

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council**  
**Video Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 1, 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**

Councilor Lakso requested to pull item 12.4 from the 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 – August 4, 2020
- 5.2 City of Aurora Council Budget Meeting – August 5, 2020
- 5.3 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – August 10, 2020
- 5.4 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – August 18, 2020

6. Approval of Receipts –

- 6.1 August 2020 – \$749,347.02

7. Approval for Payment –

- 7.1 Disbursements for August 2020 – \$250,486.27
- 7.2 Employment for August 2020 – \$91,679.07
  - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$67,363.14
  - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$24,315.93

8. Correspondence –

- 8.1 Coalition of Greater MN Cities – Request to join the organization.
- 8.2 The Costin Group Inc. – Funding update for LCCMR.
- 8.3 Mediacom – EEO/AA Obligations notice.
- 8.4 MN Department of Health – Lead/Copper Tap Water Monitoring Report.

9. Travel and Training –

12. Community Comments –

- 12.1 03/12/2020 – Culvert issue on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 12.5 07/20/2020 – Blight on 300 block W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N.  
Resolution: The City Council has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.6 07/20/2020 – Alley issues between NW 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.7 08/13/2020 – Concerns with wild animals being fed at 702 Maple Dr.  
Resolution: East Range PD has received the concern and is investigating.
- 12.8 08/24/2020 – Issues with laundry services on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.  
Resolution: Public Works has received the concern and is investigating.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

- 13.1 Range Association of Municipalities & Schools – June 25, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – July 8, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – July 20, 2020
- 13.4 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – August 12, 2020
- 13.5 COVID-19 Response Team – August 25, 2020
- 13.6 Planning and Zoning Commission – August 25, 2020
- Zoning Permits
- Paul Stark – 317 S 1<sup>st</sup> St E
- Allow Oversized Accessory Building
- Tristan Shockman – 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> St W
- Allow Oversized Garage on Property
- Greg Hinsz – 205 E 4<sup>th</sup> Ave North
- Allow More than One Accessory Building & Allow Oversized Accessory Building on Property
- Grace & Truth Bible Church – 404 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N
- Change Zoning Classification from C-1 to R-1
- Residential Improvement Permits
- Michelle & Charles Epps – 17 S 4<sup>th</sup> St W
- Replace Shingles on House and Garage, and Replace Hand Rail Step
- James R. Lakso – 132 Linda Drive
- Remove Old Deck, and Replace New Deck
- John & Sherrie Orazem – 18 N Erie St
- Covert Attached Single Car Garage into Living Space, Structure kept As Is
- Clark Niemi – 723 Maple Drive
- Replace Steps and Garage Doors

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

1st Ayd Corporation	\$ 130.66
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 1,519.80
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 816.65
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$ 2.50
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 184.30
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 337.45
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$ 10,699.13
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 521.09
C & C WINGER, INC.	\$ 610.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 547.36
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
COLORPHASE	\$ 1,250.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 1,299.00
CORE & MAIN LP	\$ 3,842.12
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 2,851.75
DEMCO INC.	\$ 81.61
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 36,602.11
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 339.08
EDWARDS OIL	\$ 618.31
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SOLUTIONS	\$ 2,781.60
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$ 55.00
EXCEL PLASTICS LLC	\$ 70.80
FRONTIER	\$ 925.24
FSSOLUTIONS	\$ 55.35
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 41.85
GRAINGER	\$ 138.89
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$ 1,067.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	\$ 75.19
J.P. COOKE COMPANY	\$ 120.60
JANE PUZEL	\$ 300.00
JOLA & SOPP EXCAVATING, INC.	\$ 31,000.00
KAMAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	\$ 685.28
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 43.44

LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$ 109,892.62
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 337.70
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$ 783.82
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	\$ 133.49
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 95.01
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 2,175.67
METRO SALES	\$ 264.89
Mid-State Truck Service	\$ 231.41
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 6.99
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$ 2,165.00
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY	\$ 60.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 436.21
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,494.01
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 173.46
MN ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERIES	\$ 96.00
MSA SAFETY INCORPORATED	\$ 2,563.53
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	\$ 189.00
NORTH COUNTRY HEATING	\$ 400.00
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STA	\$ 120.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF HIBBING	\$ 925.00
POMP'S TIRE SERVICE, INC.	\$ 332.83
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 136.60
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 126.33
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 103.51
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,434.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	\$ 1.55
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 14,520.64
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 215.00
U.S.POSTAL SERVICE (QUADIENT-POC)	\$ 250.00
US BANK	\$ 450.00
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 1,875.98
VERIZON	\$ 15.98
WALKER GIROUX & HAHNE LTD.	\$ 125.00

#### 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

I am delighted to announce that the Aurora Public Library will be re-opening on Tuesday, September 8! Staff will follow safety protocols designed to keep all of us safe, and everyone using the building is asked to help in this endeavor by wearing a mask, sanitizing their hands upon entering and exiting the building, and social distancing. We will also concurrently continue to offer no-contact curbside pickup of requested items for those who prefer not to enter the building.

The library hours are slightly modified and will be as follows:

Monday's: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's: noon – 7:00 pm

Friday's: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

While in-person Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund programs have been re-scheduled for next year, many of the artists will be providing pre-recorded virtual introductory programs that may be viewed during a two week period this year. We will post links to those programs on the library web site and Facebook page as they are available. This month, from September 16-30, everyone will be able to view "Every Voice Matters: A Poetry Writing and Performance Workshop for Absolute Beginners" presented by poet Danny Solis.

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

The City received notification of possible social security tax deferment; however, since the entire tax would be due at the end of the deferment period and all staff are employed, it was decided administratively to not go forward with deferment. The Community Center will be discussed at budget time.

## COMMUNITY COMMENTS

12.4 07/09/2020 – Odor on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.

Resolution: The City Council has received the concern and is investigating.

Councilor Worshek has been in contact with many residents on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E. Councilor Worshek indicated it was an ongoing problem and an engineer may have to look at the cause. Mayor Gregor indicated the City previously pumped out the tank, but it was unknown if this helped the issue. Councilor Jofs stated it may be a private property concern, as the tank is not located on City property. City Attorney Kearney agreed, stating it was a private system and a private homeowner issue.

**Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to direct City Administrator Lammi to solicit engineer proposals for investigating and resolution of the smell on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

## REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

### Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola would like to remind everyone to stop in pedestrian crosswalks, including ATVs, dirt bikes, etc. The Ranger ATV club is looking for new members. She is happy the library is re-opening and hopes it will help with the census numbers. Mayor Gregor is attempting to place a mural on the United States Post Office exterior wall.

### Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs said the Joint Advisory Committee met last month – the fall sports schedules are out. Great to see a lot of progress at the Splash Pad. The school is putting the final touches on the Athletic Complex. Please remember to complete the census – it is very important!

### Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso indicated the sidewalk at the corner of NE 2<sup>nd</sup> St & 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave by East End Park hasn't been repaired at this time.

### Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek is glad the library is reopening and that school is continuing. He hopes people continue to social distance and wear masks. Councilor Worshek asked when we would be able to meet in the Council Chambers. City Administrator Lammi indicated cameras were currently back-ordered, but hopefully the technology will be up and running soon.

## REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor appreciates staff for the Snapshot going out. The United States Post Office owner and the postmaster both would like to see a mural on the building wall; he is attempting to navigate the bureaucracy. Mayor Gregor was approached about sending a letter of support for Line 3 – he was unsure when he should seek council approval and when he should go through the council. The Joint Water Project continues to work on a joint powers agreement; SEH is working out the site and costs; we are all waiting on the bonding bill. East Range Joint Powers Board is developing another program which will give loans to local businesses; this will be out later in September.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Moved by Lakso supported by Honkola to hire Linda Otto at \$225.00 per month for the seasonal part time position of Blight Enforcement Officer for the months of September, October, and November.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to call a special meeting for Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm for the League of Minnesota Cities Training.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to direct City Administrator Lammi to contact local real estate agents to give an estimate for a market analysis of parcel no. 100-0020-01030, and proceed with the market analysis if it is less than \$1200.00.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve the East Mesabi Sanitation request to transfer the sanitation contract ending 2025.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

A brief update on the splash pad was given by City Administrator Lammi.

**Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to approve Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$109,892.62 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 Gregor supported by Honkola to adopt Resolution 2020-18 Issuing a Grant of \$24,000.00 to East Range LLC.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to approve the Northern Lights Music Festival letter of support to apply for grants from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve the East Range Food Shelf letter of support to apply for grants for their facility move.**

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Gregor, Lakso

Nays: None

Absent: None

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Councilor Honkola indicated the Food Shelf is looking for a business or contractor to plow their lot.

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 6:53 PM.

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Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Becky Lammi, City Administrator