

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Gregor, Cromley, Lakso

ABSENT: Mayor Lislegard

ALSO PRESENT: Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director; Paula Chapman, Librarian; Karin Krueger, Deputy Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Worshek at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Lakso reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the variance application request from Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union after receiving no feedback from citizens.

Moved by Gregor and supported by Lakso to approve the Variance Application by Embarrass Vermillion Federal Credit Union for a variance to move the rear setback of their new building 14' to the north. MOTION CARRIED

Librarian Paula Chapman informed the council about the resignation of Assistant Librarian Kathy Schultz and the need to start the hiring process to fill her position. Paula said that Kathy is willing to work as much as she can until her position is filled and will give as much advance notice for days she is unavailable to work.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to accept the resignation of Assistant Librarian Kathy Schultz. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to post the Assistant Librarian position internally for 3 business days. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Gregor and supported by Lakso to advertise the Assistant Librarian Position if there are no internal applicants by Wednesday, June 20. Applications will close on July 16, 2018. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to appoint a Hiring Committee for the Assistant Librarian Position consisting of Board Member Joy Lehtinen, Board Member Nancy Harp, and Librarian Paula Chapman. MOTION CARRIED

Chasica Rasmussen and Hillary Hartleben were present from the Celebrate Aurora Committee and Chasica spoke on their request to utilize the City of Aurora's empty lot between the post office and Cutting Edge for a petting zoo over the 4th of July festivities. Chasica said Celebrate Aurora was looking for more things for younger children to do over the 4th of July celebration. Cromley asked about liability and Worshek directed Deputy Clerk Krueger to check with our insurance company on this. Chasica stated that Celebrate Aurora is also insured. Lakso brought up the foundation of that lot and that he thought there might be a tripping hazard with the current settling of the lot. Wayne thought that the contactor was perhaps coming back to bring more fill and level but will check with City Clerk Kauppi on this. The city will bring in fill to fix settling issue if needed.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to approve the request by Celebrate Aurora to use the empty lot between the post office and Cutting Edge for a petting zoo over the 4th of July celebration contingent on Wayne's approval that lot is safe as well as approval from the city's insurance company that the city is covered for this activity. MOTION CARRIED

Chasica also spoke on behalf of Celebrate Aurora regarding their request to block off North Main Street between 3rd and 4th for a car show during the 4th of July celebration. Their intention is to draw people down to the north side of main street to bring business down that end as well. She noted that the street had in the past always been block off because the stage had been placed in that location in the past. Wayne agreed that this had always been done and he feels the car show would be a positive addition.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Gregor to approve the request by Celebrate Aurora to block off North Main Street between 3rd and 4th for a car show over the 4th of July celebration. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve Jared Sahr and Chris Baudhuin as referees for Little League and Babe Ruth Baseball at the same pay rates as last year. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lakso to approve Eric Butler, Jesse Osufsen and Ken Snetsinger as 2018 summer youth coaches. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on language change to the non-union contract for Health Care Saving Plan. Deputy Clerk Krueger informed the council that in order to set up the needed accounts for those employees who have reached the maximum sick leave accumulation the contract language needed to be changed from "Health Saving Account" to "Health Care Savings Plan or HCSP." In addition, language regarding an employee's death was added as suggested by Lisa Holte of the MN State Retirement System.

Moved by Gregor and supported by Cromley to approve the language change from "Health Savings Account" to "Health Care Savings Plan or HCSP" and add the additional language "Upon an employee's death, contributions owed but not yet paid to the HCSP will be paid to the employee's beneficiary." MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on Wastewater Rates and Wastewater Capital Rate Increases. Proposal is to increase Residential rates by \$1.00 for Wastewater Capital and \$2.00 for Wastewater Operations. Wayne reports that the capital increase will cover monies needed for the bond payments for the Maple Street Project and the 2015 Street Project. Wayne stated that currently the Wastewater Account is running in the red. In addition, with the new accounting position being added, \$5000 is coming from Water and \$5000 is coming from the Wastewater fund to pay for this position. As far as the wastewater rate increases, Wayne reminded the council that when electric rates go up, this has a great affect on the cost of the wastewater plant. He reminded everyone that Wastewater is an Enterprise Fund and that if Water for instance needed additional funds in the future, monies can be transferred between other Enterprise funds but that money cannot be taken from the General Fund to balance these accounts per state law. Worshek was concerned about small business and the impact these increases would have on them. Wayne said the proposed changes will affect everyone but will affect the large commercial users the most. He noted that the proposed changes do follow a conservation structure which complies with Minnesota Statue 103G.291.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Gregor to adopt Resolution #2018-20 approving an increase in Residential and Commercial Wastewater and Wastewater Capital Rates effective August 1, 2018. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on receiving resignation letter from City Clerk/Treasurer Tim Kauppi giving July 6, 2018 as his last day. Wayne suggested not accepting the letter so Tim can't leave. Everyone agreed.

Moved with reluctance by Gregor and supported by Worshek to accept resignation letter from City Clerk/Treasurer Tim Kauppi. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on City Clerk interviews set for Wed, June 20th from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Interview Panel consists of Mayor Lislegard, Linda Cazin, and Dave Cromley. Dave Cromley expressed difficulty in making these times with his work schedule.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Gregor to set June 20th, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for City Clerk interviews. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Gregor and supported by Lakso to set Dave Worshek as an alternate for the City Clerk interview panel on June 20th from 10 a.m. to 2 pm in the event that Dave Cromley cannot attend. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Dave Worshek, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:

Karin Krueger, Deputy Clerk