

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek and Cromley

ABSENT: Councilors Jofs and Lakso

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Tim Soular, East Range Police Chief; Mitch Brunfelt, Aurora City Attorney

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the consent agenda items:

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| 5. Approval of Minutes – | Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – November 12, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – November 19, 2019
Truth in Taxation Hearing – November 26, 2019
Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – November 26, 2019 |
| 6. Approval of Receipts – | November 2019 – \$172,199.84 |
| 7. Approval for Payment – | Disbursements for November 2019 – \$139,866.63
Payroll for November 2019 – \$59,296.58 |
| 8. Correspondence – | Thank You from Matt Jarva |
| 12. Community Comments – | 06/06/2019 – Conditions of the roads in the Cemetery.
Resolution: Public Works has forwarded the complaint to the Cemetery Board.
06/07/2019 – Blight concerns on W 1st Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has forwarded the property information to Public Works.
06/09/2019 – Blight concerns on 222 W 2nd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has addressed the concern.
07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3rd Ave N.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2nd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
07/02/2019 – Blight concern on in alley on 200 block between W 2nd Ave and W 3rd Ave.
Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.
07/05/2019 – Blight concern at 312 S. Main St. |

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/19/2019 – Pot holes between 3rd Ave W and 4th Ave W, and 1st Ave S.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/22/2019 – Road repair at 324 S 1st St E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/23/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/25/2019 – Blight concern at 321 W 3rd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1st Ave N.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2nd form.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

08/20/2019 – Blight concern on 709 Summit Street.

Resolution: City Council has received the complaint.

08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 318 W. 2nd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 321 W. 2nd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/13/2019 – Blight concern 200 S 6th St E.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/20/2019 – Blight concern on 20 Erie St.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

09/30/2019 – Construction issue on S. 3rd St. W.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

10/30/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6th St. E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

10/31/2019 – Sewer smell on S. 6th St. E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

11/08/2019 – Blight concern at 315 W. 4th Ave. N.

**13. Reports from Boards
and Commissions –**

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

East Range Joint Powers Board – October 22, 2019

Planning and Zoning – November 26, 2019

Zoning:

Brian Helf – 114 East 3rd Avenue North

- 16ft. by 20ft. shed on railroad ties.

Improvement:

Mary Mulari – 731 Maple Drive

- Replace windows.

Jeffrey Rock – 204 Linda Drive

- Build a 20 ft. x 14 ft. deck

Kimberly Sullivan – 46 South Erie Street

- Replace shingles on house.

Patricia Axelsen – 322 West 2nd Avenue North

- Replace doors, steps.

Charles and Michelle Epps – 17 South 4th Street West

- Replace windows, rain gutters, electrical mast, and door, repair garage door and siding.

Mike and Norma Jean Jofs – 505 South 3rd Street West

- Replace windows.

Chris Cromley – 23 East 2nd Avenue North

- Replace shingles on house.

Britt See-Benes

- Replace roof on house and garage; new deck boards and garage trim.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$ 3,218.72
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	\$ 1.25
AT&T MOBILITY	\$ 238.97
AUTO VALUE	\$ 15.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 384.30
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$ 118.70
BOBCAT OF DULUTH INC	\$ 931.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 320.92
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 431.48
CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT	\$ 50.00
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18
CINTAS	\$ 385.55
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 350.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 520.00
COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 201.70
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$ 39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$ 956.00
DAVID BEISE	\$ 50.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$ 33,932.24
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 612.86
F.I.R.E.	\$ 440.00
FASTENAL COMPANY	\$ 190.83
FEDERAL SIGNAL CORPORATION	\$ 22,250.00
FRONTIER	\$ 935.24
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$ 8.10
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$ 35.00
J & R WASTEWATER SERVICE	\$ 1,900.00
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 1,085.55
LMCIT WC	\$ 26,095.00
LEHTINEN MACHINE	\$ 118.00
MESABI EAST SCHOOLS - ISD 2711	\$ 6,413.80

METRO SALES	\$ 358.92
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$ 31.49
MIDWEST TAPE	\$ 140.18
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$ 1,416.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 2,559.20
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 8,630.78
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$ 349.80
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	\$ 335.00
MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	\$ 937.50
NTS	\$ 457.50
OSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC.	\$ 85.00
POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE	\$ 282.81
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 93.00
POSITIVE PROMOTIONS INC.	\$ 576.56
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$ 108.38
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 538.92
RANGE PAPER	\$ 94.71
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$ 1,102.00
SEPPI BROS.	\$ 1,000.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$ 15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 15.60
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 2,469.44
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	\$ 13,355.00
TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	\$ 576.05
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 729.99
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE (NEOPOST)	\$ 250.00
VERIZON	\$ 15.70
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 35.01
ZIEGLER INC.	\$ 876.70

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Dave Worshek, Library Liaison –

Music can lighten the holiday blues, bring warm feelings to a cold winter day, and calm to stressful times. This month, music therapist Christina Cotruvo will present “Good Vibrations for Winter Wellness.” Christina will play and discuss three types of harps, and will share the history of the songs she performs and how they work toward wellness. The Aurora Public Library is partnering with Carefree Living, Aurora, and the program will be held at Carefree Living on Thursday, December 19, at 1:00 pm. The public is invited and warmly welcomed!

