

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018
5:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: Tim Soular, Police Chief

ALSO PRESENT: Paula Chapman, Librarian Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer; Mike Kearney, City Attorney, Alan Johnson, Benchmark Engineering; Butch Ceglar, Rudy Ceglar, Pat Axelson, and Jan Moore

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Lislegard at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the following minutes as presented: Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 3, 2018; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 10, 2018; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 16, 2018; Special City of Aurora Council Meeting held on April 23, 2018. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for April 2018 in the amount of \$114,127.26 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Gregor and supported by Lakso to approve the disbursements for April 2018 in the amount of \$148,912.45 and Payroll in the amount of \$80,163.40. MOTION CARRIED

American Bank of the North	\$369.26	Cintas	\$46.80
American Bank of the North	\$79.73	City of Hoyt Lakes	\$350.00
American Bank of the North	\$429.48	Colosimo Patchin Kearney LTD	\$470.00
American Bank of the North	\$12.06	Culligan of Northeast MN	\$37.75
American Bank of the North	\$935.22	East Range DAC	\$50.00
American Bank of the North	\$480.78	East Range Joint Powers Board	\$3,750.00
Amptek Inc.	\$660.65	East Range Police Department	\$30,397.59
APG Media of MN LLC	\$166.34	Emergency Response Solutions	\$1,147.00
AT&T Mobility	\$277.39	Frontier	\$898.03
Baker & Taylor	\$352.13	Guardian Pest Solutions Inc.	\$35.00
Biss Lock Inc.	\$610.00	Identifix	\$1,428.00
BlueCross BlueShield of MN & BluePlus	\$108.30	Innovative Office Solutions LLC	\$162.14
Bradach Lumber	\$6.07	Iron Range Awards	\$19.20
CarQuest Aurora	\$431.00	K & K Cleaning	\$495.00
Celebrate Aurora	\$5,000.00	LMCIT	\$250.00
Christensen Parts	\$58.50	LMCIT P&C	\$53,860.00
		Menards Virginia	\$724.49

Mesabi Sign Company Inc.	\$50.00	Range Paper	\$3,891.26
Metro Sales Inc.	\$377.87	Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.	\$750.39
MicroMarketing LLC	\$79.97	Shred Right	\$15.00
Minnesota Energy Resources	\$4,229.12	Skubic Bros. International	\$497.47
Minnesota Power	\$9,278.37	Synchrony Bank/Amazon	\$179.21
Minnesota Telecommunications	\$349.80	Taconite Tire	\$782.44
MN Dept of Labor & Industry	\$35.00	The Control Company	\$480.00
MN UC Fund	\$390.67	Tomahawk Ford Inc.	\$12,930.12
Nardini Fire Equipment	\$729.10	U.S. Post Office	\$312.13
Northern State Bank	\$6,250.23	U.S. Postal Service	\$250.00
Northland Fire & Safety	\$475.00	U.S. Water Services Inc.	\$47.83
NTS	\$421.44	Verizon	\$15.40
Pace Analytical Services LLC	\$977.60	Verizon Wireless	\$35.01
Portable John	\$97.00	Vreeland, Chris	\$201.18
Praxair Distribution Inc.	\$120.16	Wisconsin Central	\$301.57
Range Office Supply	\$33.65	WM Recycle America	\$230.55

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following correspondence: Town of Colvin regarding St. Louis County Land Use; Ecology Democracy Network regarding local economies and GPI; DNR regarding notification for maintenance and work on state land; Jenny Holmes, Senior Project Analyst, NTS, regarding Aurora Business Park; MN Department of Health regarding submitting TOC/alkalinity samples. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUESTS

Moved by Cromley and supported by Gregor to approve the travel and training request for Joshua Benda to attend the Type IV Refresher training (Land Application of Biosolids) on May 23-24, 2018 at Cragun's Conference Center in Brainerd, Minnesota. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM
NONE

REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Thuringer provided the council a brief update regarding the recent washout just south of Giants Ridge.

Paula Chapman delivered the Library Report and thanked all who came to the Aurora Friends of the Library's spring mini book sale. The Aurora Friends of the Library allows the library to enhance and extend their programming and services. Funds from this sale will help support this summer's "Reading Takes You Everywhere" summer reading programs, which will start next month. The Friends of the

Library are also working toward replacing the chairs in the newspaper and magazine reading area, and book sale funds will also help in that effort.

May will be an active month at the Aurora Public Library and will host two history programs funded through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. On Wednesday, May 9, at 1:00 Barbara Cary Hall will share the story of the making of "The Root Beer Lady: The Musical." Her program will include slides, video and, of course, live music. The following week, on Tuesday, May 15, at 1:00, Jan Smith will present an interactive historical presentation called "Cooking on the Oxcart Trail"—a lively story of pioneering in Minnesota, with frontier recipes for food and remedies included. This month the library will also be visiting 2nd grade classes for Boom! Minnesota in the 1950's Minnesota history mornings. The library be using stories and crafts put together by the Minnesota Historical Society and Arrowhead Library System, and adding in some local history as well. The Aurora Centennial book is a great resource, and it's fun to share some of its photos and stories with students. A copy of the Centennial book is available to check out at the library if anyone is interested in borrowing it.

Jan Moore reported that the Spruce Up Committee is starting to get ready to do the flower beds in June and is looking for donations and monetary support to plant additional flowers.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Lislegard reviewed the list of the following reports from Boards and Commissions.

Moved by Gregor and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: Aurora Volunteer Fire Department - April 11, 2018 Minutes; East Range Community Advisory Panel – March 8, 2018 Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board, March 22, 2018 Minutes; Aurora Library Board, March 27, 2018 Minutes; Hoyt Lakes Ambulance – March 2018 Report; East Range Joint Powers Board – March 27, 2018 Minutes; Animal Control Officer – April 2018 Report; Aurora Cemetery Board – April 25, 2018 Minutes; Planning and Zoning Commission – April 16, 2018; Minutes.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek thanked Wayne Thuringer and the public works crew for all of their work in helping the City of Biwabik and the Town of White with issues related to the recent washout just south of Giant's Ridge. Councilor Worshek also stressed the need to establish regular meetings with Mesabi East School regarding the construction of the new athletic facility, the land exchange, and how to handle Railroad Avenue. There also needs to be a liaison from the City Council regarding the joint recreation program meetings that all of the communities in the Mesabi East school district are jointly holding.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to appoint Dave Worshek as the City Council liaison to the joint recreation committee and to represent the city at the March 10th meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Gregor reported that he is serving on the committee for the new Accounting Clerk and that a lot of progress has been made and that interviews will be happening soon.

Councilor Cromley reported that the fire department is currently making another push for additional firefighters and that an advertisement is currently posted seeking applicants. He also reported that discussions have recently taken place with the Biwabik Fire Department regarding emergency management.

Councilor Lakso asked the public works department to check on the street lighting near the law office and the building owned by Scott Rolando and if they are not working correctly to contact Minnesota Power to get it fixed. He also asked that a pothole be checked that is located in front of the Cutting Edge hair salon to see if it can be filled or patched.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Lislegard discussed the meeting that city officials had with county and state highway officials regarding the speed limit increase on West 3rd Avenue North near the Family Dollar and Minnesota Power buildings. He stated that the meeting went very well and the city's concerns were well received and that more information would be coming soon but he felt that some positive outcome was imminent. The mayor also discussed the recent meetings regarding the joint water project with the Town of White stating that they were very productive and the consensus was to move forward with the project at the Lake Mine location. He reported that the group met with the PFA on April 30th and that the project appears to be in a good spot and that the Aurora City Council would be setting another joint special meeting with the Town of White to continue the talks. He also reported that the city has enlisted the help of NTS out of Virginia to analyze and report on the water level issues in the St. James Pit. Finally, the mayor commented on the status of blight in the city, that it is a big issue and asked the citizens for their help to make the community clean.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Rudy Ceglar appeared to discuss the city's pigeon problem and asked if the city should send a letter to local businesses on how to address the problem. The mayor indicated that the City Clerk has created a letter that will be hand-delivered to businesses this month. Council Gregor stated how Z'up North Realty has addressed this issue by installing spikes made specifically for deterring pigeons and it seems to be working so far.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Alan Johnson from Benchmark Engineering was present to discuss the Lakehead Constructors infrastructure project and the process that is planning to be used to accept bids for that project. The City Clerk also noted Resolution 2018-05 that prevents Mayor Lislegard from participating in any discussion, deliberation, or vote on matters related to Lakehead Constructors due to his employment relationship with the company.

Moved by Lakso and supported by Worshek to approve the plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for infrastructure and site development for Lakehead Constructors. MOTION CARRIED. No vote was issued by Mayor Lislegard.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to terminate the use of door hangers for delinquent utility payments starting July 1st with shut off notices and billings being sent only by first class mail. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the recommendations of the Hiring Committee for Temporary Employees to extend offers to the following summer worker applicants: John Stark (as lead worker) at \$10.50 per hour, Chase Mitchell, Drew Giese, Alex Knaus, Kayla Bentley, and Emma Baker at \$9.50 per hour, and Logan Berens as alternate. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion was had on lawn treatment for the various parks and other areas in the city. Jan Moore had asked why the cemetery is not part of the areas being quoted and the council explained that they would get a quote to see if it is cost prohibitive or not.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve the invoices from Green Again Lawn & Landscape to provide weed and feed treatments for Pine Grove Park, City Hall, Community Center, and the Fire Hall and to obtain an additional quote to include service at the cemetery. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to set the date and time for the City Clerk/Treasurer Hiring Committee that includes David Lislegard, Dave Cromley, and Linda Cazin to review applications for the position on May 10th at 1:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to schedule a Special Meeting of the Aurora City Council on Monday, May 14th at 4:30 pm in the City/Town Government Center to accept the bid for site infrastructure for the Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Gregor to schedule a Special Meeting of the Aurora City Council on Monday, May 14th at 4:30 pm in the City/Town Government Center to accept the hiring committee's recommendation for the Accounting Clerk position. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to schedule a Special Joint Meeting of the Aurora City Council and Town of White on Monday, May 7th at 5:30 pm in the City/Town Government Center to further discuss the joint water project. MOTION CARRIED

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

David Lislegard, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer