

**MINUTES
REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Lislegard, Cromley, Lakso, Mayor Hess

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer;
Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Hess at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes as presented:
Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on July 11, 2017. MOTION CARRIED**

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for July 2017 in the
amount of \$130,819.95 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lakso and supported by Lislegard to approve the disbursements for July 2017 in the
amount of \$263,416.16 and Payroll in the amount of \$79,819.52. MOTION CARRIED**

AMERICAN BANK 6005	418.03	EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	30,000.13
AMERICAN BANK 7532	607.04	ELY BASEBALL	50.00
AMERICAN BANK 8977	23.59	EMBARRASS LITTLE LEAGUE	85.00
AMERICAN BANK 9587	77.28	FRED FAUST	15.56
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	601.95	FRONTIER	1,087.52
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	372.38	G & K SERVICES	46.80
AMERICHEM	470.00	GALE	26.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	286.13	GREEN AGAIN LAWN & LANDSCAPE	1,794.00
AT & T MOBILITY	261.53	GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	443.93	HAWKINS INC.	904.63
BRADACH LUMBER	303.65	INCOGNITO COSTUME SHOP	72.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	6,944.63	INT'L FALLS JUNIOR LEAGUE	300.00
CARQUEST AURORA	152.84	JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD	396.80
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	K & K CLEANING	755.00
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE, INC.	91.19	L & M – VIRGINIA	21.50
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00	LIFE SECURITY AND CONTROL	234.00
CITY OF MT. IRON	85.00	MARY HESS	256.68
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	470.00	MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	70.66
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MN	37.75	MESABI EAST BAND BOOSTERS	50.00
DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE	298.48	METRO SALES	327.95

MICROMARKETING LLC	123.28	RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	131.86
MIDWEST TAPE	19.99	RANGE PAPER	3,062.41
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	411.90	SCOTTS UNDERGROUND SOUND	225.00
MINNESOTA POWER	8,888.31	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80	SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	265.69
MN PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY	148,362.86	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	367.67	TOMAHAWK FORD	13,060.61
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	200.00	U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	11,325.23	VERIZON	15.21
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	675.50	VERIZON WIRELESS	70.02
PORTABLE JOHN	2,425.00	VIVID DESIGN	60.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	105.01	WALKER, GIROUX & HAHNE LTD.	23,500.00

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following correspondence: Minnesota Department of Health regarding Quarterly Report, TOC/Alkalinity Monitoring for the Control of Disinfection Byproducts; St. Louis County Planning and Community Development, regarding St. Louis County Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Initial Plan Workshops; Arrowhead Regional Development Commission regarding 2018 Tax Levy. MOTION CARRIED

A letter from the Office of Inspector of Mines was received regarding repair and replace of damaged and missing portions of mine fencing. City Attorney Mike Kearney explained that this has been ongoing every year as people keep cutting into the fence and according to the letter and state statute, the city needs to fix the fence at its own expense. Wayne Thuringer explained that we also need to put gates in as well to minimize the effect of people constantly cutting the fence to gain access to the pit.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to file the correspondence from the Mine Inspector and to also have the City Clerk draft a response letter within the timeframe stated in the letter. MOTION CARRIED.

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to approve the travel and training request of Kim Zinski to attend the MN Association of Cemeteries Annual Conference – September 21 and 22, 2017 at Breezy Point Resort in Pequot Lakes, MN. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC FORUM
None

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman reported that the summer reading programs have reached their conclusion. This summer, 93 children signed up to participate, and 63 of them reported reading an impressive total of 58,475 pages this summer. A big hurrah to the children who read this summer, and to the parents

and grandparents day care providers and older brothers and sisters who read to younger children as well. A total of 19 teens signed up for the teen reading program; they reported completing 142 reading challenges. Challenges ranged from reading for an hour to listening to an audiobook to volunteering at the library or with a community event this summer.

Paula Chapman also reported on a handful of the newest titles in the library's Minnesota collection. Sandra Fabian Butala, who lives on the Iron Range, wrote The Man Who Fell to Earth: The Incredible True Story of WWII Flyboy Robert Givens. Bob Givens was born in Eveleth and grew up in Leonidas, so this book has some local as well as military history. John Pastor's What Should a Clever Moose Eat? covers, as its subtitle says, natural history, ecology, and the north woods. Chapter titles range from the book's title, to "Foraging in a Beaver's Pantry" to "Skunk Cabbages, Blowflies, and the Smells of Spring." James Toscano's Surviving Vietnam and Linda LeGarde Grover's The Sky Watched: Poems of Ojibwe Lives both share the experiences of a group of Minnesotans in the form of poetry. Finally, Glensheen is the newest guidebook to Duluth's historic Congdon estate.

Wayne Thuringer, Director of Public Works, reported that recent rain has resulted in several challenges for his staff and caused several delays to tasks that would normally be addressed as this point. With the recent let up in the rain the public works staff has been able to get out and grind several stumps in various city locations including the cemetery. The large amount of rain has also contributed to the level in the St. James pit being very high. The current level is down an inch from the recent high water mark and the city has applied for a permit to dewater 40 million gallons to reduce the pit level by one foot. Mr. Thuringer reported that he is currently working with the City Clerk to get a dewatering permit from the DNR. There is currently in the 30 day comment period on the permit application and the city is just waiting to hear back as to the next steps and comments from the various agencies but he is concerned about getting the permit due to the chemistry of the water in the pit. He also listed the various agencies that he has met with, including the IRRRB, to see if there is any solution to reduce the level of the water further below the pump house floor. Currently the level is at 11 inches below the pump house floor, but if it rises to 8 inches, that would be considered the critical mark and we would have to get emergency assistance to pump. If we are not allowed to pump, the backup plan would be to run the water through the wastewater plant but that is a very expensive option and would not be a preferred option.

Jan Moore from the Spruce Up Committee appeared to clarify a comment regarding the Mayor's letter in the East Range Shopper regarding the flower bed dedicated to the four individuals credited with starting the youth hockey program in Aurora. Jan said she her group was contacted about improving that flower bed in the past, but wanted to make sure the public knew why Spruce Up did nothing with that flower bed. She said that it is a pretty flower bed, but the roots from the two trees on either side of the flower bed have caused it to completely fill full of tree roots making it extremely difficult to dig and plant which is why the Spruce Up committee did not plant there. Mayor Hess clarified that she did not intend for that comment to imply a lack of action on the committee's part and wanted to make sure that the public understands that Spruce Up did not do anything wrong. Wayne Thuringer also asked if the black bench that Spruce Up assembled in the park can be moved to a different spot. Jan approved

the move and said that they will take the disc golf course layout in consideration when moving the bench.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: East Range Joint Powers Board – June 27, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – June 14, 2017 Minutes with corrections, July 12, 2017 Minutes; Aurora Housing & Redevelopment Authority – June 20, 2017 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – July 2017 Monthly Report; Aurora Chamber of Commerce, June 6, 2017 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board and Hoyt Lakes Special Meeting – July 6, 2017 Minutes; Regular Meeting of the Aurora Cemetery Board, July 26, 2017 Minutes; Tri-City Ambulance Advisory Board Meeting – July 13, 2017 Minutes; Planning & Zoning – July 25, 2017 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the Zoning Permits for: Chad Sahr – 204 South 6th Street East, Build addition to back of house; Dolan & Kim Chapple – 420 South 2nd Street East, Build bedroom addition; Gerard Cazin – 329 Forestry Road, Build steps to the front of house; Shannon Babb – 412 South 2nd Street East, Build two bedroom additions. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the Residential Improvement Permits for: Mark Crep – 307 South 2nd Street West, Replace roof on house & garage; Terri Olson – 25 West 2nd Avenue North, Replace roof on house; Andrew & Amy Doll – 109 West 3rd Avenue North, Replace windows; Tom Palach – 212 Linda Drive, Replace siding on house and garage; Shannon Babb – 412 South 2nd Street East, Replace roof on house with steel roof (including additions); Benjamin Tolvanen – 305 West 3rd Avenue North, Repair windows, roof, doors, gutters, steps, landing, paint house. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Lakso and supported by Lislegard to approve the variance request at a public hearing made by Andrew and Amy Doll to extend the height of their fence in their yard from six to eight feet high on the sides and back of their property. MOTION CARRIED.

Dick Clark was asked to give an updated drawing on his permit request which he brought in. Councilor Lakso also noted that Mr. Clark's building on Main Street sustained damage by the city and that Mr. Clark did not feel that he should need to file for the permit. The council explained that he will still need to apply for the permit, and if construction begins without a filing, the city will send a letter notifying him that he is in violation of city ordinance.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the Commercial Improvement Permits for: Dick Clark – 16 East 3rd Avenue North, Install tin over flat roof; DRCC – 417 South Main Street, Replace roof; Julia Manor Apartments – 410 West 3rd Avenue North, Replace roof. MOTION CARRIED.

The council was asked to make a determination on the urn vault requirements for in-ground burials and the Mayor commented regarding the cost of the vaults and her belief that this is a potential health and safety factor. She also expressed concern for the public works department who have moved a few and would rather see them in a vault and feels that vaults should be required for cremations since the city already requires them for caskets. The Director of Public Works Thuringer indicated that during

wet periods of the year, they get full of water and vault will hold container down so it does not float up. Councilor Lislegard asked what reasons were given by the cemetery board for not voting for it. Butch Ceglar appeared and explained that he feels it should be a decision for the family and that he has not seen these vaults collapsing in the past and said that they are seeking the council to break the deadlock. City attorney Kearney asked what is typically done in this situation and suggested that when Kim Zinski attends the annual cemetery conference that she find out what others are doing in this situation and report back to the city. **Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to table the determination on the urn vault requirements until more information can be learned from the annual cemetery conference in September. MOTION CARRIED.**

Councilor Cromley gave an update on how the process has been going regarding the new ALS set up for ambulance service. He said that it is taking some time but the group has been moving forward with a lot of meetings. The plan is to have a new medical director with part-time ALS service. Councilor Worshek asked about the higher cost for having the service as the city enters budget time. Councilor Cromley stated that while the cost is higher, he does not see it having a huge effect on the budget. Councilor Lislegard asked about the long-term viability and if it is unsustainable for the budget of a small city. Councilor Cromley believed that it would be sustainable by the city in the long run.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek said that it is time for the city to get involved in budget discussions and that the new disc golf would be installed on or around August 8th and 9th as confirmed by the Public Works Director. Councilor Worshek also wanted to extend birthday wishes to Mayor Hess.

Councilor Lislegard commented on an anonymous letter regarding minutes and agendas being posted online. The City Clerk reported that he has been working with Paul Desilets on getting that functionality restored on the website with the goal of getting these items posted. Councilor Lislegard also noted that the guardrail coming into town has been replaced and that the power poles coming into town have remained and is going to inquire regarding the power poles status. He also thanked all of those who attended the rally to support mining in Northeast Minnesota in Virginia on July 25th and concluded by wishing Mayor Hess a Happy Birthday.

Councilor Cromley talked further about the effort that has been extended by several individuals with the Tri-City Ambulance in setting up ALS service. He noted that the meetings are public and encouraged others to attend to get the information first-hand. He explained how the group has hired a consulting group to help assist in getting the new ALS service up and running and that we will be keeping an ambulance service and emphasized that the city is not losing its ambulance service. Councilor Cromley also thanked the Celebrate Aurora committee for all of its work with the lineups on the 4th of July and noted that the fire department will be losing two individuals on separate leave of absences for justifying personal reasons and he would like to run an ad again in the East Range Shopper to get more applications for volunteers for the fire department.

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to run an advertisement in the East Range Shopper seeking applications for volunteer fire fighters. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilor Cromley commented on the Emergency Preparedness Plan Meeting that he, Chief Soular, and the City Clerk attended in Gilbert during the last week of July. He stated the need to update in the very immediate future the city's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as the current plan is quite old. He also mentioned that there will be a meeting with Mesabi Sign to go over ideas to update the main sign as you enter town from the west along with adding new lettering on the fire department. Butch

Ceglar also asked Councilor Cromley about CPR training. Councilor Cromley stated that this fall is a much better time to do this and he will work with various individuals to get that training set up. Rudy Ceglar asked what the minimum age is to serve on the fire department. The age is 21 and Councilor Cromley explained the reasons and criteria for the decision to focus on applicants who are age 21 and over.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess thanked the White Community Hospital Foundation for the AED donation. There will be training on the device as well. Councilor Lakso asked if there is one at the community center and the belief is that there is not one there. The Mayor asked to check further into this as this would be a good idea to put on there. The Mayor also highlighted the work and efforts of the Caring for Kids Committee and the projects that they are doing for the citizens for our city. So the Mayor asked everyone to please support them if you see them fundraising.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chasica Rasmusson and Bobby Jo Mineheine appeared on behalf of the Celebrate Aurora committee. They thanked everyone for their involvement and discussed the changes that the committee is proposing for the next 4th of July. They are looking to increase the fireworks display for next year and adjusting the parade route starting at 4th Avenue North by the pool parking lot and turning right on Main Street by the Tacora and head south as it normally does. This would help limit the congestion with traffic and parking spaces and help with promoting more Main Street business. They presented a map to council that shows the route change. They also discussed the change of time for the kiddie parade to 11:30 a.m. and changing the start for that parade to its old starting spot as well. Discussion was had on how the new parade route will help with traffic congestion.

Butch Ceglar appeared to discuss the upcoming school referendum regarding the new sports complex and what effect that this will have on the sharp corner on Railroad Avenue coming into his house as the guardrail between the road and the edge of the pit has now narrowed to only six feet and that this potential problem should be looked at if the referendum passes.

OLD BUSINESS

The city clerk provided an update on the pigeon control and that a phone call occurred that morning with Mike Gornick and he reported that he is very optimistic and encouraged based on prior experience. The timeline for trapping was discussed and his ability to relocate a high number of birds. Councilor Cromley indicated that he thinks that it would be beneficial to distribute a letter to all people and meet with business owners face-to-face in an effort to notify them of the trapping and explaining how feeding the pigeons is a huge problem. Councilor Lislegard stated that the city is committed and that this is the city's one-time effort to eliminate this problem. He asked the public to call city hall to help identify where the pigeons are congregating and that the city is in the early steps of creating an ordinance to ban the feeding of pigeons but there is not enough time to get the ordinance passed, so we are asking for compliance with non-feeding of pigeons now. Councilor Cromley also reminded the public of the deer feeding ordinance as well.

Discussion was held on purchase of a new 2017 Ford F-350 truck for the public works department. Quotes were received from Lundgren's on July 27, 2017 for the replacement of the truck currently driven by the Public Works Director. Discussion was held on making sure that the funds are available for its purchase. The City Clerk confirmed that it is a three to four month process, and that by

selling the current vehicle and using those proceeds, that there would be enough funds to purchase the new vehicle as this new purchase has been planned for in the budget in prior years.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the purchase of the 2017 Ford F-350 Regular Cab 4x4 pickup with 8 foot box from Lundgren's with a quoted price of \$35,105.32. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Cromley discussed how the #2 fire engine, a 1973 International, does not pass the pump test and that it has been helped along for several years but is no longer able to be relied upon in regular service. Money has been put aside and he would like to explore purchasing a used #2 engine on the open market as he does not want to waste good grant money on a #2 engine. Councilor Cromley stated that there are several good used options out there to upgrade the #2 engine that can be relied upon when a fire occurs.

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to direct Fire Chief Dave Cromley to pursue his search for a replacement for the current #2 fire engine. MOTION CARRIED

Josh Benda appeared to petition the city council to reinstate him to light duty starting on Monday, August 14th. Mr. Benda had suffered a non-work related injury that has kept him out of the work force since May. Mr. Benda has supplied the city a return to work letter from his doctor that lists the restrictions placed upon him until later this year. Discussion followed with members of the council and the Public Works Director regarding the number of water-related duties that Josh can do without violating any of his doctor's restrictions. The Public Works Director explained that many members of the current crew are reaching burnout and Josh would be a welcomed addition to the workforce in a light duty role. Councilor Lislegard reminded Mr. Benda to follow his doctor's restrictions and to properly manage his workload.

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to reinstate Josh Benda to light duty starting Monday, August 14th. MOTION CARRIED

The city received a donation request from Steve Grams of the Mesabi East Blue Line Club for a golf-hole sponsorship. The council took no action on this request stating that the city cannot give donations.

The city council has several questions regarding the proposed land exchange with Mesabi East School. For agenda purposes, Councilor Worshek stated that there is no decision that is needed today, that this is just a discussion item. Since the school board has approved going out for a referendum this fall on the proposed sports complex, he would like to get together with the entire council to find out everyone's position regarding the proposed land exchange as the city council has not done anything with this issue yet. The Public Works Director asked if there is a committee set up for this, and if not, if one should be set up. Some discussion followed and the Mayor indicated that this issue should probably be discussed at the next special meeting when discussing the budget. The council discussed setting the date and time for the next special meeting in August.

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to set the date and time for a special meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIED

The City Clerk provided a brief update on the burned house on 3rd Avenue North saying that progress has been stalled at the moment but he is hopeful that more progress will be made this month.

Butch Ceglar had asked the council if the water source for the city changes to Lake Mine, how much will the water table come up in the St. James pit. Public Works Director Thuringer responded stating that a study was done and the modeling indicated that the level of the pit would rise by 11 feet.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer