

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA SPECIAL MEETING
AURORA CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017
5:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councilors Worshek, Lislegard, Cromley, Lakso

ABSENT: Mayor Hess

ALSO PRESENT: Tim Kauppi, City Clerk-Treasurer

Acting Mayor Lislegard called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

General discussion began regarding the process for obtaining quotes for the demolition of the two houses that were destroyed by fire in town. Discussion centered on whether the quotes included entire basements being removed or if the foundations would remain in the ground. Both options are currently being considered.

Mayor Hess arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Discussion continued on the process of acquiring title to the two houses so the city can demolish and dispose of the remains and eliminate the blight, safety, and health concerns that many residents have expressed. Both properties were uninsured, and as a result, there are no funds available to perform the demolition on each house. Through various discussions it has been determined that the parties with ownership control to each of these properties would be willing to relinquish the property to the city by quitclaim deed at no fee so the city can perform the demolitions with funding help from the IRRRB.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution 2017-09 Authorizing Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to execute agreements to acquire property located at 309 W 3rd Avenue North. MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2017-10 Authorizing Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to execute agreements to acquire property located at 109 W 2nd Avenue North. MOTION CARRIED.

Current city resident Norman Shain presented an application to the city clerk's office requesting the city's help in applying to the IRRRB to remove an old garage that is currently located on his property. The garage poses several safety risks as it is currently beginning to lean. Mr. Shain has also expressed his intent to build a new garage on his property and with the assistance of IRRRB funding he could apply the funds saved on the demolition to the costs of building a new garage.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution 2017-08 Authorizing the City of Aurora to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion was held regarding the Joint and Cooperative Ambulance Services Agreement for the Cities of Hoyt Lakes and Aurora, and the Town of White. This agreement would raise the service level from BLS (Basic Life Support) to ALS (Advanced Life Support) in these communities. The big concern expressed by council members was the financing of the new entity. Currently a large reserve in the ambulance fund exists and would be reduced significantly with the implementation of the new structure and the purchase of a new ambulance for the fleet. Councilor Cromley serves on the advisory committee and updated the council regarding the discussion at prior meetings and pointed out that the new ambulance was already budgeted for in this year's budget and that new regulations that go into effect in 2018 would make the same ambulance cost \$60,000 more if not ordered in 2017. The council agreed that the success of the new program would rely on hiring the right person to manage the program and discussion was held on the importance of getting the right people on the hiring committee. Councilor Lislegard stated that while this new role would be an employee of the City of Hoyt Lakes, all communities would be represented in the hiring committee. Councilor Cromley added that the hired consultants are experts in this area and they have done a great job of advising the group on all of the financial and operational aspects of creating a successful ALS service.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the Joint and Cooperative Ambulance Services Agreement for the Cities of Hoyt Lakes and Aurora, and the Town of White, all of St. Louis County, Minnesota. MOTION CARRIED

City Council reviewed the preliminary budget for 2018. The City Clerk/Treasurer presented a high-level overview of the various funds and some of the expected changes that would possibly need to be made. The 2018 Levy needs to be completed by September 30, 2017. The 2018 Levy and Capital Requests will be discussed in further detail at the next budget meeting set for Tuesday, September 12th.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Lakso to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tim Kauppi, City Clerk/Treasurer