.70
PORTABLE JOHN	170.00	VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT	126.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	105.58	WM RECYCLE AMERICA	168.67
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	542.53	ZIEGLER INC.	707.08
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	409.10		

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following correspondence: 2017 CDBG funding update; MN Dept. of Revenue regarding annual hearing on unmined iron ore assessments; St. Louis County regarding Calcium Chloride Dust Control; MPCA letter Municipal Permitting Update; Minnesota State Demographic Center regarding population and household estimates. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST
NONE

PUBLIC FORUM

Tom Rukavina, 4th District Commissioner for St Louis County appeared to announce that there would be an overlay done on several roads in Aurora and Town of White and a new rail crossing will be put in town along with replacing the culvert.

Vic Lund, traffic engineer with St Louis County appeared to discuss the specifics of the repairs. He explained that he has been working extensively with the Canadian National Railroad to get these repairs done. This summer there will be a patching of the existing concrete panels of the railroad

crossing with an epoxy-based material that should stand up better than the hot-mix patch used in the past and there will be some intermittent lane closures while these repairs are taking place. In 2018, the culvert that has heaved on the south side of the railroad crossing will be replaced and he will be coordinating with the CN Railroad to replace the railroad crossing itself with concrete panels using a composite plastic material that has a much longer service life.

Eric Fallstrom, from St Louis County presented the 2018 and 2019 project overview of upcoming road projects. He discussed the 2018 culvert package along with several 2019 road reclamation projects on CSAH 100 and CSAH 110 including a complete survey in 2019 of the intersection of CSAH 100 and CSAH 110 near the Holiday store which would include a full-depth removal, new curb and gutter, and potentially new pedestrian lamps and that they were also planning for pavement on County Road 341 west of the Holiday to 2nd Street South. Discussion was had with members in attendance on the lane closures for each of the projects and the safety issues surrounding the repairs. Butch Ceglar had asked if the 2019 survey of the intersection by the Holiday station could include an evaluation of putting in a right-turn lane on the road coming from Hoyt Lakes and turning into Aurora. Mr. Fallstrom indicated that they would make this a part of the survey, but Commissioner Rukavina cautioned that they cannot do anything unless CN staff is present because under federal law the County will need permission to cross their easement.

Tim Kruchowski from Rudy's Bar requested permission to set up a stage on the street between the post office and Rudy's Bar on July 3rd for one or two bands due to the uncertainty whether Freedom Fete would be taking place this year. Councilor Lislegard indicated that he has not heard about the status of Freedom Fete, but their application has included a stage in their plans. The council discussed it being a fairness issue and said that whether or not Freedom Fete occurs, that they would grant permission to Rudy's Bar to set up the stage on July 3rd.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to allow the setup of a stage between the post office and Rudy's Bar on July 3rd. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman reported that the summer reading programs for children and teens have started. They began on June 1, and will run through July 19. This year's theme is "Reading by Design." Both children and teens can sign up at any point throughout the program to earn prizes from the library and from the Mesabi East PTO by reading. Children who have just completed grades 1-7 can earn additional vouchers for free food, admission, and a ride from the St. Louis County Fair.

There will be a variety of programs and activities throughout the summer as well. During the week of June 5th, children can stop in at the library any time during open hours to design and make a "Recycled Craft Robot," and teens can pick up a take-home cooking chemistry experiment kit. Each week the library will have an any-time activity for children, and a few different take-home or at-the-library activities for teens. On Thursday, June 8, at 6:30 pm, the library will be hosting the "On-Time Circus Puppet and Clown Wagon" in Aurora. If the weather is good, the program will be held by the playground at Pine Grove Park. In the case of rainy weather, the program will be held at the Aurora Community/Senior Center. The library will also hold a pre-school story and craft time, called "1-2-3, Come Count With Me" on Thursday, June 29, at 6:00 pm.

Monday, July 3, the library will close at 5:00 pm. From 1:00-4:00 on the 3rd, children can stop in for a make-and-take craft afternoon. On Wednesday, July 5, at 1:30 pm, the library will host a free Northern Lights Music Festival "Kids for Kids" concert.

