

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA YEAR END MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016  
5:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Acting Mayor Dave Worshek, Councilors Smolich, Cromley, Lislegard,

**ABSENT:** Mayor Mary Hess

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Heather Schendel, East Range Police Department; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Council Meeting held on December 1, 2015; Special City Council Meeting held on December 7, 2015 and Special City Council Meeting held on December 22, 2015. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the receipts in the amount of \$162,489.24 for December 2015 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the disbursements in the amount of \$134,891.93 and the Payroll for December 2015 in the amount of \$86,255. MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following communication: MN Energy Resources regarding Request to MPUC for Rate Increase; League of MN Cities 2015 Property/Casualty Dividend; Mediacom regarding Increase in Rates; Habitat for Humanity – Winter Newsletter; Caring for the Kids Regarding the Donation from the City of Aurora; St. Louis County Administrator regarding Board Meeting on December 1, 2015 and Aurora Fire Department Regarding Chili Cook-Off and Vintage Snowmobile Run. MOTION CARRIED**

**TRAVEL REQUESTS**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to authorize the request for travel for the Mayor Mary Hess to attend the League of MN Cities Experienced Officials Leadership Conference on January 22-23, 2016 in Brooklyn Center. MOTION CARRIED**

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Public Works Director Thuringer reminded everyone that if we continued to have this cooler weather, that those who do not have basements, those in trailer houses, and those who have experienced freezing water lines in the past should begin to let water run in a pencil sized stream.

Librarian Paula Chapman reported that The Aurora Public Library will once again hold a low-key adult winter reading program between January 19 and March 4. Adults simply sign up and receive a welcome packet; read library books, audiobooks, ebooks and magazines of their choice; and enter a drawing for each title they read. The library will draw for a couple prizes each week, and each entry will be re-entered in a drawing for additional prizes at the end of the program. We do not currently have any events scheduled for January but stay tuned; a whole array of programs are in the works for February through May!

Sergeant Heather Schendel reported that the East Range PD was busy in 2015 with approximately 3000 calls, with 50% of the calls in Aurora, 32% in Hoyt Lakes and remaining calls mutual aid calls. She stated that due to Aurora having the school and the hospital, the calls to Aurora seem to be higher. Acting Mayor Worshek asked about a recent rash of vehicle break-ins. Schendel stated that there has not been any reported lately.

#### REPORTS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following officers for the Aurora Fire Department: Fire Chief – Dave Cromley; Assistant Chief – Jon Knapper; 1<sup>st</sup> Captain – Kris Dickinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain – Wes LaValley; Medical Officer – Kaler Palm; Secretary – Steve Biondich; and Treasurer – Ben Dickinson. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following reports as presented: Housing and Redevelopment Authority - December 8, 2015 and December 22, 2015; East Range Joint Powers Board -Regular Meeting November 24, 2015 Minutes; Joint Water Facility Meeting – November 24, 2015 Minutes; Aurora Fire Department- December 9, 2015 Minutes and Election of Officers Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2015; Planning & Zoning Commission – No Quorum at Meeting In Dec; Animal Control Officer- December 2015 Report; and East Range Public Safety Board – November 4, 2015. MOTION CARRIED**

#### REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Smolich stated that the ice rink is getting use this year, and the employees seem to be doing well. Smolich also stated that plans are moving forward with the Joint Water Plant. Hopefully funding can be secured through the State Bonding Bill.

Councilor Cromley thanked Chad Sahr and Boone Przyblski for the assistance in getting the ice rinks ready for skaters for the Christmas Break. Cromley stated that the Fire Department will be holding their annual VIN Run March 5, 2016. New this year, on March 4, 2016, there will be a Chili Cook-Off at the Aurora American Legion starting at 5:00 pm. Holiday Heritage Festival went well at the Fire Hall, the volunteers are amazing and Santa Night went very well.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Acting Mayor Worshek stated that he recently read a Mesabi Daily News article regarding three businesses that were closing in Virginia, MN, and that it seems the entire area is being hard hit by the economic downturn. Worshek also stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission, the HRA, and the City Council are moving forward with the concept planning of a campground.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Darrin Christianson stated that he lost his job when Aurora Drug closed. He also stated he has never been cited for blight or littering. He stated he was reading on the League of MN Cities website that the City may exempt a resident from garbage service fees. Mr. Kearney stated that the Statute says the City may, but that City ordinance states that the fees must be charged on every residential account in the City. Kearney also stated that garbage service is a fee based service, that if everyone was to be removed from it, someone would have to pay the remainder of the fees.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize the payment of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools 2016 Membership Dues. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the request from Ann Myklebust to reduce the monthly fees for her water service from December 2014 to December 2015 to vacant status for the vacant house at 503 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East as the water may not be shut off due to a steam boiler heating system. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize entering into an agreement with The Control Company for Water & Wastewater Treatment Plant Maintenance and Monitoring for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize payment for Chamber Dues for 2016 in the amount of \$250.00. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the request from the Pepsi Challenge Race Coordinator for Assistance of Two (2) Public Works Employees on Friday, February 27, 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the payment for membership and dues for the Greater MN Parks & Trails Commission for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

A Park Lighting report was prepared by Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director. At this time, there is concern in the park due to fixtures that are in need of repair.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to create a concept lighting plan for Pine Grove Park area, and to bring this information back to the Park Committee for review and implementation plan. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve entering into Joint Powers Agreement between the City and Northeast Service Cooperative for insurance services. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve Pay Estimate No. 7 from Casper Construction Inc. for the 2015 Street Improvements Project in the amount of \$2,618.20 contingent upon all required paperwork being submitted prior to payment. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the Data Practices Policy for Data Subjects. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the Data Practices Policy for Public Requests. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to table the request from Coalition of Greater MN Cities for a donation to the Voluntary Assessment for CGMC 2016 Wastewater Legal and Regulatory Program. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2016-001 In Support of Increasing Local Government Aid (LGA) in the 2016 Legislative Session. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the request from St Louis County Fair Board for Donation for St Louis County Fair. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize advertising for sale of Old City Hall Boiler by Sealed Bid or Public Auction. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve sending a Letter of Support for Nomination of Britt See-Benes, MCFOA Region II Vice President. MOTION CARRIED**

CGMC Legislative Action Day 2016 is to be held on March 16, 2015, St. Paul, MN. The City Council and Staff are encouraged to attend to lobby for specific requests the City may have.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 p.m. MOTION CARRIED**

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF AURORA REORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015**  
**5:48 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Acting Mayor Worshek; Councilors Smolich, Cromley, Lislegard

**ABSENT:** Mayor Hess

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by Acting Mayor Worshek.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the disbursements for January 2016 in the amount of \$121,194.97. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to continue the Reorganizational Meeting at a Special Meeting to be held a later date based on the Mayor's availability. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Dave Worshek, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA REORGANIZATION MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016  
4:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hess; Councilors Smolich, Lislegard, Worshek

**ABSENT:** Councilor Cromley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to Designate the Northern State Bank – Aurora Branch Official Depository for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to approve collateral for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to designate the Range Times as the Official City Newspaper for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to designate WEVE/Eveleth as the Official Radio Station of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2016-002 Adopting Rules of Procedure for the Aurora City Council, Designation of Official Depositories, Designation of Collateral Authority, Designation of Official Newspaper for the City of Aurora, St Louis County, Minnesota. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize the following investment institutions for the year 2016: Wells Fargo Advisors, Northern State Bank – Aurora, Morgan Stanley. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to accept quote from Colosimo, Patchin, Kearney, LTD for 2016 Legal Services. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize City Staff to call for quotes on all Engineering Services for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Scott Smolich as Acting Mayor. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the Police Chief of the ERPD as the Emergency Management Director. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint Chuck Williams as the Animal Control Officer for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint Mark Boback to the Housing Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2018. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to appoint David Lislegard as Liaison to the Housing Redevelopment Authority. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint the following to a one year position on the Library Board: Patrick Layman and Carol Haasl with terms to expire 12/31/2016; reappoint TyAnn Jackson to a two year position on the Library Board with term to expire on 12/31/2017; and reappoint Thea Riebel to a three year position on the Library Board with a term to expire on 12/31/2018. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the following Planning and Zoning Members Scott Rolando JoAnn Burke Jim Lakso for terms ending 12/31/2016; and Bob Lloyd, Laura Lubahn, and David Olson for terms ending 12/31/2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Scott Smolich as Council Liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Britt See-Benes as Secretary. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint the following Cemetery Board Members: Bill Johnson, Chairman, Vince Lacer, Ed Modetz, Kim Zinski for terms ending 12/31/2016; and Anthony (Butch) Ceglar, Rudy Ceglar, Kent (Huffer) Dickinson, Keith Shatava, Bob Turk for terms ending 12/31/2017. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Scott Smolich as Council Liaison to the Cemetery Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Mary Hess, David Lislegard, and Scott Smolich, as alternate on the CAP Advisory Committee. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint Britt See-Benes as Liaison for the Caring for Kids Committee. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to appoint Britt See-Benes, Mary Hess, and Scott Smolich as liaison for the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to appoint Scott Smolich as liaison for Channel 2 Cable Task Force Committee, MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint Vince Lacer and Mary Hess to the City Band Committee. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek appoint Britt See-Benes as liaison to the Library Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Mary Hess and Scott Smolich to the Northern St. Louis County Partners Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to appoint Dave Cromley as Liaison for the City of Aurora Street Department. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint Dave Cromley as Liaison for the City of Aurora Utilities Department. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint Mary Hess and Dave Lislegard as alternate to the Community Advisory Board at ISD 2711. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint Mary Hess and Scott Smolich as alternate to the East Range Joint Powers Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to appoint David Lislegard and Scott Smolich to the East Range Public Safety Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint David Worshek as liaison to the City of Aurora Fire Department. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint Dave Cromley, Britt See-Benes, and Scott Smolich as liaison to the Aurora Fourth of July Committee. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint the East Range Police Department as the City of Aurora Blight Officer. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the following members to the Aurora Business Park Committee: Curt Anttila, Kent Dickinson, Richard Hess, Britt See-Benes. Councilor Scott Smolich, Wayne Thuringer, and Councilor Dave Worshek. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint the following to the Community Meeting/Alan R. Hodnik Award Committee: Linda Cazin, Mayor Mary Hess, Councilor David Lislegard, Ed Modetz, Britt See-Benes and Kim Zinski. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the following to the Government Facilities Committee: Councilor Dave Cromley, Kent Dickinson, Britt See-Benes, Councilor Scott Smolich, Wayne Thuringer and Kim Zinski. MOTION CARRIED**



**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Hess to appoint the following to the Hiring Committee for Temporary Employees: Britt See-Benes, Councilor Scott Smolich, Wayne Thuringer, and Councilor Dave Worshek. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the following to the Insurance Committee: Aaron Carlson, Paula Chapman, Jim Gentilini, Mayor Mary Hess, Councilor David Lislegard and Britt See-Benes. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint the following to the Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee: Aaron Carlson, Councilor Dave Cromley, Jim Gentilini, Bonnie Harma, ERPD Staff Representative, Karin Krueger, and Councilor Scott Smolich. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to appoint the following to the Park Committee: Curt Anttila, Susie Parkhurst, Caring for Kids Community, Jacie Cherro, Caring for Kids Community, Britt See-Benes, Chris Shuck, Councilor Scott Smolich, Wayne Thuringer and Councilor Dave Worshek. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint the following to the Strategic Planning Committee, Mayor & Council, Britt See-Benes and Wayne Thuringer. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to appoint the following to the Tree Committee: Aaron Carlson, Kent Dickinson, Jack Greenlee, Britt See-Benes, and Councilor Dave Worshek. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to appoint the following to the Volunteer Recognition Committee: Mayor Mary Hess, Karin Krueger, Britt See-Benes and Kim Zinski. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the following Home Business License for 2016: Carol Johnson D/B/A By Gone Pages; Mark Anderson D/B/A K & A Specialty Sales; Henry Frechette D/B/A Henry Frechette Accounting & Income Tax Preparation; Jeff Rock D/B/A Jeffrey's Pasty's Plus. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following Conditional Use Licenses for 2016: Michael Zinski D/B/A Mike's Window & Screen Repair; Mary Mulari D/B/A Mary's Productions; Debi Shain D/B/A Diamond Cuts and Richard Keil d/b/a RK Welding. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the Year-End Transfers for 2015 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to write off the following Utility Accounts: Acct No. 990115.00 The Other Garage in the amount of \$761.69 ; and Acct No. 990188.02 Amber's Iron Skillet in the amount of \$296.83. MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2016-003, Setting Rates & Fees for 2016. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt the following Legislative Priorities for 2016:

1. LGA
2. Water Plant
3. Mining – Power, Sulfates, State of Economy
4. Downtown Business Retention
5. Broadband
6. Diversification of Iron Range Economy
7. Pairing and Sharing
8. Mental Health Issues

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt the schedule of Equipment Rental Rates effective 01/20/16 as follows:

TANKER W/VAC PUMP	\$125.00	SKID STEER	\$100.00
PICKUP TRUCK	\$ 65.00	EXCAVATOR	\$150.00
DUMP TRUCK	\$100.00	SMALL TOOLS	\$25.00
GRADER	\$125.00	BLIGHT CLEAN-UP RATES	
STREET SWEEPER	\$125.00	(2 HR.MINIMUM), PLUS TIPPING FEE	\$ 75.00
AIR COMPRESSOR	\$ 75.00	RIDING MOWER WITH OPERATOR	
LOADER	\$125.00	(BLIGHT)	\$ 60.00
SEWER RODDER (FLEXIBLE + TRUCK)	\$150.00	*TIPPING FEES SHALL BE ASSESSED	
PUMPS (ALL)	\$ 75.00	ACCORDINGLY	
SANDER	\$125.00	Add \$50.00 for Overtime	
SHOP RATE (PARTS NOT INCLUDED)	\$ 45.00	2 Hour Minimum for All Rates	
CHAIN SAW	.\$ 75.00		

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA REGULAR MEETING  
AURORA CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016  
5:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hess; Councilors Cromley, Lislegard, Smolich, and Worshek

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, City Attorney; Tim Soular, East Range Police Dept. Chief

Mayor Hess called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting of January 12, 2016 and the Reorganization Meeting of January 20, 2016; and to table the approval of the January 12, 2016 Year End Meeting minutes for revisions. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSMENTS**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the receipts for January 2016 in the amount of \$90917.88 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the following disbursements for January 2016 in the amount of \$181994.76 and Payroll for January 2016 in the amount of \$73054.57. MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVING PERMITS**

NONE

**APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Discussion was held on the Seasonal Part–Time Position. City Staff would like to begin to accept applications for this position to shovel and do light maintenance repairs in City buildings.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to allow the staff to accept applications for the position of Seasonal Part–Time Maintenance Worker. MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to receive and file the correspondence from Lake Connections Regarding 2015 Utility Project Recap; Mediacom Regarding Change to Channel Lineup; and Aurora Carefree Living (Spectrum) Invitation**

**to 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration on February 18, 2016 starting at 3:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED**

#### TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the travel request of Britt See-Benes in order to attend the MCFOA Clerk's Conference on March 14-18, 2016 in St. Cloud MN. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the travel request of Jim Gentilini in order to attend the MPCA 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Wastewater Operators Conference on March 23-25 in Brooklyn Park, MN. MOTION CARRIED**

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Giorgi, RAMS Director, thanked Aurora for the support of the organization. They have been around for 76 years, and currently have 46 members. Giorgi stated that he attended an economic summit yesterday with businesses called Recharge the Range. On February 29, 2016, a Recharge the Range summit will be hosted by RAMS and the IRRRB with Cities, Townships and Schools being invited. Mr. Giorgi recommends that the Mayor, the Administrator and the Economic Advisor or Coordinator attends this summit on 02/29/16 in order to be involved in the conversation. The third step of the Recharge the Range summit will be a Community Forum in June 2016. The RAMS group is working on their legislative priorities and has hired Ron Dicklich as their lobbyist.

Councilor Lislegard asked if RAMS has considered becoming a member of any of the area Chambers of Commerce. He suggested that the RAMS group might want to get involved as Chambers are the face of the community and he offered praise to Mr. Giorgi for being engaged in the communities.

#### REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman reported on the Aurora Public Library will hold the first program of 2016 this month on Friday, February 12, at 10:30 am. Author Chad Lewis will present a lively Minnesota history program, and you are all invited to come follow in the footsteps of America's most infamous gangsters as they turned Minnesota into their personal crime vacation land. Filled with deadly bank robberies, explosive shootouts, brutal murders, and daring kidnappings, this presentation lets the audience discover the grisly locations where the gangster history will never die. To date, 48 adults have signed up for the adult winter reading program. It will continue through March 4—so there is still time to sign up and win prizes! She stated that they are beginning to receive questions about tax forms, and I'm afraid that the answers are not those hoped for. The state of Minnesota has discontinued sending tax forms to libraries. Individuals may download the forms from the state's web site (<http://www.revenue.state.mn.us>) or call 1-800-652-9094 to request that a tax booklet be mailed to them. The federal government is also scaling back the library program. They are sending a limited number of forms and instructions, but I am not expecting anything beyond the 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ. Federal forms may be downloaded and printed from the federal tax site ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) or requested by mail by calling 1-800-829-3676.

Chief Soular reported that Calendar Parking is being enforced heavily. He reminded everyone about this as the goal is to obtain compliance and not the fines. Soular stated that these rules are set in place to allow us to facilitate movement of snow, and when cars are parked against calendar parking, it makes it very difficult to plow. They have not towed any vehicles yet, but a few residents who have been reminded repeatedly with tickets will be towed if they don't start to move. Chief Soular stated that the ERPD Sergeant will be welcoming a new family member in August.

#### REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

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

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: Library Board – January 26, 2016; Animal Control – January 2016 Report; East Range Joint Powers Board –December 22, 2016 Minutes; Ambulance Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015; Aurora Fire Department – January 13, 2016 Minutes; Joint Labor Management Safety Committee – January 21, 2016; ERPSB – December 14, 2015 Minutes and HRA – January 19, 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Cromley reported that the DNR Deer Hunt in Hoyt Lakes was successful and he that he met with the MN DNR about a potential deer hunt in Aurora. He stated there was not a lot of snow, but that the fire department was beginning to clear snow from around hydrants. If you live near a hydrant and could “adopt-a-hydrant”, it would be greatly appreciated! Cromley reminded everyone that the Chili Cook-Off is March 4<sup>th</sup>. It is \$5.00 a person to taste and judge the chilis at the American Legion. The Aurora FD Vin Run will be on 03/05. Everyone is encouraged to come look at the sleds and participate in the ride.

Councilor Lislegard stated he had no further discussion items at this time.

Councilor Worshek stated this year was the first time that he remembers the council setting their legislative priorities for 2016 and that he felt it was good to see. Worshek stated that the last time that the Fire Dept. had a Beans and Brats event, the sewer plant blew up.

Councilor Smolich thanked the Public Works crews for all their work at snow removal. Smolich reminded motorists to keep an out for kids who are sledding, particularly on Central Avenue near Pine Grove Park. He noted that the skating rink appears to be getting use by many. Smolich reported to Chief Soular that he is receiving complaints of people running the stop sign on Central Avenue. Smolich reminded everyone to please not feed the pigeons nor deer in town.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess thanked the Public Works Department for going above and beyond.

#### MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

OLD BUSINESS  
NONE

NEW BUSINESS

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the Home Business License for Jim Stanhope D/B/A JR's Outing for 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve sponsoring six (6) attendees to the Iron Range Youth in Action Young Leader Conference on February 22, 2016 with the monies to be used from the 10% Gambling Fund. MOTION CARRIED**

Lynn Babcock was present to discuss the request from East Range Sportsman and Conservation Club for Matching Funds for Small Trap Range Grant. The funds would be used to purchase a voice released mechanism for Youth Trap Shooters. The Town of White has donated \$1500.00; the total amount needed is \$2539.00. Mt. Babcock stated that any assistance for the youth program would be appreciated.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to authorize a donation of \$1039.00 for the purchase of a voice released mechanism for Youth Trap Shooters, with the funds to come from the 10% Gambling Fund. MOTION CARRIED**

The resolution in Support for Relocation of Highway 5 Via Highway 85 Via State Highway 73 was discussed.

**Moved by Hess and supported by Smolich to table the resolution in Support for Relocation of Highway 5 Via Highway 85 Via State Highway 73 until further information can be received. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No 2016-004, authorizing the City of Aurora to Make Application to and Accept Funds from the IRRRB Public Works Stimulus Grant Program. MOTION CARRIED**

An update on Campground Concept Planning through HRA was received. The map was updated to include many more sites. The Cost Estimates will be prepared once HRA, Planning and Zoning, and the Council have had time to make comments on the layout.

Discussion was held on the purchase of a Toolcat 5600G for Public Works Water/Wastewater. This item was removed from the budget however due to safety concerns during snow removal in the downtown area, it was felt by staff that if we can find a way to purchase it, that we do so.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to table the purchase of a Toolcat 5600G for Public Works/Water/Wastewater until further information can be received regarding where the funds would be coming from and an updated quote was received. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to reschedule the March 1, 2016 Regular Council Meeting to March 8, 2016 due to the statewide caucuses. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to schedule a Strategic Planning Meeting for February 23, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to authorize Mayor Hess, Councilor Lislegard and Administrator See-Benes to attend the Recharge the Range Summit on February 29, 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

Mark Hall, owner of the Bar (formerly Big Guys Bar) thanked the City Council for authorizing the liquor license transfer and the smooth transition.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF AURORA SPECIAL MEETING**  
**AURORA CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016**  
**5:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hess; Councilors Cromley, Lislegard, Smolich, and Worshek

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director

Mayor Hess called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the request from the Knights of Columbus for Lawful Gambling Bingo on March 13 and November 13, 2016. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the purchase of the Toolcat 5600 G-Series from Duluth Bobcat Inc. in the amount of \$44,962.00. MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Hess closed the Special City Council Meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Mayor Hess opened the Strategic Planning Meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding Business Recruitment/Retention. Potential avenues of advertising, promotion and retention was discussed.

The Capital Priorities list from 2016-2025 was reviewed.

Phase III of the 2015 Street Improvement Project was discussed. The reconstruction of Maple Drive will be added to this phase increasing the project costs by an estimated \$646,000.00. An IRRRB Grant was awarded on 02/22/16 in the amount of \$250,000.

**Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to allow staff to set a hearing date for an Improvement Hearing for Maple Drive Reconstruction Project and to authorize pursuit of funding for the additional project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer