

Minutes
Special Regular Meeting of Aurora Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2020
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Jofs, Lakso, and Honkola

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator

A regular special meeting was called to order by Mayor Gregor at 5:32 p.m.

Councilor Jofs arrived at 5:33 pm.

New BUSINESS

Moved by Honkola supported by Worshek to approve the letters of support for Caring for the Kids Community group to apply for grants from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation and the St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant programs.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to change the previously scheduled special meeting from November 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm to November 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to move the December Regular Council Meeting from December 1, 2020 at 5:30 pm to December 8, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to schedule the Truth in Taxation public hearing for Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET

City Administrator Lammi presented budget version 2.0 which included many of the changes submitted from the councilors. Other changes weren't included as it would reduce the services provided to the Aurora Residents.

Councilor Honkola would appreciate an increase in capital savings for a fire truck and SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus) for the Fire Department. Councilor Worshek indicated the Department of Natural Resources has SCBA grants available. Councilor Honkola pointed out a decrease to the printing and binding budget of the council reduces the amount of changes the council can make throughout the

year. She would also support an increase to the storm sewer charge on the utility bills to help address drainage issues across town.

Councilor Jofs said any changes would have to be large; we cannot cut in small amounts. Repairing the Community Center is imperative. City Administrator Lammi indicated the architect quote was received, but a contractor estimate would not be received until a later time.

Councilor Lakso agreed: The Community Center is important and the longer we wait the more it will cost. The SCBAs have expiration dates on them – he would like to know what those dates are. A new fire truck would be \$300,000 at least.

Councilor Worshek does not feel comfortable removing the Combination Specialist II position and then hiring two part time persons.

Mayor Gregor differs with Councilor Worshek on the Combination Specialist II position. He believes we have been generous to keep the position so far. A 10% levy increase is pretty large for our citizens, especially with the hard times coming up.

Councilor Lakso asked about Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation grants for the Community Center. City Administrator Lammi stated the DIRRR put in quite a bit of money when it was built; she can reach out and see if they would be willing to put more in for repairs. Councilor Jofs asked about the Combination Specialist II position. City Administrator Lammi indicated the Public Works Department has not provided her with the job responsibilities of the additional staff member, nor provided information regarding the necessity to keep the position. Councilor Honkola asked about the requirements of the meeting. City Administrator Lammi outlined the requirements; the preliminary levy needs to be set prior to September 30, 2020. However, the budget does not need to be set until the Truth in Taxation meeting.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2020-19 Proposed 2020, Payable in 2021, Levy in the amount of \$1,372,937.00.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Worshek and supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Worshek, Jofs, Honkola, Lakso, Gregor

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

ATTEST:

Doug Gregor, Mayor

Becky Lammi, City Administrator