Police Chief Soular gave recognition to the fire department for their work on the fire that occurred at 309 West 3rd Avenue North. The current situation is a safety hazard that will require the city to make an appropriate decision as to what to do with the remaining structure. Chief Soular also noted the upcoming T-Ball, Little League, and kickball games in Aurora.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilor Lislegard 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 – April 25, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – May 10, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – April 18, 2017 Minutes; Library Board Minutes – May 30, 2017 Minutes; Planning & Zoning – May 23, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – May Monthly Report; Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee Meeting – April 26, 2017 Minutes; Ambulance Report – 2nd Quarter 2017; RAMS Board Meeting-April 27, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce – January 17, 2017 Minutes; February 21, 2017 Minutes; March 21, 2017 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cromley and supported by Lakso to approve the Zoning Permit for: Shon and Mary Thompson Thomas – 21 South Fourth Street – install four foot high fence on the lot perimeter. The board noted that in the application that the fence would need to be set back 33 feet from the center of the right of way and not 25 feet as listed in the original application. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the Residential Improvement Permits for: Mark Boback – 27 North Erie Street – replace roof; Beverly Mauer – 303 South 2nd Street West – replace roof on house and garage; Brian & Sara Blaisdell – 705 Maple Drive – replace window.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to table the Residential Improvement Permit for R. Dick Clark to install tin on the flat roof at 16 East 3rd Avenue North until staff can review his application to determine if this should be filed as commercial rather than residential. MOTION CARRIED

The Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee has noted a safety issue in the public works garage. The vehicle lift area is dark and the current lighting apparatus is very slow to light the area and that employees are currently using portable lights to help alleviate the problem. Public Works Director Thuringer has indicated that the initial estimate for a new light should be around \$1,200.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to seek quotes for installation of a new light fixture in the vehicle lift area in the public works garage. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the officers for the Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee for 2017: Co-Chair Chris Anderson, Co-Chair Dave Worshek, Secretary Karin Krueger. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that the city sign as you enter town from the west is not looking that good and has requested that the city clerk reach out to Mesabi Sign to get an assessment of the current sign and the options available to the city. Councilor Worshek also thanked Jan Moore for her work on the community blood drive and moving the flower planter to the east side from the west side on Central and Main and thanked the Spruce Up Committee for the work they do. Also noted the joint city council meeting with Hoyt Lakes on July 6th at 6 p.m.

Councilor Cromley asked the citizens to take pride in the appearance of our community and to ask if any of your neighbors need help with upkeep and other related tasks. Councilor Cromley also asked that citizens stay off of their cellphones while driving as distracted driving is a big problem right now. Councilor Cromley also asked to add on to Councilor Worshek's request to get a quote for installation of the fire department signage from Mesabi Sign when they quote the city sign.

Councilor Lakso reported that there is a leaking fire hydrant near his house that needs to be repaired. He also reported the work of the Planning and Zoning Committee and asked about researching a couple of roof repairs to see if permits had been filed and has also responded to public complaints regarding possible permit issues and will respond by mail to those people. He also suggested the possibility of running ads in the East Range Shopper to remind people of the requirement to apply for a permit before contracting for this type of work.

Councilor Lislegard recognized the fire department and first responders for all of their hard work and noted the large number of calls that they have had to respond to recently. He noted that they are a volunteer department and that they do a lot for very little and urged the public to appreciate and thank them for their commitment.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

NONE

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bobbi Jo Mineheine from the Celebrate Aurora committee gave details about all of the upcoming events they are planning which include Polka Fest on June 10th, a golf tournament on June 17th, and several children's events. She thanked the council and all of the community members for their generous support.

Jackie Cherro from the Caring for the Kids committee was present to discuss several of the options for creating recreational options for the children in our community as a result of funds that have been raised to help pay for these projects. Projects include a volleyball court, frisbee golf, and a skate park. Jackie explained how her group wants to partner with the city on these projects and the council noted how the process works to get these projects approved and that these items are on this meeting agenda under New Business for later in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The City Code Land Usage language is still being worked and is now being reviewed by the City Attorney Mike Kearney. The city attorney advised to table the decision as he plans to meet with city staff to see how these changes could potentially affect current landowners.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to table approving the new language in the ordinance until more research can be done. MOTION CARRIED

The council announced that they had just learned that the quote by Gornick's Nuisance Wildlife Control will not be able to be accepted due to the fact that Mr. Gornick does not possess the level of insurance that the city requires. Councilor Lislegard apologized for this delay and that the city is now doing more research and re-evaluating its options as to how to address the pigeon problem but noted that the plan remains the same to find someone to lure and trap the pigeons. Councilor Worshek noted that there will also need to be a portion of this plan devoted to community awareness to ensure that continued feeding by residents is stopped.

Butch Ceglar was present to talk about the Cemetery Board's request for Columbarium footings. Mr. Ceglar explained that they were planning to put the new footings where the existing ones are currently located, but now there is a belief that there is not enough room and that they need to check into that before the next meeting and he was fine with the council holding off on this decision until there is more clarity on the subject and more information will be brought forward for the August meeting.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to table the request on making a decision on the Columbarium footings until the August meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Cromley discussed because of the recent house fire that he is going to try to recruit retired firefighters from the community for a daytime auxiliary crew and also wanted to publicly thank the public works department for their incredible support and effort during the house fire.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Lakso and supported by Cromley to approve the 2017-18 Liquors Licenses. MOTION CARRIED

ON SALE LICENSE RENEWALS

Mark Hall D/B/A The BAR
Tim & Jesse Inc. D/B/A Rudy's Bar & Grill
Kruchowski Inc. D/B/A The Copper Nickel

OFF SALE LICENSE RENEWALS

Furry's Inc. D/B/A Dino's
Mark Hall D/B/A The BAR
Tim & Jesse Inc. D/B/A Rudy's Bar & Grill

CLUB LICENSE RENEWAL

American Legion 241 D/B/A Quayle-Shuster-Truman-Muhich Post

SUNDAY LIQUOR SALE RENEWALS

Mark Hall D/B/A The BAR
Tim & Jesse Inc. D/B/A Rudy's Bar & Grill
Kruchowski Inc. D/B/A The Copper Nickel

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the 2017 Wages for umpires as follows: home plate Babe Ruth \$30 per game, base umpire \$25 per game; Little League home plate umpire \$25 per game, base umpire \$20 per game. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the Revised Coaches List for 2017 as presented subject to background checks: David Tokarczyk, Jim Luke, Tim Soular, Keith Maki. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was had on the request from the Caring for Kids committee to partner with the city on several recreation projects. Councilor Lislegard noted that there would be no decision tonight on the proposed volleyball court. Councilor Worshek reported on the developments from the last Park Committee meeting about adding disc golf in Pine Grove Park. Discussion was had on its popularity and how this was planned for in the past and how the new course design would fit into the current park layout. Councilor Worshek stated that the funding for this project would come from Caring for Kids with some additional funding coming from the gambling fee and in-kind services from the city. The city attorney recommended that a final course layout be submitted prior to approving the project.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve disc golf in Pine Grove Park subject to a final design plan being approved by the Park Committee and forwarded to the city council to approve. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was held on digging out and leveling out the old pool area in Pine Grove Park. Public Works Director Thuringer indicated that it is wasted space and that doing this would enhance the park. He stated that the public works staff could do the work with the rental of a small bulldozer as there are no electrical or plumbing issues to deal with, but he could not guarantee the time frame to complete the task.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the dig out and leveling of the old pool in Pine Grove Park subject to the rental cost of the bulldozer being reasonable. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion of creating a skateboard park in the old tennis court took place and council members were asked if this is a popular option for kids. Police Chief Soular supported the idea of a skate park and stated that Hoyt Lakes has committed good open space for this purpose and that having an ATV trail run close by will help. Councilor Lislegard asked if the old tennis court was the only feasible location, and Councilor Worshek said that the final location would need to be discussed with the Park Committee. This topic will go back to the Park Committee for further discussion and that committee will bring back a proposal to a future council meeting for approval.

Discussion of changing the city clerk's office hours was held to have the Aurora office aligned with the closing time of other city halls in the area. The hours of 8:00 to 4:30 was presented as the most likely option if it is decided to not keep the current structure. There was no problem with the proposed change and the subject will be brought up for a vote at an upcoming city council meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the fire at 309 W 3rd Avenue North. The homeowner has emailed the city indicating that he does not have insurance on the property and is willing to sign a quitclaim deed to the city for no cost. Councilor Lislegard discussed how this situation has created the need to have a rental ordinance in the city and to make homeowners legally responsible. Police Chief Soular confirmed that his investigation has also shown that no insurance was taken out on the property and that he would like the city to take action due to the current condition of the house as it is a safety issue. Councilor

Cromley stated that the house is in need of several safety precautions including boarding up of the front and back doors to the home and that there is a lot of clean up that needs to be done. Councilor Lislegard stated the need to find out what our legal options are as to this specific property and he would recommend that the council reject the offer of the homeowner to turn over the property to the city for free. City attorney Kearney listed the city's legal options and laid out the steps if the city was to declare it a hazardous building and how the city handled this the last time this happened.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to have the City Clerk issue a letter rejecting the homeowners' offer of signing the property over to the city, to clean up the debris outside of the home between the neighbors houses and to board up the front and back doors, to place on orange fence around the front side of the house to deter further entry, obtain multiple quotes to tear down the structure, and to inquire with the county and the IRRRB about possible assistance with getting this property razed. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to authorize the City Clerk/Treasurer to file an application with the Minnesota Management and Budget Office for the purpose of a joint water project. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the appointment of Wayne Thuringer, Tim Kauppi, Jim Gentilini, and Jim Lakso as subcommittee members for the Joint Water Committee. MOTION CARRIED

Butch Ceglar addressed the council regarding working water spigots at the cemetery and stated that there were only two working on the west side and what could be done to get the others working. Public Works Director Thuringer explained the situation and detailed the plan to get them fixed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer