

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

ABSENT: Councilor Lakso

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gregor at 5:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Jofs requested to pull item 12, Community Comments, from the consent agenda.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve the following consent agenda items:

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.1 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – September 1, 2020
- 5.2 City of Aurora Council Budget Meeting – September 8, 2020
- 5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – September 15, 2020
- 5.4 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – September 28, 2020

6. APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS

- 6.1 August 2020 – \$749,222.02
Approve with corrections.
- 6.2 September 2020 – \$303,534.32

7. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

- 7.1 Disbursements for September 2020 – \$348,747.91
- 7.2 Employment for September 2020 – \$85,296.96
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$60,672.11
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$24,624.85

8. CORRESPONDENCE –

9. TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS -

13. *REPORTS FROM BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

- 13.1 East Range Public Safety Board – August 13, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Public Library Board – August 20, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – September 9, 2020
- 13.4 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – August 17, 2020
- 13.5 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – August 31, 2020
- 13.6 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – September 9, 2020
- 13.7 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – September 16, 2020

13.8 Planning and Zoning Commission – September 22, 2020

Zoning Permits

Andrea Baker – 118 W 3rd Ave N

- Build Double Side 6’ Privacy Fence

Kelvin Tryon & Kirsten Rosenberger – 45 S Erie St

- Replace Chain Link Fence with New Wooden Fence

Elliot & Jessica Hoechst – 314 S 6th St E

- Build Deck/Pergola, Green House and a Fenced Garden

Ridge Inn Inc – 102 E 3rd Ave S

- Build New Storage Building same as #2 and #3 and install 6’ Chain Link Fence Around Storage Buildings

William Krueth - 308 W 3rd Ave South

- Changing Zoning Classification from C-1 to R-1

Residential Improvement Permits

Renee Johnson – 318 S Main St

- Adding Metal Roofing to Garage

Robert Ronning – 207 S 5th St E

- Replace Siding with New Underlayment and Siding

Ayes: Gregor, Jofs, Honkola

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso, Worshek

Motion carried unanimously.

1st Ayd Corporation	\$ 873.94
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 1,070.34
AMPTEK INC.	\$ 244.15
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$ 403.07
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 183.79
AUTO VALUE	\$ 19.04
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 859.42
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 125.90
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 830.44
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$ 11,967.50
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 1,550.94
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSIO	\$ 195.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	\$ 2,000.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 7.40
CENGAGE LEARNING INC / GALE	\$ 148.13
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	\$ 66.90
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 1,250.00
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	\$ 3,074.36
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 510.00

COLORPHASE	\$ 1,250.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 1,965.65
CORE & MAIN LP	\$ 158.31
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 736.72
DEMCO INC.	\$ 135.15
EAST RANGE DAC	\$ 50.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 35,143.48
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 818.79
EAST RANGE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB	\$ 95.00
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$ 39.00
FIRE SAFETY USA, INC.	\$ 7,750.00
FRONTIER	\$ 925.26
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 59.40
GREEN AGAIN LAWN & LANDSCAPE	\$ 1,794.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 1,738.39
HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$ 60.00
KEVIN JOHNSON	\$ 19.38
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 83.92

LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	\$ 224,953.50
LAURENTIAN MONUMENT, GRANITE & STONE	\$ 80.00
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 202.98
LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	\$ 1,959.00
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	\$ 423.55
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 20.98
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 1,970.51
METRO SALES	\$ 316.45
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 78.99
Mid-State Truck Service	\$ 1,252.66
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 498.00
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 7,085.54
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MITEL	\$ 173.12
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$ 52.00
NEO SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 787.50
PONTEM SOFTWARE	\$ 840.00
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 170.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 129.94
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$ 343.11
QUADIANT LEASING USA, INC.	\$ 217.80

RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 333.10
RANGE PAPER	\$ 275.25
RED TOP CONSTRUCTION LLC	\$ 1,940.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,321.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	\$ 103.98
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.56
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 233.50
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR - VIRGINIA	\$ 40.00
TECH SALES CO.	\$ 3,304.00
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 570.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	\$ 14,742.42
TOWN OF WHITE	\$ 2,295.59
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 215.00
UNITED STATES TREASURY	\$ 400.00
USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 61.00
VERIZON	\$ 15.98
WM RECYCLE AMERICA	\$ 1,423.92
ZIEGLER INC.	\$ 1,003.23

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Library – Talicia Honkola for Paula Chapman

All is going well at the library! Many patrons seemed pleased to be able to enter the building again, but all are being respectful of the requests to wear a face covering, to social distance, and to sanitize, and to sanitize or wash their hands. Circulation numbers are of course down from this time last year-but are up compared to last month.

Although in-person programming has been cancelled for the remainder of the year, the library is currently offering a family take-and-make craft through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. While supplies last, families can pick up a kit to make a "Color Your Yard Wildlife Feeder." The kit includes printed instructions and all needed supplies. There is also a video with additional information and visual instructions that can be watched at the library, checked out from the library, or viewed from the library's Facebook page.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Discussion took place on the community comments presented. Council stated they would like the items resolved as soon as possible.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola would like to thank the Public Works Department for their hard work helping at the new splash pad site. Thank you also for the advertisement which was placed in the East Range Shopper reminding people to stay out of the new splash pad area so the grass can grow.

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs is excited to see buses and kids out and about. Good to see the hustle and bustle again.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor reports the Grocery Store Development Agreement has been signed. Additional grant monies of \$115,000 was received from the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation. The developer is planning a press event on October 15th at noon at the North Main Business Center. Celebrate Aurora is embarking on a fall fundraiser selling wreaths. East Range Joint Powers Board approved guidelines and forms for COVID-19 relief loan program funded in part by the DIRRR, at a 4:1 match with existing ERJPB funds. Joint East Range Water Project Committee continues to move forward – currently work is being done on bonding plans and the intake site. Please remember to get out and vote!

OLD BUSINESS

City Administrator Lammi presented information on the 2021 budget. She also presented information on the estimates received to repair the damage at the Community Center. Unfortunately, the damage is not considered a claim for insurance.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to accept the estimate from Bolton and Menk in the amount of \$350.00 regarding the odor issue on South 6th Street East.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso, Worshek

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Worshek joins meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to table discussion regarding tax forfeit land near Family Dollar.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor with support from Honkola to reopen the Blight Officer position for possible hiring at the Regular Special Council Meeting held on October 20, 2020.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to contract with Bolton and Menk to resolve the violations outlined by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the Notice of Violation.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to approve pay estimate no. 5 in the amount of \$224,953.50 to Lakehead Constructors, Inc. for Waste Water Digester Project.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to direct City Administrator Lammi to speak with an engineer for estimates on the cost of a roadway with city utilities extending east on East 3rd Avenue South.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve St. Louis County Public Health's request to use the Community Center for COVID-19 testing in December contingent on approval from the COVID-19 Response Team.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Honkola to approve Resolution 2020-20 Brownsfield Coalition and letter of support.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority's request to waive the city billing for services except for the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust costs.

Ayes: Gregor, Worshek

Nays: Honkola, Jofs

Absent: Lakso

Motion fails.

Councilor Worshek leaves the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Motion by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve Celebrate Aurora's request to host a Light Pole Decoration Contest in the month of October.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Absent: Lakso, Worshek

Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Worshek rejoins the meeting via telephone, however, since his vote cannot be heard or understood by members of the public, he will abstain from voting the remainder of the meeting.

Motion by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve Resolution 2020-21 Community Development Block Grant application for FY2021 screen building project at Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Worshek

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Insurance Committee Meetings as required in the AFSCME 2780 contract.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Worshek

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to table the request of the Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority for waiver of their city billings to the Regular Special Meeting held on October 20, 2020.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Worshek

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Worshek

Absent: Lakso

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator