

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 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; Tim Soular, East Range Police Chief

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 November 13, 2017; Canvassing Board Meeting held on November 13, 2017. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the receipts for November 2017 in the amount of \$84,811.84 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to approve the disbursements for November 2017 in the amount of \$194,839.65 subject to the invoices that Town of White needs to reimburse the City of Aurora at 20 percent and Payroll in the amount of \$107,748.50. MOTION CARRIED

Alex Air Apparatus Inc.	\$552.50	Culligan of Northeast MN	\$37.75
Allied Generators	\$1,269.37	East Range Joint Powers Board	\$100.00
American Bank of the North	\$236.02	East Range Police Department	\$29,853.86
American Bank of the North	\$484.20	East Range Shopper	\$496.19
American Bank of the North	\$30.00	Emergency Response Solutions	\$2,400.00
American Bank of the North	\$154.12	Essential Health	\$975.00
AT&T Mobility	\$269.16	Frontier	\$945.62
Aurora Public Library	\$95.92	G&K Services	\$46.80
Baker & Taylor	\$459.24	Gopher State One Call	\$16.20
Biwabik Public Utilities	\$9.49	Guardian Pest Solutions Inc.	\$35.00
BlueCross & BlueShield of MN	\$110.70	Jola & Sopp Excavating Inc.	\$15,500.00
Bradach Lumber	\$384.34	K & K Cleaning	\$755.00
C & C Winger Inc.	\$2,095.00	Lawson Products Inc.	\$118.01
CarQuest Aurora	\$274.94	MacQueen Equipment	\$293.53
Casper Construction Inc.	\$9,041.62	Metro Sales Inc.	\$323.56
City of Hoyt Lakes	\$1,276.02	Minnesota Energy Resources	\$2,283.77
Climate Air Inc.	\$3,763.30	Minnesota Power	\$9,253.01
Colosimo Patchin Kerney LTD	\$470.00	Minnesota Telecommunications	\$349.80

MN Department of Health	\$1,559.00	St. Louis County Auditor	\$13,733.00
Nelson Roofing	\$247.99	St. Louis County Auditor	\$281.00
Northern State Bank	\$6,250.23	Synchrony Bank/Amazon	\$131.57
Pace Analytical Services Inc.	\$959.50	The Control Company LLC	\$480.00
Pike River DemRec LLC	\$9,993.00	Tomahawk Ford Inc.	\$13,458.43
Popular Subscription Service	\$280.65	U.S. Postal Service	\$250.00
Portable John	\$97.00	U.S. Postmaster	\$144.00
Praxair Distribution Inc.	\$101.63	Utility Systems of America Inc.	\$59,382.03
Printing Systems Inc.	\$67.15	Verizon	\$15.42
Range Office Supply	\$9.49	Verizon Wireless	\$35.01
Range Paper	\$181.49	Vivid Design	\$35.00
Roger's Online Corporation	\$85.00	Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit	\$22.00
Seppi Brothers Concrete Products	\$1,826.46	Vreeland, Chris	\$201.18
Service Solutions Inc.	\$89.00	Ziegler Inc.	\$149.38
Shred Right	\$15.00		

MOVING PERMITS

NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following correspondence: Essentia Health regarding pricing structure changes; Mediacom regarding pricing adjustments and community investments; Arrowhead Transit regarding Grocery Bus service for Aurora residents. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS

NONE

PUBLIC FORUM

NONE

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman from the Aurora Public Library presented the library report. The year is flying by quickly, and the Aurora Public Library hosted the final Legacy event for 2017. Lorna Landvik was a wonderful story-teller, and was enjoyed by everyone who came. If you missed her presentation, you haven't missed entirely out. Each of her numerous novels are full of good humor and stories, and we have quite a few of them at the library. This afternoon's dramatic presentation of the life of a French-Canadian Voyageur was another fun, as well as informative, program. If you missed that presentation, you still have a chance. He will be visiting libraries in the area through December 16.

This week, the library is inviting children to stop by the library during open hours to make and take a small holiday craft. We are also offering supplies children may use at the library to decorate a

Christmas stocking for the Holiday Heritage Festival Christmas Stocking Decorating contest. The stockings and entry forms are also available at the library for anyone to pick up this week.

Continue to watch the Shopper, as well as the library's web site and newsletter, as Arrowhead Library System is busily planning a full and fascinating roster of Legacy events at libraries in 2018.

Chief Tim Soular of the East Range Police Department noted that Hoyt Lakes is hosting CIT training next week with multiple agencies which will help the department when responding to calls that involve individuals that have mental health issues. This training is going to be mandated starting next year, but the ERPD is getting a head start on this requirement by doing the training this year.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – October 24, 2017 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board, October 3, 2017 Minutes; East Range Community Advisory Panel, October 12, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce; October 17, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department; November 8, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – November 2017 Monthly Report; Ambulance Report – October 2017; Library Board, November 28, 2017 Minutes; Planning & Zoning – November 28, 2017 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to approve the Residential Improvement Permit for: Angela and James Hansen – 216 West 1st Avenue North, Replace roof. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the Library Board's recommendation to authorize Rebecca LeManager to work as an emergency/vacation replacement sub at the Aurora Public Library. MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lislegard pointed out that the Iron Range had a good week last week in Washington D.C. and thanked Congressman Nolan and Congressman Emmer for their leadership.

Councilor Lakso pointed out that the power pole in front of the laundromat was leaning pretty good. The Public Works Director indicated that a request has been made to Minnesota Power to have it removed and the city should know more on that soon. He also thanked the City Clerk for all of the time and effort to get the burned house on 3rd Avenue North demolished. Finally, he asked about the process for scheduling rooms in City Hall with the Town of White and just wanted to make sure that regularly scheduled meetings kept their holds in place as there was a recent Planning and Zoning Meeting that had to be held in the City Clerk's office due to a scheduling conflict.

The City Clerk reported on behalf of Councilor Cromley to let the residents know that the fire department would be bringing Santa throughout all of the neighborhoods this coming Friday evening.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess wanted to remind everyone that the Holiday Heritage Festival is scheduled for this Saturday, December 9th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. She also wanted to encourage residents to contribute to

the Christmas drive for local people that will also be located at the Community Center between 12 and 1 p.m. She inquired about additional demolitions scheduled in town and concluded by wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

John Jamnick was present to discuss the remaining punch list items from the 2015 street project and approve a partial payment estimate to Casper Construction. Councilor Lislegard felt that the punch list items were not closed properly with those people who were on the list and wanted to know how many are remaining and how they got to that final number and whether those remaining on the list were met with individually. The Council resisted the offer to return all but \$10,000 to Casper Construction to complete the final punch list feeling that the communication with those on the list was not great, that there could be more work needed than currently realized, and that the council wants to ensure that there is enough money still retained to finish the project as stated.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to pay the contractor, Casper Construction, \$61,010.66 retaining \$30,000 to finish the punch list items and to complete a walkthrough and have communication with all of the remaining punch list residents by May 15, 2018 with a deadline to complete the entire project by June 11, 2018. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to recess the Regular Council Meeting at 6:06 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Hess called to order the Truth in Taxation Hearing to discuss the 2017 Levy, Payable in 2018 and the 2018 Budget. All members except Councilor Cromley were in attendance. The City Clerk provided an overview of all of the data and the final budget with a levy of 5%. No public input was heard.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to close the Truth in Taxation Hearing to discuss the Levy at 6:11 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to reopen the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:11 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

The City Council approved the sale of the following surplus items in 'AS-IS' condition conducted through the public bidding process:

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the sale of Item No. 1, a 2005 Ford F-350 4x4 pickup truck with a plow, lift gate, back rack and tool box to Bidder No. 2 for \$11,500.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the sale of Item No. 2, a 1985 Ford L8000 with belly scraper and front plow to Bidder No. 1 for \$5,216.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the sale of Item No. 3, a 1972 Leroi 160 Mobile Air Compressor to Bidder No. 3 for \$400.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the sale of Item No. 4, eight Trailer Tires 8.25 R15 with rims to Bidder No. 1 for \$80.00. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to have the City Clerk notify the winning bidders that they have two weeks from date of notice by phone allow the City Clerk to execute any documents necessary to transfer title and ownership of all of the sold items to the winning bidders through the public bidding process. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to allow the second highest bidder to win the bid if the original highest bidder does not pay for the item within the required two week time period. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Hess to nominate Dave Lislegard as first choice to the Board of Directors for RAMS for the City of Aurora with Dave Worshek nominated as alternate. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to write off the following Utility Accounts: Acct Nos. 707.03 and 707.04 for parcel code 100-0077-00380 in the amount of \$960.34; Acct No. 990158.01 for parcel code 100-0015-00310 in the amount of \$1,350.10; and Acct No. 990121.01 for parcel code 100-0020-01650 in the amount of \$684.42 MOTION CARRIED

Chris Shuck, Recreation Director, provided an update on the recreation department and the projects in his department including the process for hiring a rink attendant.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the recommendation of Paul Zilmer as rink attendant and Randy Mattson as his backup subject to passing all background checks. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve returning the Office Aide position to part-time status beginning on Monday, December 11, 2017. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lakso and supported by Lislegard to review the Office Aide position in the next six months to make sure the office in general is not getting behind in its work. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2017-24 Approving an Increase in Residential Wastewater and Commercial Water and Wastewater Rates Effective January 1, 2018. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve a Business Development Transition Committee on planning and zoning issues in the Business/Industrial Park that would include Jim Lakso, Tim Kauppi, Curt Antilla, Wayne Thuringer, and Dave Worshek as alternate. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the request from Rick's Bobcat Service to purchase salt sand from the city for the 2017-2018 season at \$20.00 per load. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2017-25 Adopting 2017 Property Tax Levy, Collectible in 2018 in the Amount of \$1,052,001.06. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2017-26 Approving the 2018 Budget in the Amount of \$2,962,377.39. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to schedule Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. for the Year-End Meeting with the Reorganization Meeting to follow the conclusion of the Year-End Meeting at approximately 6:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer