

**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017  
5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilors Worshek, Lislegard, Lakso, Mayor Hess

**ABSENT:** Councilor Cromley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer;  
Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hess at 5:32 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the following minutes as presented: Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on June 6, 2017; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on June 26, 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the receipts for June 2017 in the amount of \$86,235.49 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lakso and supported by Cromley to approve the disbursements for June 2017 in the amount of \$262,860.67 and Payroll in the amount of \$123,769.63. MOTION CARRIED**

3-T TREE TRIMMING	205.00	CHARLES F. WILLIAMS	82.93
ADVANCED MINNESOTA	1,000.00	CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
AMERICAN BANK 8977	2,261.98	CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00
AMERICAN BANK 9587	139.93	CLAREYS SAFETY EQUIPMENT INC	32,023.26
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	69.33	CLIMATE AIR, INC.	3,188.64
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	299.00	COLDSRING MEMORIAL	458.00
AMPTEK INC.	2,035.58	COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	470.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	756.60	COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION SYSTE	192.54
APPROVE PLUMBING	2,782.00	CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	37.75
AT & T MOBILITY	268.72	DELZOTTO PRODUCTS INC.	1,774.13
AUTO VALUE VIRGINIA	59.63	EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD	7,600.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	420.52	EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	29,725.77
BISS LOCK INC.	814.00	EAST RANGE SHOPPER	177.05
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	5,396.23	ECONO SIGNS LLC	189.05
BRADACH LUMBER	419.61	EDWARDS OIL	106.82
BSN SPORTS INC	879.67	ESSENTIA HEALTH	359.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	4,727.50	EXCEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	754.00
CARQUEST AURORA	265.27	F.I.R.E.	600.00
CHAD SAHR	123.36	FALCON ROAD MAINTENANCE EQUIP	28,612.25

FIRSTLAB	50.00	PLAGEMANNS FLORAL & GIFT	68.54
FRONTIER	1,087.49	PORTABLE JOHN	182.14
G & K SERVICES	46.80	PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	101.63
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	39.15	RANGE COOPERATAIVES, INC.	503.50
GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	69.99	RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	259.96
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	135.00	RANGE PAPER	1,860.85
HAWKINS INC.	914.48	SCOTTS UNDERGROUND SOUND	184.00
HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	1,780.00	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	178.00
K & K CLEANING	495.00	SHAWN ROSGA	45.00
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	705.76	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	294.72	SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	101.83
MAIL FINANCE	204.75	SNAP-ON TOOLS	67.00
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	204.70	SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	79.72
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	29.96	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
METRO SALES	367.55	TOMAHAWK FORD	13,337.31
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	1,343.52	TOWN OF WHITE	2,556.43
MINNESOTA POWER	8,248.70	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	4,873.15
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
MN ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERIES	97.50	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	380.13
MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	35.00	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	380.13
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	417.81	US BANK	79,107.50
NORTH COUNTRY HEATING	339.00	USA BLUE BOOK	237.84
NORTHERN ENGINE & SUPPLY INC.	242.31	VERIZON	15.22
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	VERIZON WIRELESS	70.02
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	1,973.25	VIVID DESIGN	1,877.00
PAUL MARTINETTO	100.00		

MOVING PERMITS

NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following correspondence: USDA, Rural Development, regarding Community Facilities Grant Applications; Iron Range Tourism Bureau regarding nominations for the Spirit of Hospitality Award; Steve Nelson, Planning and Community Development, regarding the 2017 CDBG funding update; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding Biosolids Annual Report; Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development regarding the Minnesota Investment Fund; Minnesota Public Facilities Authority regarding applications for the Point Source Implementation Grant Program, Minnesota Department of Transportation applications for the Minnesota Highway Freight Program funding; St Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad donation drive; Tim Engrav, U.S. Forest Service, regarding the Skibo Vista Reconstruction Project. MOTION CARRIED**

## TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

NONE

## PUBLIC FORUM

NONE

## REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Thuringer, Director of Public Works reported that the water level in the St James Pit is eleven inches below the floor of the pump station, and if the level does not come down soon that there will be a need to dewater the pit or implement some other procedure to reduce the water level if it rises three more inches. Wayne informed the council members that Steve Scheuring has offered the use of his pump if needed as that pump can pump five times more water than the current city pump. Wayne also noted that the part-time help has been doing well, but they are having a hard time keeping up with mowing the city greenspace since it has been raining so much recently.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to authorize Wayne Thuringer the discretion to check with the state and inform them of our situation and to contract with Steve Scheuring for the use of his water pump should it be needed to dewater the St. James Pit. MOTION CARRIED**

Paula Chapman reported that this summer's reading programs at the library which began on June 1, are drawing toward their conclusion. Even though the final day to turn in reading slips is July 19, both children and teens can still sign up with a good chance to earn a prize before the program ends. This week, on Thursday, the library will have the final big event of the reading program. An official "Mad Scientist" of Minnesota will explore the mysteries of chemistry with a program called "Spin, Pop, Boom!" The program will be held Thursday, July 13, at 6:00 pm in the Aurora Community/Senior Center. It is geared toward elementary-age students, but all are welcome. On Thursday, July 27, at 4:00 pm, a staff member of the International Wolf Center will bring a program to the library. The presentation will cover basics in wolf biology and predator-prey dynamics, as well as discussing the history of wolf management, myths about wolves, how people can coexist with wolves and other wildlife, the importance of wild land habitat, and any questions raised by participants. Finally, on Tuesday, August 1, at 3:30 pm, Climb Theater will present a children's play, "The Ant and the Grasshopper," at the library. They usually find a way to involve the children in the audience. Although geared toward children, everyone is welcome to come enjoy this interactive theater experience at the library.

Chris Shuck discussed how summer baseball is structured and ran. He explained how hard it is to find umpires and thanked the city council for approving the increase in wages for umpires and coaches this year. Chris praised the jobs done by Chad Sahr for running the Little League six team tournament in June, and Keith Berdice for running the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ed Berdice tournament. Mr. Shuck also reported that he is getting ready to start elementary volleyball and flag football and noted that the plaque at the baseball field has been installed and blends in well with the building. He also advised the council that the poles on the right field line are pushing up on the dugout and that he will need to work with the city clerk to address this problem as the dugouts will get ruined if the problem is not corrected. He closed his presentation by thanking the public works department for all of their hard work in making the ballfields look really good.

## REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess reviewed the list of reports from Boards & Commissions.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – May 23, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – June 14, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – May 16, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – June 2017 Monthly Report; East Range Public Safety Board – May 8, 2017 Minutes; Ambulance Report – May 2017; Tri-City Ambulance Advisory Board Meeting – June 8, 2017 Minutes; RAMS Board Meeting-May 31, 2017 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED**

## REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek said it was good to see all of the people out on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and thanked the new 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee and the city crew for all of their hard work during all of the events that were held in the city.

Councilor Lislegard thanked Keith Berdice for putting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Ed Berdice baseball tournament. Councilor Lislegard also asked that all people come out to Virginia on July 25<sup>th</sup> to the rally regarding the last hearing on the 230K acre withdrawal in support of all mining in the region. The schedule is to meet at the Field of Dreams at 3 p.m., 3:20 p.m. for initial speakers, and then a unity march to the school at 4:00 p.m. Communities from Grand Rapids to Ely will be represented and is our opportunity to get something done on this issue.

Councilor Lakso talked about the recycling center and was disappointed to see all of the garbage and trash left there and stated that this situation is getting really bad. He noted how an old garden hose and medicine cabinet had been left there and he instructed everyone to make sure that they use the transfer station for their garbage disposal purposes and to only use the recycling center for recycling items only.

## REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess thanked both the old and the new 4<sup>th</sup> of July committees for all of their efforts for making the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in Aurora a great experience. The Mayor talked about a recent meeting that she had with the East Range Police Department where Chief Soular gave an update and she noted that the police department has been very busy and has been doing an excellent job. The Mayor also thanked the public works department for all of their efforts over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and thanked Chad Sahr and Keith Berdice for running their respective baseball tournaments. The mayor closed her report by talking about how she and some of her neighbors cleaned up a garden by the old youth hockey rink in tribute of four individuals who started the youth hockey program in Aurora: Geno Olds, Ed Berdice, Don Lealos, and Sam Dickinson.

## MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Rudy Ceglar appeared to ask if any movement has been made on the shed in town that has been partially started but not yet finished since that project has been going on for quite some time. Councilor Lakso indicated that a letter had been sent to this individual and that the city is awaiting a response. Councilor Lakso advised the city clerk to see what was communicated in that letter since it has been over a year since the original permit was issued. Mr. Ceglar also asked about all of the cars that are parked in town that are not licensed and are not in working order. The mayor responded that she would talk with the police chief and have him provide an update. Councilor Lislegard pointed out that

the joint meeting with the police chief that Mayor Hess had just mentioned had a great deal of discussion devoted to blight in our community and a plan to address this problem which includes all of these cars. Mr. Ceglar also asked if someone could talk with the ATV club about the speeds of ATV users going down his alley. He believes that they are driving in excess of the posted 10 mph speed limit.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The City Code Land Usage language amendment was reviewed by the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority and was sent to the city council for its approval. At the last meeting, the motion to approve the amended ordinance language was tabled until the city attorney could review the language changes and make sure that these changes would be in the best interests for the residents of the city. City Attorney Mike Kearney reported that he reviewed the language and advised the council that the changes do not affect the interests of current homeowners but provides a little more flexibility for the HRA in the housing development process.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve Ordinance No. 81 that amends Chapter 152: Subdivisions. MOTION CARRIED.**

The city clerk provided an update on the pigeon control process and stated that Mike Gornick was able to secure the approved level of insurance and that he would begin the process of trapping pigeons in the city. The city was informed by Mike Gornick that he would secure the requested level of \$500,000 insurance to begin trapping the pigeons. A meeting will be scheduled with Mike, the city clerk, Councilor Lislegard, and Councilor Cromley to discuss the scope and goals of this project.

The city clerk provided an update on the dog ordinance committee created by Mayor Hess at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting. The committee had met and reviewed several ordinances of neighboring cities in the region and concluded that a combined total of three dogs and cats would seem to be the appropriate number to allow in the city of Aurora. Discussion by the council followed regarding those residents who have recently moved into town and current residents that currently have more than the allowed total of pets. Any change to the ordinance that limits a homeowner to a total of three dogs and cats would provide for 'grandfathering' and other provisions for those residents with more than that number to become compliant provided that they are properly licensed. The ordinance language changes will be drafted, reviewed by the city attorney, and presented at an upcoming city council meeting for final approval. The committee also discussed the merits of selling dog and cat licenses on a two-year basis versus on a yearly basis and concluded that it is easier to track when licenses are renewed on an annual basis.

Caring 4 Kids has been working with the city to create multiple recreation options for the children of the city. This group has been working with the park committee and presented the city council with a plan regarding the creation of a skate park at the old tennis court in Pine Grove Park. Caring 4 Kids has received three different quotes for equipment and indicated that American Ramp will handle the installation. Rudy Ceglar asked about the interest level in something like this and the maintenance costs associated with a skate park. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the location should work, there seems to be a lot of interest in a skate park, and the costs to maintain the park should be minimal.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the use of the old tennis court in Pine Grove Park as a location for a potential new skate park subject to obtaining grant money and other funding and approval of the final plan by the city council. MOTION CARRIED.**

The park committee has also been working with Caring 4 Kids on a new disc golf course in Pine Grove Park. This project had already been approved at the June 6, 2017 regular meeting, but the committee needed to present the final layout to the city council before proceeding with construction. Discussion ensued regarding the final layout and how holes 1, 11, and 12 on the original plan presented several issues for the city. Caring 4 Kids explained that those holes could simply be removed from the plan and they could create a nine hole course instead. Once those holes were removed, no other objections to the plan were raised and Caring 4 Kids indicated that they would move forward with the installation. Councilor Worshek indicated that this project is part of the master plan for the city and Public Works Director Thuringer indicated the positive feedback that he has received when discussing the project with members of the community. Caring 4 Kids indicated they will be making a donation to the city for the costs of the equipment and installation, and the city will provide a worker to assist with the installation of the course. Mayor Hess thanked the Caring 4 Kids committee for all of their hard work and for their generous donation.

The city clerk provided an update on the house fire at 309 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. The city clerk met recently with the city attorney to continue to discuss its options on this issue and has been notified by the previous owner that a new owner has purchased the property. The city clerk office will be making contact with the new owner and attempt to work on a potential plan to get the IRRRB to assist in the funding the demolition of the house.

#### NEW BUSINESS

The city council members were each given a copy of the audit report for fiscal year 2016. The city clerk noted that no major issues were cited but the report included some suggested changes for moving forward. Councilor Worshek agreed with the suggestion that the city should eliminate the 'Round-Up' provision. The city clerk will make those changes a part of an upcoming meeting after reviewing the other suggestions with the auditors. The city attorney noted that next year the city should bring in one of the auditors from the accounting firm to present the audit findings to the city council.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2017-07 to approve the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2016 as presented by Walker, Giroux and Hahne. MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held on where to install the new AED device that the city received from the White Community Hospital Foundation. The council agreed that installing the device on the main floor commons area in city hall would be the best place for it even though many also thought that the community center would be a great place to install it with all of the different events at that facility. The council thinks that looking into purchasing a second one for the community center may be a good idea. The city clerk relayed a message to the city council from Police Chief Soular indicating that he would provide training to all city hall staff on the proper use of the AED device. Public Works Director Thuringer indicated that his department would come by this week to assess the final location and install the AED cabinet.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard for the public works department to install the new AED device in the commons area of city hall. MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held on the Holland Lift Station Electrical Relocation Project. Public Works Director Thuringer indicated that the control panel needs to be updated anyway, but the location of the current lift station service and control cabinet needs to be moved regardless.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to update and relocate the Holland Lift Station electrical service panel. MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion was held as to whether the public works department should continue to use the 2005 Ford F-350, or prepare it for sale and purchase a new truck for the public works department. Councilor Worshek indicated that he was in favor of selling the vehicle now while its value is still relatively high and that the proceeds from the sale of the 2005 Ford could be used to purchase the new truck. Councilor Lakso asked if the vehicle would be traded in and Public Works Director Thuringer said that it could be traded in, but that you would probably get less money that way. Thuringer said that the 2005 Ford would most likely be sold outright through bid and then purchase the new truck separately with the proceeds.

The city clerk provided an update on the Blandin Community Leadership Program process and advised the council members that Curt Antilla has been instrumental on getting this program up and running. The program is in the beginning stages with the kick-off meeting having taken place in June and that the next meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. The city clerk explained that at this next meeting, called the community meeting, the group will be covering the timeline and given a roadmap for the steering committee meeting in August. The goal for the August meeting is to find a group a people that will be able to provide ideas on how to build a healthy community. The city clerk asked if there were any business leaders interested in participating in the steering committee that they should contact city hall. Councilor Worshek also suggested checking with the local Chamber of Commerce and Inter-faith council.

Councilor Worshek also suggested that a preliminary discussion regarding the upcoming budget should take place. The city clerk informed the council that process will begin soon.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to adjourn the meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer