

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council**  
**City/Town Government Center**  
**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: Councilor Jofs

ALSO PRESENT: Becky Lammi, Aurora City Administrator; Mike Kearney, Aurora City Attorney; Wayne Thuringer, Aurora Public Works Director, Tim Soular, Chief of Police; Paula Chapman, Aurora Public Library Director

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5. Approval of Minutes –** Regular City of Aurora Council Meeting – August 6, 2019  
Working Session of City of Aurora – August 20, 2019
- 6. Approval of Receipts –** August 2019 – \$309,884.99
- 7. Approval for Payment –** Disbursements for August 2019 – \$123,863.17  
Payroll for August 2019 – \$70,816.11
- 8. Correspondence –** Arrowhead Regional Development Commission – 2020 Tax Levy.  
Minnesota Department of Health – Sanitary Survey Report for Aurora Public Water System.  
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities – Request to join.  
St. Louis County – Proposed revisions to St. Louis County Zoning Ordinance 62.  
St. Louis County Land and Minerals Department – Proposed sale of tax forfeited land, parcel no. 100-0047-00110, 100-0080-00865, 100-0080-01180, -01185, -01186.
  
- 12. Community Comments –** 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 forwarded the property information to Public Works.  
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.

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 – 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.

08/20/2019 – Blight concern on 709 Summit Street.

Resolution: City Council has received the complaint.

08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 318 W. 2nd Ave N.

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

08/22/2019 – Blight concern on 321 W. 2nd Ave N.

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

### **13. Reports from Boards and Commissions –**

East Range Joint Powers Board – July 23, 2019

Aurora Library Board – July 31, 2019

Aurora Volunteer Fire Department – August 14, 2019

Planning and Zoning Commission – August 27, 2019

#### Variance

- Richard Keil – 306 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North
  - Utility shed in setback of 25 ft. of the right-of-way; approved with change of 2 ft.

#### Zoning Permit

- Mesabi East Schools – 612 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North
  - Fence for community gardens, with contingencies the panels across the ditch and on 10 ft. of each side be removable and that the bottom of the fence runs steady plane so it does not follow the contour of the swale, and with the understanding that when public works enters the property to maintain the ditch, there may be damage to sod and any items in close proximity to the ditch.

#### Residential Improvement Permits

- Debbie Tennison – 16 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street East
  - Replacing four windows.
- Greg Hinsz – 205 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
  - Remove deck and new garage roof.
- Kevin Alaspa – 203 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street East
  - New shingles on garage.

AMERICAN BANK OF THE NORTH	506.54
APG MEDIA OF MN	974.71
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	75.00
AT&T MOBILITY	177.56
AURORA ELECTRIC	3,102.61
AUTO VALUE	86.48
AUTO VALUE	125.98
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	379.82
BENCHMARK ENGINEERING, INC.	5,635.00
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	118.70
BOLTON & MENK, INC.	3,640.00
BRADACH LUMBER	1,649.23
CARLSON CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC	37.00
CARQUEST AURORA	357.06
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18
CINTAS	38.88
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	2,051.41
COLDSRING	8,481.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	747.00
CW TECHNOLOGY	1,828.00
DYLAN LAVALLEY	117.00
EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	34,232.20
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	571.62
FARONICS TECHNOLOGIES USA INC.	66.50
FASTENAL COMPANY	249.90
FRONTIER	891.10
GREAT NORTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL	5,590.00
GREEN AGAIN LAWN & LANDSCAPE	1,794.00
GUARDIAN PEST SOLUTIONS INC.	35.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	46.41
J.P. COOKE COMPANY	115.50
JEREMY TYNJALA	90.67
JON JOHNSON	141.96
L & M - VIRGINIA	220.94

MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	248.82
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO.	189.14
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	209.97
METRO SALES	304.50
MICROMARKETING LLC	107.99
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (MDH)	1,416.00
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTR	80.00
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	449.79
MINNESOTA POWER	8,419.57
MINNESOTA TELECOMMUNICATIONS	349.80
MITEL	172.72
MN ASSOCIATION OF CEMETERIES	93.00
MN FIRE SERVICE CERT. BOARD	230.00
MN STATE FIRE DEPT. ASSOC.	148.00
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	1,716.46
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	104.70
PORTABLE JOHN	255.00
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC.	106.13
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	396.73
RANGE PAPER	104.15
REVIZE LLC	2,550.00
RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES	1,297.00
SCHOOL SPECIALTY	8.63
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	56.00
SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY	461.80
SHRED RIGHT	15.00
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	31.26
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	13,354.50
SYNCHRONY BANK AMAZON	52.63
THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00

TOMAHAWK FORD	14,302.63
U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
U.S. POSTMASTER 1	210.66
US BANK	450.00

USA BLUE BOOK	704.98
VERIZON	15.64
VERIZON WIRELESS	35.01
VIVID DESIGN	109.00

#### APPEARANCES / PUBLIC FORUM

Jon Knapper – Assistant Chief, Aurora Fire Department

Mr. Knapper discussed a previous donation to Spruce Up Aurora. He also discussed the Fire Department Community Enrichment Fund.

Mike Beach – RA Morton, ISD 2711 Athletic Complex

The walking and biking trail on the south part of the project has been tarred; there should be no additional drainage issues. The new parking lots have been paved and striped. The school hopes to play a football game on 10/04 on the new field.

#### REPORT FROM STAFF MEMBERS

East Range Police Department – Tim Soular

Thursday will be the orientation for the Special DNR Archery Hunt. The camera system discussions are still ongoing. The emergency siren system has been quoted, the City is waiting on St. Louis County to see if they would be able to set off severe weather alerts.

Paula Chapman, Library Director –

My thanks to Smoky Bear for coming to celebrate his 75th birthday at the Aurora Public Library last month! Children enjoyed hearing his story, having their photo taken with him, and receiving the goodie bags he provided. September is National Library Card Sign-up Month, and I invite everyone who does not have a library card, or whose card has expired, to come to the library to get a card or renew it! If you do so in September, or if you bring a friend to the library to get or renew a library card, there just may be a small incentive for you! This month, adults and older teens are invited to participate in a hands-on Autumn Landscape Painting workshop, which will be presented at the Aurora Public Library by a teaching artist from the 3-2-1 Art Studio on Wednesday, September 11, at 1:00 pm. No experience is required! Anyone who would like to attend may contact the Aurora Public Library to reserve a place. The Aurora Public Library book group will meet again on Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 pm. Readers of all ages are invited to come talk about what they have been reading lately and leave with a list of suggestions from others. Among the many titles shared last month were Deep River by Karl Marlantes, The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein, The Kennedy Debutante by Kerri Maher, Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter by Kate Clifford Larson, and The Deep Dark Descending by Allen Eskens. Mysteries by award-winning Minnesota novelist Allen Eskens have been flying off the shelf lately, and many patrons who have checked out one have come back for more. Everyone is invited to come hear Allen Eskens present his story, "I'm Not Supposed To Be Here: My Implausible Journey to Becoming a Writer" at the Aurora Public Library on Friday, September 27, at 10:00 am. If you have a chance to read one of his mysteries before he visits, I'd encourage you to do so! His books have been translated into 26 languages, and his novel The Life We Bury is in development for a feature film.

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Cromley –

Crosswalks! Trees have been removed around fire hall. There are very active new members. Troy Walsh will be coming up on September 25 for Fire Department training.

Councilor Jofs joined meeting at 5:56 pm

Councilor Jofs –

Joint Athletics meeting will take place once school is in full swing.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR GREGOR

Thank you to the Fire Department for the great picnic. Great team building and spirit. There was a Broadband visit from Blandin and IRRRB after the most recent ERJPB meeting. If you know of anyone tech savy, big benefits for task force. Pumpkin fest will be held October 12th this year. The Chamber of Commerce will have chili feed to meet candidates in mid September.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on CDBG Projects for 2020. No action taken.

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to direct City Administrator Lammi to research funding and conduct landowner meeting regarding road and infrastructure on 300 block of W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S. to improve drainage. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to table the homeowner request to vacate the road near S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. W. Direct Public Works Director Thuringer and Administrator Lammi to research utility easements in the area. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Lammi presented about the water line; Suzie Parkhurst, Caring for Kids and Jeff Corniea presented on splash pad.

**Moved by Jofs supported by Cromley to approve Resolution 2019-16 committing \$42,000 toward the water line, with the understanding of a pending IRRRB grant. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Worshek supported by Jofs to approve Celebrate Aurora for Pumpkin Fest: use of light poles from October 1 – Nov 1, new route for 5k walk/run, the use of barricades, use of the Fire Hall, Fire Department's assistance with weighing the pumpkins, temporarily relocating the pedestrian crossing signs to near the Community Center. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Lakso to approve the purchase of the new receipt computer for the Clerk's Office.**

Yay: Mayor Gregor, Councilor Jofs, Worshek, and Lakso

Nay: None

Abstain: Councilor Cromley

**Motion carried.**

**Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the updated equipment rental prices. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Worshek to approve Bolton and Menk Digestor Funding of \$138,500 for the process improvement plan, and \$48,500 for the facility study for PFA requirements, for a total of \$187,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Cromley supported by Worshek to approve the donation of the city band equipment, music, and cabinets to the Mesabi East Band Program. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Moved by Gregor supported by Cromley to table agenda topics 17.6 and 17.8 – 17.14. Motion carried unanimously.**

Upcoming meeting dates:

Monday, September 9, 2019 at 10:00 am in the Council Chambers.

Monday, September 16, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Community Center.

Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

**Moved by Lakso supported by Jofs to adjourn the meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

---

Doug Gregor, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Becky Lammi, City Administrator