

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018
6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Gregor, Cromley, Mayor Lislegard

ABSENT: Councilor Lakso

ALSO PRESENT: Craig Anttila, Jon Skelton, Ed Kippley, and Jodi Knaus from the Town of White; Randy Lasky, Facilitator; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, Aurora City Clerk/Treasurer; Mike Larson, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.; Curt Anttila, East Range Joint Powers; Rick Crum, Northeast Technical Services, Inc.; Christina Skalko, Northeast Technical Services, Inc.; and Richard Hess

A special joint meeting with the Town of White Board was called to order by Mayor Lislegard at 6:00 p.m.

Two proposals were presented to the City Council by Northeast Technical Services (NTS) located in Virginia, Minnesota. Rick Crum and Christina Skalko presented on behalf of NTS and summarized the challenges that the City of Aurora is currently facing due to the uncertainty regarding the water levels in the St. James Pit. He proposed that his firm collect and compile data from various other entities to help the City better understand what is currently happening with the pit by creating a factual document that presents all relevant data regarding the pit hydrology along with 3-D visualization drawings for future hydrologic work. With this information the City can have future meetings with the DNR to address the water level and other pit-related issues and also assist with the planning process and design solutions for the city's future water supply. The second proposal made by NTS was for updating the City's Water Supply Plan for submittal to the DNR.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the proposal from NTS for assembling data and reports for St. James Pit Hydrologic Study. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the proposal from NTS to complete the City Water Supply Plan. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was held regarding the East Mesabi Water Project. Initial discussion covered an understanding of where the project currently is at and a list of shared concerns that has developed. Lengthy discussion then focused on the list of shared concerns which included providing water for Scenic Acres, shared ownership in the water project/facility, growth/development areas that are not currently served with water and related tax base questions, required size, location, and chargeable rates of the proposed new plant, immediate needs for maintaining the current Aurora plant until a new plant is operational, and receiving bonding and other financial assistance to fund the project.

After the discussion from the joint boards was complete, the Town of White Board and City Council for the City of Aurora agreed that continuing to pursue construction of a new water plant located at Lake Mine is the best current option based on known facts.

Next steps to be undertaken to continue towards the Lake Mine location goal include the creation of a joint governance/operating agreement for the new plant, a review and determination of the uses available regarding the remaining joint water project funding from the legislature, send representation to the legislature to reaffirm that the Lake Mine project is still the project that is being pursued with one representative from each community attending that meeting, and to immediately reconvene after a bonding determination has been made on the water project to determine the next steps.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

David Lislegard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer