

**MINUTES  
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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 Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the following minutes as presented: Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on August 1, 2017; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on August 22, 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS**

**Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for August 2017 in the amount of \$104,502.07 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the disbursements for August 2017 in the amount of \$114,954.42 with the exception of American Bank until the council receives all receipts for the credit card statements, and Payroll in the amount of \$77,254.50. MOTION CARRIED**

AMERICAN BANK	150.00	FIRE SAFETY USA	700.00
AMERICAN BANK	386.51	FRONTIER	1,088.68
AMERICAN BANK	520.69	G & K SERVICES	93.60
AMERICAN BANK	117.49	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	40.50
AMPTEK, INC	1,805.61	GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	815.91	HAWKINS INC.	700.39
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	75.00	HESS, MARY	77.94
AT & T MOBILITY	278.73	HULL, JAMES AND KAREN	44.79
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	379.17	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	159.08
BOBCAT OF DULUTH	127.86	K & K CLEANING	495.00
BRADACH LUMBER	317.48	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	1,893.00
CARQUEST AURORA	207.22	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	30.00
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE, INC.	32.28	LEHTINEN MACHINE	238.00
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	395.00	LIFE SECURITY AND CONTROL	336.00
CLAREY'S SAFETY EQUIPMENT	1,145.86	LMCIT	150.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	30,236.88	LMCIT	2,500.00
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	688.13	LUNDGREN MOTORS	139.95
EDWARDS OIL	165.88	MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT GROUP	502.43
FELDT, KEVIN AND KATIE	88.87	MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	65.01

MESABI COMMUNITY TELEVISION	100.00	RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	485.00
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS	4,529.71	RED TOP CONSTRUCTION LLC	1,010.00
METRO SALES, INC	336.64	ROGERS ONLINE	1,345.00
MICROMARKETING, LLC	51.45	ROYAL TIRE INC	73.20
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	659.24	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	89.00
MINNESOTA POWER	8,259.76	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80	SKUBIC BROS INTERNATIONAL	97.35
MN ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERIES	225.00	SPEEDEE DELIVERY SERVICE	28.25
MN DEPT OF HEALTH	1,559.00	ST LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	13,733.00
MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	145.00	SYNCHRONY BANK/AMAZON	25.00
MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	50.00	THE CONTROL COMPANY LLC	480.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	TOMAHAWK FORD INC	13,333.41
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES INC	996.80	US POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
PAPPAS MACHINE SHOP	4,185.00	US POST OFFICE	376.06
PETTY CASH	197.00	US BANK	450.00
POPOVICH, LARRY	44.01	VERIZON	30.39
PORTABLE JOHN	340.00	VERIZON WIRELESS	70.02
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC	101.63	VREELAND, CHRIS	201.18
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	193.50	ZIEGLER, INC	567.21
RANGE PAPER	30.08		

MOVING PERMITS  
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT  
NONE

#### CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following correspondence: Thank-you letter from Anne Clayton; Letter from Jack Croswell in support of the tribute to Don Lealos, Sam Dickinson, Geno Olds, and Ed Berdice; Minnesota Department of Health regarding Drinking Water Revolving Fund 2018 Project Priority List Point Assignment; 2017 CDBG Funding Award Update and FY2018 Program Open House; St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department regarding the Proposed Sale of State Tax Forfeited Land. MOTION CARRIED**

#### TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the travel and training requests for Kim Zinski to attend the MN Association of Cemeteries Annual Conference – September 21 and 22, 2017 at Breezy Point Resort in Pequot Lakes, MN with the understanding that the mileage expense will be shared with Town of White. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the travel and training request for Josh Benda to attend the Wastewater Exam Refresher - October 10-12, 2017 in St. Cloud, MN. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the travel request for Russ Siltman and Kent Dickinson to attend the Minnesota Fall Maintenance Expo – October 4-5, 2017 in St. Cloud, MN provided that they ride together. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the travel and training request for Jim Gentilini to attend the Water Operators School – October 24-26, 2017 in Bemidji, MN. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Celebrate Aurora is promoting community events in October and is requesting the city council for assistance with the execution of those events and has made five requests of the city.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to grant Celebrate Aurora the permission to block off streets for the 5K and the Linus Loop from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on October 14, 2017 and notification of the closure will be made by the Celebrate Aurora committee in the East Range Shopper. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to allow Celebrate Aurora to use the city owned booth for registration. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to allow Celebrate Aurora to use city staff for setup of the 5K on Friday, October 13, 2017 which will include placement of booth, garbage cans, start/finish signs, barricades and other related material. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to allow a Light Pole Decorating Contest on the city's light poles subject to several conditions, most notably, there will be no lights or electricity on any of the contest poles, there will be a height limit for decorating, and there will be a deadline for contestants to take their decorations down. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to deny the request of Celebrate Aurora for an advertising fee for the Linus Loop and/or Coloring Contest. MOTION CARRIED.**

A request was made by Lance Fondie of the Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club to request the use of city equipment and staff for assisting with the leveling of roads where the trails cross roads and cause washouts within the City of Aurora. **Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to provide use of city equipment and staff to assist the snowmobile and ATV club with the leveling of roads and other similar requests provided that the public works department has the time and equipment available and that the work done by city staff occurs within the city limits of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman informed the city council that Assistant Librarian Bonnie Harma has announced her retirement effective October 31, 2017. Her position was duly posted, with no internal applicants, and the process has started to advertise the position to the general public. Anyone interested may send a letter of interest, resume, and professional references to the library by September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Library Board has appointed a hiring committee to review applications and conduct interviews. If there are strong applicants, interviews will be conducted in late September/early October. The goal is to have someone in place to do some training with Bonnie in late October. **Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve the resignation of Bonnie Harma with regrets effective October 31, 2017, and to send Bonnie a letter thanking her for her service. MOTION CARRIED**

The library has two programs coming up in September. On Friday, September 8th at 1:00 pm, Patrick Scully will be at the library with a dramatic presentation of the life and times of poet Walt Whitman. This program is geared toward adults. Kathy and Leo Lara will be at the Aurora Public Library on Tuesday, September 26th at 1:00 pm with a program of folk music from the Andes mountains region of South America. Both programs are funded in large part by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

#### REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: Aurora Chamber of Commerce, July 18, 2017 Minutes; Celebrate Aurora Committee, July 26, 2017 Minutes; East Range Joint Powers Board – July 25, 2017 Minutes; Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee, August 8, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department; August 9, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – July 18, 2017 Minutes; August 15, 2017 Minutes; Library Board-August 29, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – August 2017 Monthly Report; Ambulance Report – July 2017; Planning & Zoning – August 22, 2017 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the Zoning Permits for: Mary Lockwood – 49 South Erie Street, Build deck on back of house; Mary Lockwood – 49 South Erie Street, Build deck on front of house, the front deck is approved contingent on being approved at the variance hearing scheduled for September 12, 2017. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to approve the Residential Improvement Permits for: Ed & Jerry Strukel – 309 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Replace roof; Jeff Rabb – 11 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street West, Replace roof on house; Matthew Christensen – 326 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Replace roof; Bob Graham – 719 Knuti Drive, Replace roof on house; Mary Lockwood – 49 South Erie Street, Replace roof on house. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to approve the Commercial Improvement Permits for: Renee Padget and Dick Clark – 113 North Main Street, Repair window and siding. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that he is setting up the next park committee meeting.

Councilor Lakso thanked the county for striping Highway 100 and Main Street and that it is making it a lot easier to see and is a lot of safer when driving now. He also wanted to remind everyone that school is now in session and to have everyone slow down when driving.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reminded everyone that school is back in session and wanted to remind everyone to be careful and watch for children. She also wanted to remind everyone that Pumpkin Fest is the second Saturday in October and she hopes that many in the city can attend.

## MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Butch Ceglar appeared to discuss the corner on Railroad Avenue where it enters into his home and wanted to make sure the council takes steps to make sure that the corner is safe. Councilor Lislegard indicated that the school has assured the city that they will work on that corner as part of any land swap deal. Steve Ceglar appeared and asked for an update on upcoming road projects that the city has planned for the next year. The Public Works Director provided an update stating we had no funding awarded this year but are planning to apply for funding for next year, including 2<sup>nd</sup> Street as that has been engineered and is ready to go should funding be awarded. Rudy Ceglar appeared to ask if the fire department could use a truck to power spray between the outside walls at Megan's Restaurant. Council raised several concerns about doing this. The issue of unlicensed and non-operational vehicles was also raised and Councilor Lislegard stated that talks with the police chief on this issue have taken place and a request was made to look into the speed limit and the posting of speed limit signs for ATV's and snowmobiles when driving through town. The Public Works Director will talk with the Police Chief about the issue and getting speed limit signs posted for this purpose. Jan Moore was present to promote the Loon Lake Health Fair on October 6<sup>th</sup> that is sponsored by the Town of White.

## OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Lislegard gave an update on pigeon trapping and stated that a letter was given to most businesses in the city and that the trapping is going very well. He stated that this is the city's one-time attempt to curb the population and that it is important that residents fix their property so pigeons cannot use it as a home and asked that residents do not feed the pigeons and that residents need to do their part to not create an environment that pigeons will not thrive.

## NEW BUSINESS

John Jamnick from JPJ Engineering appeared to discuss the 2015 Street Project punch list and quotes for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Improvement Project. He explained the warranty period ended August 24<sup>th</sup> and that the final punch list work should be completed yet in September but has been delayed due to weather. Councilor Lislegard asked about the drainage issues out on Linda Drive and Holland. There are a number of properties that require additional restoration and a few have drainage issues. Councilor Lislegard wanted to make sure that the contractor is aware of this issue and to follow up with Alan Jokinen's request regarding his drainage issue. Councilor Lislegard also asked that the residents that are remaining on the punch list to be communicated with to let them know that their issues are being addressed and asked that October 10<sup>th</sup> be a sunset date for all punch list items to be completed.

**Moved Lislegard and supported by Worshek to send a letter to the Casper Construction to inform them that all punch list items need to be resolved by October 10<sup>th</sup>, and if not completed, the city will deduct what is due to Casper Construction to complete the punch list items.**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to adopt Resolution 2017-11 to accept the quote from Utility Systems of America, Inc for the 1<sup>st</sup> Street West Improvement Project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2017-12 to authorize the City of Aurora to act as fiscal agent and to submit a funding request for state bonding in support of the East Mesabi Water Facility Project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the 2018 Dues Assessment for Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to deny payment to the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Environmental Action Fund Voluntary Assessment. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the purchase of a 68 inch angle broom for the Bobcat. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to approve the contract with Walker, Giroux & Hahne for audit services for Fiscal Year 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lakso to table the proposal of Hundrieser Consulting, LLC to update the city's Emergency Operations Plan until the next meeting to allow additional time to obtain further information as to final cost and the deadline date to apply. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve Deb Maki to the temporary position for fall lawn mowing in 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the 2017 Fall Sports Coaches List as presented subject to background checks: Chris Baudhuin, Craig Douglas, John Grivette, John Karish, Joe Marafiot, Kathy Undeland. MOTION CARRIED**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer