

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council
City/Town Government Center
Tuesday, August 6, 2019
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Gregor, Councilors Worshek, Cromley, Jofs, and Lakso

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the remaining consent agenda items:

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| 5. Approval of Minutes – | Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – July 2, 2019
Public Hearing of Aurora City Council – July 2, 2019
Working Session of City of Aurora – July 16, 2019 |
| 6. Approval of Receipts – | July 2019 – \$1,009,368.47 |
| 7. Approval for Payment – | Disbursements for July 2019 – \$518,069.39
Payroll for July 2019 – \$71,821.81 |
| 8. Correspondence – | St. Mark’s Lutheran Church & Habitat for Humanity – thank you card.
Celebrate Aurora – thank you card.
Up North Quilt Guild – thank you card.
MN Department of Health – service connection fee increase.
St. Louis County Sherriff’s Volunteer Rescue Squad – donation request.
Mediacom – notice of EEO and AA obligations.
MN Department of Health – quarterly report, TOC/alkalinity monitoring for the control of disinfection byproduct precursors.
Embarrass Region Fair – donation request.
Mesabi East Blue Line Club – donation request. |
| 12. Community Comments – | 05/20/2019 – Trucks entering town using engine brakes.
<u>Resolution:</u> East Range Police Department has been patrolling the area and making traffic stops to address issues.
05/29/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2 nd Ave N.
<u>Resolution:</u> East Range Police Department has addressed the concern.
05/30/2019 – Trucks entering town using engine brakes.
<u>Resolution:</u> East Range Police Department has been patrolling the area and making traffic stops to address issues.
06/06/2019 – Conditions of the roads in the Cemetery. |

Resolution: Public Works has forwarded the complaint to the Cemetery Board.

06/07/2019 – Blight concerns on W 1st Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

06/09/2019 – Blight concerns on 222 W 2nd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

06/10/2019 – Dead tree on boulevard on N 3rd St W.

Resolution: Public Works will look at removal in the near future.

06/19/2019 – Potholes on 2nd St E.

Resolution: Public Works has requested the contractor fills the potholes.

06/21/2019 – Blight concerns on 209 S 3rd St W.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has addressed the concern.

06/26/2019 – Blight concerns on 209 S 3rd St W.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has addressed the concern.

06/26/2019 – Blight concerns on 17 E 2nd Ave N.

Resolution: Clerk's Office contacted St. Louis County to mow.

06/28/2019 – Blight concerns on 202 3rd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 421 S 3rd St E.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 209 S 3rd St W.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/02/2019 – Wall of the post office needs to be painted.

Resolution: The City does not have an ordinance in regard to painting buildings.

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 20 E 3rd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/02/2019 – Blight concerns on 200 block of W 2nd Ave.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/02/2019 – Alley grading issue behind 214 W 2nd Ave.

Resolution: Public Works has previously addressed this complaint; landscaping the yard will prevent standing water.

07/02/2019 – Blight concern on in alley on 200 block between W 2nd Ave and W 3rd Ave.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/05/2019 – Blight concern at 312 S. Main St.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/19/2019 – Pot holes between 3rd Ave W and 4th Ave W, and 1st Ave S.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/22/2019 – Road repair at 324 S 1st St E.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/23/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/25/2019 – Blight concern at 321 W 3rd Ave N.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/26/2019 – Road concerns on W 1st Ave N.

Resolution: Public Works has received the complaint and is investigating.

07/29/2019 – Blight concern in backyards between Arrowhead and Summit – 2nd form.

Resolution: East Range Police Department has received the complaint and is investigating.

13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – July 10, 2019

Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority– July 16, 2019

Aurora Cemetery Board – July 24, 2019

Planning and Zoning Commission – June 25, 2019

Variance

- Mark Hultgren – 607 North Main Street
 - Demolition of old house and replace with a modular house.

Zoning Permit

- Bonnie Lacey & Trent Nori – 318 South 1st Street
 - Install a 6 ft. wood privacy fence.

Residential Improvement Permits

- Renee Johnson – 318 South Main Street
 - Shingles
- Larry Rewertz – 109 West 1st Ave North
 - Replace siding
- Kristen Johnson – 15 East 5th Avenue North
 - Shingles

Ayes: Worshek, Gregor, Jofs, Lakso

Nays: none

Abstain: Cromley

Motion Carried.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	2,080.42
AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	3,233.35
AMERICHEM	1,109.00
AMPTEK INC.	589.00
APG MEDIA OF MN	1,288.02
AT&T MOBILITY	183.70
AURORA A&W	88.20
AUTO VALUE VIRGINIA	65.95
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	311.99
BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC.	12,530.00
BISS LOCK INC.	220.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	118.70
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	5,160.00
BRADACH LUMBER	722.86
BSN SPORTS INC	328.67
BURGER OFFICE	173.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	20,094.00
CARQUEST AURORA	700.25
CHAD SAHR	118.10
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	62.80
CINTAS	38.88
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00
Civic Systems, LLC	3,317.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	747.00
COLORPHASE	1,200.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	1,500.00
CORE & MAIN LP	109.64
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA	79.00
CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICES	362.05
CW TECHNOLOGY	1,777.80
DULUTH NEWS TRIBUNE	298.48
EAST RANGE DAC	50.00
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS	3,750.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	33,749.96

EAST RANGE SHOPPER	460.07
EOC-TRIMARK	784.11
EXCEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	6,023.00
F.I.R.E.	1,000.00
FRONTIER	893.54
GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	137.70
GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	21.48
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
HAWKINS INC.	905.13
JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	20,208.32
JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD	604.70
L & M - VIRGINIA	548.83
LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	11,535.91
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	401.65
LIFE SECURITY AND CONTROL	300.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	531.53
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	332.35
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	545.98
MESABI BITUMINOUS	127,449.62
MESABI DAILY NEWS	206.00
MESABI GLASS, WINDOW & DOOR	875.00
METRO SALES	318.19
MIDWEST PLAYSAPES, INC.	2,393.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	8,716.14
MINNESOTA POWER	7,674.82
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80
MINNESOTA UI	1,160.39
MITEL	171.62
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	1,438.31
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	200.00
NORTHERN ENGINE & SUPPLY INC.	87.10
P/K IMAGES	75.00
PORTABLE JOHN	2,265.00

PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	109.66
PRECISION TESTING	290.00
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	342.29
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	258.30
RANGE PAPER	204.16
RED TOP CONSTRUCTION LLC	336.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	1,501.00
ROGERS ONLINE	999.00
SEPPI BROS.	589.75
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	56.00
SHRED RIGHT	15.00
SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	4,163.19
SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	535.20

THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
TOMAHAWK FORD	13,932.66
TOWN OF WHITE	2,533.19
U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
U.S. POSTMASTER 1	210.10
USA BLUE BOOK	334.96
UTILITY SYSTEMS OF AMERICA, IN	94,714.05
UTILITY SYSTEMS OF AMERICA, IN	75,305.55
VERIZON	15.64
VERIZON WIRELESS	35.01
VIVID DESIGN	36.00
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT	113.00
WALKER GIROUX & HAHNE LTD.	24,900.00
ZIEGLER INC.	451.39

APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Corky Hayden

Mr. Hayden bought five lots near the Family Dollar in town. He believes that the council should take a look at the valuations in town as his have greatly increased. Mayor Gregor stated that St Louis County is the one who determines valuations.

Mike Beach – RA Morton, ISD 2711 Athletic Complex

Mr. Beach stated that the focus this week is on the lighting at the new complex. Electricians will be placing the conduit. Settlement results are looking good. The parking lot on the north side is going to be shaped. He stated that they are being cautious, careful, and optimistic. He also stated that initial football games will not take place at the new complex, but it will be done sometime during the current football season. He told the council that the turf should arrive on August 12, 2019. He gave thanks to Minnesota Power for burying high-voltage line, Corey Winger for the great soils and being great to work with, and Chief Soular for the help with the power lines. Councilor Worshek had questions on drainage around the project. City Administrator Lammi has been in contact with an engineering firm to gather information on the scope of the drainage issue. After the engineer determines the best course of action, the City will meet with property owners in the area.

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek –

He would like follow up on drainage issue. He also would like to attend any future meetings on this issue.

Councilor Cromley –

The Fire Department has their annual picnic coming up in the next few weeks. New members to the fire department will be major assets in the community. Please remind people to apply, or apply yourself. Replacing rescue; proactive on budget.

Councilor Lakso –

Concerns about where the turn lanes were put in by St. Louis County. Bicycle areas need to be addressed due to the fact that some people ride on the road, and traffic is a concern. Confusing arrows in the center turn lane.

Councilor Jofs –

Would also like to be invited to drainage issue meetings.

REPORT FROM MAYOR GREGOR

Broadband – Northspan to discuss later, as there are big things in the works. Mayor Gregor is working with the recreational/ATV trail organization, Tom G., and Hoyt Lakes. Please contact them if you would like to participate. The Northern Lights Opera has had a positive economic impact on businesses. Mineral Resources Dinner involved the four major commissioners for the State; it was good information for them to learn about the mines.

OLD BUSINESS

Public hearing in September for rental ordinances. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

No action on the St. James Recreational Trail.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to direct City Administrator Lammi and Public Works Director Thuringer to meet with the property owner regarding road and infrastructure on 300 block of W 3rd Ave S. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to appoint Norma Jean Jofs to Al Hodnik Award / Community Dinner Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to direct Public Works Director Thuringer and City Administrator Lammi to meet with ATV club regarding trail maintenance alongside Forestry Road. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve Resolution 2019-12 Supporting Broadband LTE Feasibility Study with a \$1000.00 donation from the City of Aurora. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to authorize payment of \$25.00 per member for each working session and special city council meeting held, for a maximum of four meetings in one calendar month period. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve the Cemetery Board's recommendation to fill all spaces in the B & C Columbarium prior to selling niches in the new D Columbarium, unless the sale divides a family. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Cromley supported by Jofs to approve the Cemetery Board's recommendation to charge a \$100.00 fee per deed to change from one site to another. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve the Cemetery Board's recommendation to charge a tiered price for all columbarium niches effective immediately:

\$900 Bottom Row

\$1000 2nd Row (from Bottom)

\$1100 3rd Row (from Bottom)

\$1200 Top Row

Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Jofs to approve Cemetery Board's recommendation to grant an exemption to Jon and Charlene King for their gravestone size. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Cromley to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Aurora and Town of White regarding elections and utility billings. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve the Town of White's notice of water licensure; termination of water portion of management services. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to approve the Town of White office remodel, contingent on City Administrator Lammi approving the Town of White remodel plans. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve Kaler Palm's resignation as Medical Officer from the Fire Department. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Worshek to approve payment request for Aurora 2019 Watermain Relocation Project in the amount of \$12,530.00 to Benchmark Engineering. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Lakso supported by Worshek to approve payment request for Aurora 2019 Watermain Relocation Project in the amount of \$75,305.55 to Utility Systems of America. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Gregor to approve payment request for 2nd St E / 1st St W Improvement Projects in the amount of \$6,481.25 to JPJ Engineering, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Worshek supported by Lakso to approve Rita Licari's request to waive the Community Center fee for a Memorial Reward Fundraiser for Scott A. F. Christensen. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Jofs supported by Lakso to approve the proposal for Revize to update the city website in the amount of \$2550.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Regular Working Session meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.
Next Regular meeting Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Moved by Jofs supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Lammi, City Administrator