The Aurora Friends of the Library do their part to bring good cheer to our community as well; they decorated the library for the holidays! As usual, they did a lovely job; stop in the library to admire and enjoy their work—and check out some books or audio books or movies or magazines while you’re there!

Tim Soular, Chief of Police –

Call volume has been reduced at Iron Gate. Blight Complaints is no going to be an East Range Police problem, but will instead be handled by the administrative staff. The City Archery Deer Hunt is at 14 deer. ERJPB will be combining their committee to form better practices. Chief Soular stated that he is frustrated with even/odd parking in the city, and will look into towing.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek –

Councilor Worshek stated there will be no Park Committee meeting this month. Caring for Kids has put up a tracking thermometer at the Community Center for the Splash Pad. Chris Shuck is the temporary youth coordinator, and there are meetings next week for applications for the position. Councilor Worshek said good job to the Public Works staff during the snow storm. Also announced the RAMS annual dinner will be held on December 19, 2019.

Councilor Cromley –

The Fire Department has been quiet lately. Santa will be handing out candy around town on December 13, 2019. Councilor Cromley stated several people are interested in joining the Fire Department. He suggests to put an application in at City Hall.

REPORT FROM MAYOR GREGOR

Hopes everyone has a happy Holiday season. Announced that City Council is considering a large increase to utility rates. There are currently vacant positions on various boards and commissions within the city. The City is involved in a joint water project; plans are proceeding forward. Congrats to Mesabi East Athletes on fall sports. Remember on December 14, 2019 is Holiday Heritage Festival at the Community Center.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion took place about the East Mesabi Sanitation request.

Discussion took place about the Rink Attendant position. Position vacancy will be discussed at council meeting on December 17, 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to form a Special City Council Personnel Complaint Committee to consider the current employee complaints as directed by the Council and as provided below; that the City Attorney be authorized to contract with a human resources person as a subcontractor to receive the employee complaints and as appropriate meet with individual complainants. The investigator's findings then would be shared with the City Attorney and then with the Committee, and; that the City Attorney or its subcontractor be authorized to meet individually with any or all employees who have complaints, and; upon completion of those tasks the City Attorney and the Council's Special Personnel Complaint Committee will meet to review the findings and prepare a recommendation for further action to the Council unless otherwise directed by subsequent action of the Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve St. Louis County crack sealing and crack repair contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve Resolution Approving Application to Walmart Local Community Grant Program for an AED at the Community Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to approve Resolution Adopting the 2019, Payable in 2020 Tax Levy.

Ayes: Gregor, Worshek, Cromley

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Lakso and Jofs

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve Resolution Adopting the FY 2020 Budget.

Ayes: Gregor, Worshek, Cromley

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Lakso and Jofs

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve salt sand purchase request from Rick's Bobcat Service at \$20.00 per load. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the Northern Minnesota Dental, Inc. 2020 rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve the NESC Internship Program participation and staffing agreements for 16 hours per week. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve Administrative Assistant Intern Spring 2020 semester for 15 hours per week. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the Caring for Kids brick fundraiser, allowing any person, group, or organization to purchase bricks. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to grant permission for City Attorney Kearney to assist them with the creation of the Aurora Fire Relief Association and bylaws.

Ayes: Gregor and Worshek

Nays:

Abstain: Cromley

Absent: Lakso and Jofs

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve the Personnel Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Gregor to approve Resolution 2019-26 Adopting Enterprise Fund Rates beginning January 1, 2020.

Ayes: Gregor and Cromley

Nays: Worshek

Abstain:

Absent: Lakso and Jofs

Motion carried.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve advertisement of Aurora Housing Redevelopment Authority positions and undertake individual actions. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to waive the Community Center rental fee for Holiday Heritage Festival. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to Joint Water Project – Direct SEH to contact and coordinate with Barr Engineering and AcelorMittal regarding a joint intake and piping structures, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve the Change Order for 2019 Watermain Relocation at the cemetery turn lane to Utility Systems of America, Inc. in the amount of \$18,596.21. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to table the pay request for 2019 Watermain Relocation at the cemetery turn lane to Utility Systems of America, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to table the elimination of Combination Specialist II position due to the Biwabik Water Contract termination, to March 31, 2020 subject to review by the City Council. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to pay the Combination Specialist II salary and benefits out of the Special Revenue Fund (225) beginning January 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve the transfer \$14,153.17 from General Fund to Capital Account Facilities (407) as per auditor's recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to table the summer donation projects funding source in the amount of \$6,506.06. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve the transfer \$600.00 from Gambling Proceeds to cover additional work needed at East End Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Regular Special Meeting, Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Next Regular meeting Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator