

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 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

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 – June 2, 2020
- 5.2 Aurora City Council Public Hearing – June 2, 2020
- 5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – June 16, 2020
- 5.4 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – June 26, 2020

6. Approval of Receipts –

- 6.1 June 2020 – \$111,386.33

7. Approval for Payment –

- 7.1 Disbursements for June 2020 – \$364,450.08
- 7.2 Employment for June 2020 – \$88,565.33
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$65,305.18
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$23,260.15

8. Correspondence –

- 8.1 St. Louis County Environmental Services – Recommendation to not increase rates.
- 8.2 League of MN Cities – No increase to membership dues for 2021.

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 04/09/2020 – Yard damaged during snow plowing activities.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.3 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 Aurora Fire Department Minutes – June 10, 2020
- 13.2 COVID-19 Response Team – June 4, 2020
- 13.3 COVID-19 Response Team – June 11, 2020
- 13.4 COVID-19 Response Team – June 18, 2020
- 13.5 COVID-19 Response Team – July 2, 2020
- 13.6 Planning and Zoning Commission – June 23, 2020

Zoning Permits

Vincent Little – 609 Main Street North

- Build in city setback, allow more than one accessory building, and allow an oversized accessory building

Tristan Shockman – 102 North 1st Street West

- Build deck within setback

Jennifer Maish – 402 South 1st Street East

- Adding 12x12 shed addition

Norma Forsman – 22 North 1st Street East

- Building new modular Home
- WAC & SAC request

Carrie Leffel – 211 West 4th Avenue North

- Backyard fence

Residential Improvement Permits

Judith Carlson – 707 Arrowhead Street

- Replacing roof

Donald & Linda Lucachick – 101 East 2nd Avenue North

- Enclose porch

Richard & Michele Lammi – 6013 Central Avenue West

- Remodeling attached garage/kitchen including replacing door and foundation

Greg Hinsz – 205 East 4th Avenue North

- Replacing windows and siding

Matt Modlin – 42 South Erie Street

- Replacing roof

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

1st Ayd Corporation	\$ 248.87
AMERICAN LEGION 241	\$ 325.00
AMPTEK INC.	\$ 1,953.73
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 1,233.36
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 189.69
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 212.49
BISS LOCK INC.	\$ 16.50
BLICK ART MATERIALS	\$ 53.93
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 10.30
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$ 19,361.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 359.64
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 680.06
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 258.47
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
Civic Systems, LLC	\$ 3,317.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 510.00
COLORPHASE	\$ 1,500.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 632.50
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 1,595.00
DEBORAH J MAKI	\$ 95.67
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS	\$ 3,750.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 34,964.16
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 148.13
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS	\$ 1,119.00
EOC-TRIMARK	\$ 392.77
FERGUS POWER PUMP INC	\$ 61,405.73
FRONTIER	\$ 831.76
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 121.50
GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	\$ 77.97
GREAT NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ 5,605.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 170.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 430.22
HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$ 995.00
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 64.99

LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$ 91,527.69
LIFE SECURITY AND CONTROL	\$ 300.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$ 873.41
MCFOA	\$ 45.00
MESABI BITUMINOUS	\$ 1,176.50
MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 209.95
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 2,735.95
MESABI SIGN COMPANY	\$ 32.00
METRO SALES	\$ 258.34
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 35.99
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 1,271.76
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 9,259.41
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MINNESOTA UI	\$ 255.04
MITEL	\$ 172.20
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	\$ 1,821.16
NORTH COUNTRY HEATING	\$ 120.00
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 170.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 108.38
QUADIENT LEASING USA, INC.	\$ 217.80
QUADIENT, INC.	\$ 33.82
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 64.13
RANGE PAPER	\$ 131.58
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	\$ 8,460.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,810.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	\$ 35.45
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 112.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
THE BAR	\$ 800.00
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 14,143.93
U.S.POSTAL SERVICE (QUADIENT-POC)	\$ 250.00
ULINE	\$ 9,438.77
US BANK	\$ 73,482.50
US TREASURY	\$ 56.35
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 262.04

VERIZON	\$ 15.27
VERN'S GREENHOUSE & NURSERY	\$ 77.85
VER-TECH INC.	\$ 249.49

VIVID DESIGN	\$ 16.00
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT	\$ 140.00

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 City has received the CARES monies distribution from the State of Minnesota. The Hoyt Lakes and Aurora Councils may want to consider sharing the CARES distribution with the East Range Police Department, as they do not have a per capita distribution.

Library – Talicia Honkola

The Aurora Public Library’s summer reading programs have reached the halfway point. To date, parents and caregivers have registered 3 preschoolers, 24 school-age children, and 12 teens to participate, and our 2 day care partners have registered 20 preschoolers and 9 school-age children. So far, 21 of the participants have reported reading on a total of 221 days. The deadline to hit 500 days of reading for a Memorial Brick donation to the Splashpad project has been extended to July 31, so we encourage participants to keep on reading and to report in! There is also still time to sign up for the program. So far, only 3 children have looked for the weekly hidden pictures, and to date, nobody has yet turned in a completed scavenger hunt sheet. There are still several prizes waiting to be won! The current scavenger hunt, identifying pictures taken around Aurora, has been opened up to adults as well as to children and teens. It is posted on the library’s Facebook page, and may also be requested through the library’s curbside pickup. The deadline for returning completed sheets for entry in the prize drawings is July 26.

As of the end of last week, the library has handed out 103 children’s take-and-make craft project bags, and 8 teen take-and-make craft project bags. The dinosaur fossils project has been the most popular so far. Upcoming projects include a mandala coloring pack for teens, and for children a “Pete the Cat” game, a dinosaur habitat jar, a mandala coloring pack, and a collage art pack. Participants also receive a weekly email with ideas for additional science, art, and writing projects.

Use of the library’s no-contact curbside checkout is increasing; the number of items checked out in June came close to doubling the number of items borrowed in May, although the total checkout between January and June this year was 40% less than January and June last year.

We look forward to the time when we can safely open the library but encourage everyone to continue to use the curbside checkout in the meantime, and to contact the library if they have any questions.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso has noticed a lot of construction and improvements happening around town without a permit; he advises getting a permit to protect the homeowner.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek saw an ad in the East Range Shopper regarding the Splash Pad delay; they will be breaking ground soon. Due to COVID-19 there is no rush to open soon. The parade on the 3rd of July was very nice.

Councilor Jofs

Shout out to Celebrate Aurora Committee for the Patriotic Days Parade. The Census is still going on – it's very important as it directly impacts the finances of the area.

Councilor Honkola

Thanks to the Public Works Department and City Administrator Lammi for placing tables at Rudy's and The Hive. The Bar may request tables once insurance and premise plan are complete. The Legion is no longer requesting tables at this time.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Awesome job to Celebrate Aurora Committee for the parade. The Joint Water Project request for bond monies is still in the bonding bill for \$5 million. The Geotech site work is being completed this week. The East Range Joint Powers Board is utilizing \$40,000 to match \$160,000 of Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for business relief related to COVID-19. Shout out to the Public Works Department who are doing an awesome job maintaining the city.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to approve the Fryberger Law Firm conflict of interest waiver regarding the Joint Water Project.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve the Business Development Committee Bylaws.

Ayes: Worshek, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Lakso supported by Honkola to approve Water Access Connection and Sewer Access Connection for 22 North 1st Street East.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to obtain an appraisal on parcel number 100-0020-01030 (located between Cutting Edge and USPS).

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to direct Mayor Gregor and City Administrator Lammi to bring a draft insert to the next council meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Jofs to adopt Resolution 2020-12 Authorizing the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of a \$585,000 General Obligation Disposal System Note, Series 2020A.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to adopt the increase to Waste Water Fees beginning September 1, 2020. The increase to residential waste water capital is \$3.00; commercial waste water capital is \$3.00; commercial waste water capital metered is \$1.00 per 1000 gallons over 5000.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to update the Legal Publishing Newspaper to Mesabi Tribune.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to resume assessing late fees to utility bills beginning September 1, 2020.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: Honkola

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve pay request number 2 in the amount of \$90,679.69 to Lakehead Constructors for the Waste Water Digester Project.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to approve the letter of support for the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority application to the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for the Taconite Area Business Relief Loan Program.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to approve the CW Technologies quote for technology upgrades to the City Council Chambers.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The regular council meeting was closed to the public at 6:53 pm under MN Statute 13D.03.

The regular council meeting was opened to the public at 7:22 pm.

Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to approve and authorize signatures on the 2020-2021 final union contract.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator