

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gregor at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 5.1 Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – October 6, 2020
- 5.2 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – October 20, 2020
- 5.3 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – October 27, 2020

6. APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS

- 6.1 October 2020 – \$135,570.07

7. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

- 7.1 Disbursements for October 2020 – \$429,569.36
- 7.2 Employment for October 2020 – \$115,814.08
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$86,328.55
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$29,485.53

8. CORRESPONDENCE –

- 8.1 Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union – Thank you.
- 8.2 Zito Media – Notice of rate increase.

9. TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS –

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: Damage was repaired in Summer of 2020.
- 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 hired an engineering firm to address the issue.
- 12.5 08/13/2020 – Concerns with wild animals being fed at 702 Maple Dr.
Resolution: Animal Control has spoken with the parties involved.

- 12.6 08/24/2020 – Issues with laundry services on S. 6th St. E.
Resolution: The City Council has hired an engineering firm to address the issue.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

- 13.1 Range Association of Municipalities and Schools – September 24, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Public Library Board – September 17, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Public Library Board – October 15, 2020
- 13.4 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – October 14, 2020
- 13.5 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – September 21, 2020
- 13.6 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority Public Hearing – September 21, 2020
- 13.7 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – September 28, 2020
- 13.8 Aurora Cemetery Board – October 28, 2020
- 13.9 Planning and Zoning Commission – October 27, 2020

Zoning Permits

Theresa Sanders – 105 W 3rd Ave N - Adding to Existing Fence on Front of Lot and opening West End into Residence

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

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| AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH | \$6,702.19 |
| AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP | \$562.00 |
| APG MEDIA OF MN | \$74.60 |
| ARAMARK | \$70.25 |
| AT&T MOBILITY | \$173.54 |
| AUTO VALUE | \$673.62 |
| BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS | \$963.05 |
| BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN | \$125.90 |
| BOLTON & MENK, INC. | \$30,485.75 |
| BRADACH LUMBER | \$2,760.57 |
| C & C WINGER, INC. | \$1,360.00 |
| CHRIS VREELAND | \$201.18 |
| CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC | \$83.60 |
| CITY OF HOYT LAKES | \$350.00 |
| COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY | \$520.00 |
| COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA | \$3,435.76 |
| CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT | \$39.00 |
| CW TECHNOLOGY | \$1,652.00 |
| EAST MESABI SANITATION | \$29,561.04 |
| EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS | \$3,750.00 |
| EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT | \$55,072.64 |
| EAST RANGE SHOPPER | \$826.80 |
| EAST RANGE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB | \$10.00 |
| ESSENTIA HEALTH | \$564.00 |
| FERGUSON ENTERPRISES INC. | \$305.66 |
| FRONTIER | \$945.15 |
| GOPHER STATE ONE CALL | \$17.55 |
| GRAINGER | \$487.52 |
| GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC. | \$35.00 |
| HAWKINS INC. | \$4,990.22 |
| INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS | \$7.48 |
| JOHNSTONE SUPPLY | \$736.44 |
| KAMAN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES | \$449.37 |
| KEENAN'S TV & APPLIANCE | \$2,177.00 |
| L & M - VIRGINIA | \$81.04 |
| LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS | \$224,085.26 |
| LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS | \$31.32 |
| LAWSON PRODUCTS INC. | \$384.32 |

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| MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP | \$3,014.89 |
| MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT | \$1,577.26 |
| MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO. | \$42.87 |
| MESABI BITUMINOUS | \$13,109.68 |
| MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711 | \$1,122.68 |
| METRO SALES | \$337.06 |
| MICROMARKETING LLC | \$28.00 |
| MIDWEST TAPE | \$24.99 |
| MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES | \$795.60 |
| MINNESOTA POWER | \$5,237.77 |
| MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS | \$9,020.05 |
| MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS | \$349.80 |
| MN STATE FIRE DEPT. ASSOC. | \$175.00 |
| MTI DISTRIBUTING INC. | \$1,846.78 |
| NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY | \$1,290.00 |
| OFFICE ENTERPRISES INC | \$200.84 |
| OSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC. | \$100.00 |
| OVERHEAD DOOR CO OF HIBBING | \$4,625.00 |
| POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE | \$493.33 |
| PORTABLE JOHN | \$154.82 |
| PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. | \$129.94 |
| RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY | \$320.41 |
| RANGE PAPER | \$188.13 |
| RED TOP CONSTRUCTION LLC | \$1,000.00 |
| RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES | \$1,341.00 |
| ROSEMOUNT INC | \$802.78 |
| SCHOOL SPECIALTY | \$48.09 |
| SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC | \$112.00 |
| SHRED RIGHT | \$15.00 |
| SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC. | \$15.52 |
| ST. LOUIS COUNTY RECORDER | \$20.00 |
| TECH SALES CO. | \$5,185.00 |
| THE CONTROL COMPANY | \$570.00 |
| THE TEACHER EXPRESS | \$37.85 |
| UNITED STATES TREASURY | \$600.00 |
| VERIZON | \$15.98 |
| ZITO MEDIA | \$655.42 |
| U.S. POSTAL SERVICE | \$215.00 |

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Library – Talicia Honkola for Paula Chapman

Things continue to go well at the library! While the library is open and welcome patrons in, please be reminded that curbside pickup continues to be available. Anyone with questions may give the library a call to learn more about how that service works.

The October Take-and-Make project was well-received. Through CARES, the library was able to purchase materials for additional take-and-make activities in lieu of programs for the next several months. This month, while supplies last, families can pick up a set of “Countdown to Christmas” bags, along with an ideas sheet of ways to fill the bags with activities, or goodies, to enjoy each day in December as they count down to Christmas.

Through November 16, there is an online “I Come From....” Poetry Workshop with Minnesota poet Danny Solis available for viewing. There is a link to the workshop on the library’s web page and Facebook page. It is funded through Minnesota’s Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

City Administrator – Becky Lammi

City Hall reopening has gone well. Very few people are coming in and those who are have been respectful of the rules and safety measures in place. Members of the public are encouraged to continue to call, e-mail, and use the utility drop box if at all possible. COVID-19 cases are on the rise. Please continue to support local businesses when possible.

Public Works – Wayne Thuringer

Too much to talk about so he says he’ll take questions as he has a lot going on and staff has been limited. Some things are delayed because of this.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola is excited about the snow coming tonight as she enjoys winter sports. Spoke on the possible increase on storm sewer fees. Would like this on a future agenda. Also asked about quotes received on the possible new North Woodland Terrace road.

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs thanks the Celebrate Aurora Committee for decorating poles, Mesabi East Schools for the Monster Bash for children, and the Library for being open and for being a beacon of light in the evening darkness. Roof on City Hall is almost finished.

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso report calendar parking is now in effect. He received concerns regarding Frontier on the City website; he will bring details to City Administrator Lammi to review.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor thanked everyone who voted. Aurora had 85% turned out. Thoughts go out to everyone affected by pandemic. Grocery store press event took place on October 15th and store opening is scheduled for late winter/early spring. High-speed broadband accessibility study ongoing to the East Range area. There was a presentation put on by broadband consultants which will be available on the city website to view.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to sell Parcel no. 100-0020-01030 to interested party for \$3200 with buyer responsible for closing costs not to exceed \$250.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Brian with Bolton and Menk presented information regarding the odor on S. 6th St. E.

Moved by Gregor supported by Honkola to direct the City Administrator and Public Works Director to rewrite the ordinance regarding sanitary sewer and for the City Administrator to investigate public funding options for the city's portion of the expenses.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: None

Abstain: Worshek

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Lakso to authorize Councilor Lakso and Mayor Gregor and city staff to meet with the property owner on S. 6th St. E. to move towards a solution regarding odor issue.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve the expenditure of \$39,250 to Bolton and Menk to proceed with the amended facility plan and inflow and infiltration investigation for the Notice of Violation and mercury restrictions.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to direct City Administrator to acquire a market analysis of the land purchase request by Steve Scheuring, subject to city easements.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approved Change Order No. 2 for insurance claim #2 for the freezing of the digester cover at the waste water plant.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$224,085.26 to Lakehead Constructors, Inc for the Digester Project.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Lakso to approve estimate for FY2020 Audit Services in the amount of \$29,950 to include the single audit as required by CARES Act funding.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to write off the unpaid interest on parcel 100-0042-00540 in the amount of \$196.72 and parcel 100-0042-00580 in the amount of \$150.45.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve increasing the St. Louis County's operational charge on the utility bills from \$5.00 to \$5.84 effective January 1, 2021.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve the final Pay Request in the amount of \$13,109.68 to Mesabi Bituminous for 2nd St. E/1st St W Improvement Project.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to accept the resignation of Carrie Braaten from the Aurora Public Library and to direct City Administrator write a thank you letter.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregor supported by Jofs to deny the request from Rick's Bobcat Service to purchase sand salt for the 2020-2021 winter.

Ayes: Gregor, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: Lakso, Worshek

Motion carried.

Motion by Jofs supported by Honkola to approve Resolution 2020-27 Final CARES expenditures report.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gregor supported by Jofs to schedule a special budget meeting on Wednesday, November 18th, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Honkola supported by Gregor to approve the Cemetery Board's recommendation to increase Cemetery Lots rates from \$200.00 to \$300.00 for Residents and from \$450.00 to \$550.00. for Non-Residents effective January 1, 2021.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The RAMS nomination was discussed; the City of Aurora's position will not be up for nomination until 2022. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Honkola supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator