

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
Video Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Paula Chapman, Aurora Public Library Director; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Tim Soular, East Range Police Department Chief

Meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Worshek at 5:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF 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 – November 10, 2020
- 5.2 Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – November 12, 2020
- 5.3 Regular Special City of Aurora Council Meeting – November 17, 2020
- 5.4 City of Aurora Council Budget Meeting – November 18, 2020

6. APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS-

- 6.1 November 2020 – \$129,092.87

7. APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT – CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

- 7.1 Disbursements for November 2020 – \$164,898.92
- 7.2 Employment for November 2020 – \$88,960.81
 - 7.2.1 Payroll: \$64,727.44
 - 7.2.2 Benefits: \$24,233.37

8. CORRESPONDENCE-

- 8.1 Minnesota Rural Water – request for support
- 8.2 Mediacom – notice of rate adjustment
- 8.3 Habitat for Humanity – donation request
- 8.4 Mary Mulari – request to serve additional term on Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority

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: Situation was resolved.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD AND COMMISSIONS-

- 13.1 Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority – October 19, 2020
- 13.2 Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – November 11, 2020
- 13.3 Aurora Public Library Board – November 19, 2020

13.4 Planning and Zoning Commission – November 24, 2020

Commercial Zoning Permits

JR Parts LLC – 212 S Main

Changing outside lights to LED and change company signage

Ayes: Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Absent: Gregor

Motion carried unanimously.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	\$321.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	\$262.27
ARAMARK	\$70.25
ARLENE NEFT	\$106.36
AT&T MOBILITY	\$239.42
AUTO VALUE	\$110.20
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$1,039.67
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	\$107.10
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	\$17,179.75
BRADACH LUMBER	\$231.45
CHRIS VREELAND	\$201.18
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$350.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$1,356.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	\$39.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	\$7,212.38
DEMCO INC.	\$192.32
EAST MESABI SANITATION	\$14,403.87
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	\$35,320.66
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$740.63
EOC-TRIMARK	\$1,004.56
ESSENTIA HEALTH	\$40.00
F.I.R.E.	\$3,190.00
FRED FAUST	\$198.21
FRONTIER	\$1,006.08
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	\$4.05
GREAT NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL	\$330.50
GREY DUCK BAG CO.	\$20.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	\$35.00
HAWKINS INC.	\$254.89

HEISEL BROTHERS, INC	\$198.34
LAKESHORE LEARNING MATERIALS	\$75.98
LMCIT	\$32,514.00
MACQUEEN EMERGENCY GROUP	\$326.88
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$1,429.32
METRO SALES	\$336.73
MICROMARKETING LLC	\$170.97
MIDWEST TAPE	\$14.98
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	\$2,165.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$1,874.34
MINNESOTA POWER	\$8,858.98
MINNESOTA PUMP WORKS	\$15,709.34
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	\$349.80
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY	\$250.00
PORTABLE JOHN	\$93.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	\$131.76
PTM DOCUMENT SYSTEMS	\$43.91
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$90.54
RANGE PAPER	\$276.15
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	\$1,581.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	\$46.88
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$56.00
SHRED RIGHT	\$15.00
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR - PW	\$5,451.51
TECH SALES CO.	\$70.00
THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$1,330.00

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$605.00
VERIZON	\$15.98
VINNY'S TRUCKING	\$1,800.00
VIVIANA SOLIS	\$64.84

VIVID DESIGN	\$180.00
ZIEGLER INC.	\$2,990.15
ZITO MEDIA	\$215.74

APPEARANCES/PUBLIC FORUM

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

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Library – Paula Chapman

The library is open and things are going well! There are lots of new books and movies on the shelves, and we welcome patrons to come in and browse. Please be reminded that face coverings are required, and curbside pickup continues to be available to anyone who can't come in. Anyone with questions may give the library a call. We were able to distribute all 20 of the family take-and-make "Countdown to Christmas" bags in November. This month's family take and make project is a tied fleece pillow. We still have kits available to pick up at the library—one per family! There is a new Legacy program available to view! It's called Fubuki Daiko or, in translation, "Blizzard Drumming." You can watch it now through December 14, and I encourage you not to miss out on seeing this unique fusion of drumming, music, and dance. There is a link to the program on the library's web page and Facebook page. It is funded through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Police – Tim Soular

There are increases in COVID-19 cases in our area; EMS is called out multiple times per day. Hope this is the peak. Councilor Worshek appreciates the steps Chief Soular is making regarding COVID-19 response.

Public Works – Wayne Thuringer

Quite a lot going on with Water/Waste Water issues. Requests City Administrator give an update via e-mail. The town has been decorated and is looking good for the holidays. Happy Holidays to everyone.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Honkola

Councilor Honkola wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. Looking forward to the new year.

Councilor Lakso

Councilor Lakso reports that as of December 3rd, there were 12 deer harvested in the archery hunt. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Councilor Jofs

Councilor Jofs spoke on the increase in COVID-19 cases around our area. Thank you to the East Range PD, the hospital, and the Fire Department and others who are in the thick of everything. Be careful as sidewalks are slippery. Thank you to city crew for the holiday decorations. Happy Holidays!

Councilor Worshek

Councilor Worshek asked about the land sale next to the post office. There are volunteers who are interested in flooding the hockey rink; requested Wayne follow up. Appreciates the city crew for all the holiday decorations and also wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. Stay safe.

Mayor Gregor joins meeting at 5:45.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Gregor apologized for being late with Zoom issues. Commends the community for the Celebrate Aurora wreath sales. Nice article in today's newspaper regarding Arvin Zilmer. Thanked Arvin on his retirement on closing up his wild game farm after 55 years and wished him well. Budget and Water and Wastewater has taken a great deal of time. Range mayors got together and Senator Tomassoni gave an update on himself and Senator Bakk forming an independent caucus. Heard from area mayors who are retiring. Wish everyone a beautiful and safe holiday season.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to deny construction of a new road at this time and to work with the homeowner on their timeline regarding construction of a new home on South 3rd Ave East/Forestry Road.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: Honkola

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek supported by Gregor to not waive tort liability limits for 2021.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve Northern Minnesota Dental Rates for 2021.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Jofs to approve Resolution 2020-30 adopting the 2020 levy, collectible in 2021, in the amount of \$1,348,851.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: Worshek

Motion carried.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve the 2021 Budget in the amount of \$2,313,622.00.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: Worshek

Motion carried.

Motion by Gregor supported by Lakso to accept donation from Al & Erika Hodnik to expand the history display in City Hall under the conditions submitted in the offer letter and the final plan to be approved by the City Administrator.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Worshek supported by Gregor to approve David Drown & Associates to complete a financial assessment regarding tax abatement for East Range Market in the amount not to exceed \$3500.00, to be paid out of the Business Development Fund.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Worshek

Nays: Honkola, Jofs

Motion carried.

Moved by Lakso supported by Jofs to enter into discussions with RadAir regarding placing a cell tower in Dahlin Field and striking the confidentiality clause in submitted documents.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to accept the conveyance of two parking lots (4 parcels): one parking lot by the law office and one between the 100 block of Main Street South and North 1st Street East from the HRA.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor support by Honkola to direct the City Administrator to research storm sewer fees in our area.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve sending the letter of termination for the Combination Specialist II position and send a similar letter to the employee who could be bumped under the current collective bargaining agreement.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Jofs

Nays: Honkola, Worshek

Motion carried.

Moved by Jofs supported by Lakso to direct the City Administrator to research costs and explore possible funding options from the IRRRB to fill in/fence collapsing mine shafts in our area.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Honkola to re-open applications and advertise for the rink attendant position for the 2020-2021 season.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs

Nays: Worshek

Motion carried.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve Mayor Gregor to write a letter of support on behalf of the Minnesota Rural Water Association to our representatives in Washington, D.C.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Gregor, Lakso, Honkola, Jofs, Worshek

Nays: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator