

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 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 Public Library Director

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 – July 7, 2020
- 5.2 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – July 20, 2020
- 5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – July 21, 2020
- 5.4 Special Joint City of Aurora Council Meeting – July 30, 2020

6. Approval of Receipts –

- 6.1 July 2020 – \$1,470,285.33

7. Approval for Payment –

- 7.1 Disbursements for July 2020 – \$109,645.53
- 7.2 Employment for July 2020 – \$83,436.57
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$60,084.08
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$23,352.49

8. Correspondence –

- 8.1 NPO Litigation – National Prescription Opiate Litigation
- 8.2 Greater Minnesota Parks & Trails – Request to join.
- 8.3 US Bankruptcy Court – Frontier Communications Cooperation.
- 8.4 DDA – GO 2020A approval letter.
- 8.5 ARDC – Preliminary FY 2021 Budget and tax levy.

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.
12.4 07/09/2020 – Odor on S. 6th St. E.
Resolution: The City Council has received the concern and is investigating.
12.5 07/20/2020 – Blight on 300 block W. 3rd Ave. N.
Resolution: The City Council has received the concern and is investigating.
12.6 07/20/2020 – Alley issues between NW 2nd and 3rd Ave.
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

- 13.1 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – May 18, 2020
13.2 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – May 19, 2020
13.3 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – May 27, 2020
13.4 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – June 15, 2020
13.5 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – June 30, 2020
13.6 Aurora Cemetery Board – October 23, 2019, with corrections
13.7 Aurora Cemetery Board – July 22, 2020
13.8 COVID-19 Response Team – July 23, 2020
13.9 Planning and Zoning Commission – July 28, 2020

Zoning Permits

Cody Kiefat – 104 East 2nd Avenue North

- Build a 20 ft x 20 ft garage

Craig & Sarah Douglas – 404 South 2nd Street East

- Build a 16 ft x 20 ft shed

Bryanna & John Svitak – 315 South 3rd Street West

- Build fence

Residential Improvement Permits

Mike Walker – 723 Summit Street

- Replacing roof

Brian Dickinson – 232 Main Street South

- Replacing roof, garage door

Thomas Plesha – 513 East 3rd Avenue South

- Replacing siding, fascia/soffit, exterior doors, windows

James & Nedra Fuhr – 307 South 3rd Street West

- Install metal roof

Norma Jean Jofs – 505 South 3rd Street West

- Replacing siding, trim; portable shed

Jill Ersbo – 17 West 3rd Avenue North

- Replacing and repairing porch boards

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 710.97
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 848.15
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 182.59
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 485.80
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 324.28
C & C WINGER, INC.	\$ 7,515.00
CARING FOR THE KIDS COMMUNITY	\$ 250.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 255.60
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 297.29
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 4,026.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 4,718.75
DVS RENEWAL	\$ 42.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 35,278.47
EOC-TRIMARK	\$ 618.31
EXCEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	\$ 450.00
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION	\$ 885.00
FERGUSON WATERWORKS #2516	\$ 1,938.45
FRONTIER	\$ 924.06
GREY DUCK BAG CO.	\$ 10.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 1,679.24
HERREID & ASSOCIATES	\$ 4,388.25
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 82.56
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 49.99
LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$ 176,586.95
MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	\$ 273.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$ 426.27
MARY S ROSES	\$ 400.00

MESABI SIGN COMPANY	\$ 48.00
METRO SALES	\$ 296.55
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 67.48
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 18.99
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 469.99
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,383.90
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 172.20
MN PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY	\$ 151,681.16
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	\$ 810.60
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	\$ 200.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	\$ 4,263.00
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 285.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 111.99
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$ 187.25
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 259.82
RANGE PAPER	\$ 5,132.78
REVIZE LLC	\$ 1,400.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,478.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	\$ 39.57
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SNAP-ON TOOLS	\$ 172.50
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.56
TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	\$ 5,960.54
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 14,182.12
TOWN OF WHITE	\$ 2,359.69
U.S.POSTAL SERVICE (QUADIENT-POC)	\$ 250.00
UNITED STATES TREASURY	\$ 2.07
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 124.44
VERIZON	\$ 15.98
WALKER GIROUX & HAHNE LTD.	\$ 25,925.00
ZIEGLER INC.	\$ 555.66

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public requested to join the meeting or submitted items of concern.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Library – Paula Chapman

The Aurora Public Library's summer reading programs have reached their conclusion. We are still collecting final reading numbers, but to date, 36 children and teens have reported reading on at least 839 days. There will be a memorial brick in honor of the Aurora Public Library 2020 Summer Readers in the new splash pad! The summer readers also picked up 186 take-and-make craft project bags, found 4 hidden pictures around town to win prizes, and completed 8 scavenger hunts.

Although circulation is still considerably down compared to normal times when people can come in the building and browse the shelves, more people are using the curbside pick-up service. July's circulation was 721 items, slightly more than a third of titles that circulated in July last year.

Yesterday, we started offering use of the library's computers by appointment, and photocopying service, following safety procedures as per the governor's orders regarding face covering, direction from the Emergency Response Team, and discussion among staff. During the trial period in August, we are limiting computer use to one hour per week per patron.

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

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs saw the Splash Pad project is breaking ground – be sure to stop in Pine Grove and take a peak.

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola appreciates noticing the Splash Pad project. She also wants to thank all community member volunteers. And thanks to the Mayor & Councilors for their time.

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso wanted to know about the water spouts in the Cemetery. City Administrator Lammi stated they have been repaired on several occasions and the Water Department is still looking in to it.

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek review the topics of the Park Committee Meeting including breaking ground of the Splash Pad, Dahlin Field, and the Berdice Field fence. There is a Labor-Management Safety Meeting this week. He looks forward to the Blight Enforcement Officer position. The City has had contact from Apostle Athena on several different occasions. City Administrator stated the group appears to want to assist with the pandemic, and is working to determine what their needs are.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor stated the East Range Joint Powers Board has received \$160,000 in community relief funding for a business program. There was a joint meeting between the City of Aurora and the Town of White to discuss the roof on City Hall, security of City Hall, and the Joint Water Project. Kudos go out to the Public Works Department. Thankful the COVID-19 levels are low.

OLD BUSINESS

No action taken on the Fire Department Boiler request.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$6,316.00 to Lakehead Constructors, Inc. for the Waste Water Digester Project.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to approve Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$176,586.95 to Lakehead Constructors, Inc. for the Waste Water Diester Project.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to adopt Resolution 2020-15 CARES Act Funding.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to approve the changes to the Personnel Policy Manual and to review the manual as a whole at a later date.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to proceed with League of Minnesota Cities Mayor & Councilor training.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Gregor to approve the updated COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to issue a letter of support to the City of Biwabik for their grant request to purchase Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: Honkola

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve the siren maintenance contract for West Shore Services.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to table ISD 2711's request to fill in the wetlands at the Athletic Complex; requesting ISD 2711 provide mitigation and assurances regarding flooding to the south of the complex, and direct City Administrator Lammi to speak with ISD 2711 regarding the issues.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to confirm the previous motion to have all items removed from Dahlin Field by ISD 2711.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

No action was taken on the agenda request form.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator