

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
AURORA COMMUNITY CENTER  
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015  
6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Hess; Councilors Cromley, Smolich, Lislegard, Worshek

**ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Meeting April 7, 2015; Local Board of Appeal and Equalization – April 21, 2015; and Special Council Meeting – April 30, 2015. MOTION CARRIED**

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSMENTS**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for April 2015 in the amount of \$106,909.31 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following disbursements for April 2015 in the amount of \$216,712.67 and Payroll in the amount of \$67,838.38 MOTION CARRIED**

**MOVING PERMITS**

NONE

**APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Discussion was held regarding scheduling interviews for Summer Employment. Councilor Cromley stated that he felt that we should be hiring college students for summer workers.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to accept the Letter of Resignation from Kraig Grivette from the Aurora Fire Department and to send a letter of regret. MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following correspondence: St. Louis County Comprehensive Water Management Plan Amendment; St. Louis County Hazardous Waste Collection at Aurora Transfer Station on May 14, 2015; St. Louis County Planning & Community Development regarding Zoning Ordinance Final Draft 62; Mediacom Regarding Change to Channel Lineup; Iron Range Youth in Action Regarding Sponsorship for the 2015 Make a Difference Conference. MOTION CARRIED**

**TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the travel request of Britt See-Benes to attend the MCFOA Region II Meeting in Breezy Point, MN on May 29, 2015. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the travel request of the Mayor, Council & Staff in order to attend the League of MN Cities Annual Conference in Duluth MN on June 24-26, 2015. MOTION CARRIED**

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Jan Moore, Resident, asked where everyone was at? At the Special Assessment Hearing, many stated that they were unaware of how to obtain information from the City. She stated that she was wondering where everyone was.

#### REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Ed Modetz, Cemetery Board, stated that the Cemetery Clean Up will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> with rain day on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jan Moore, Spruce Up Aurora, thanked all who have donated to Spruce Up Aurora. To make a donation, send them to Jan Moore, 34 South Erie Street. Aurora, MN 55705.

Mayor Hess read Librarian Paula Chapmans report stating that April's activities went well! 2<sup>nd</sup> graders seemed to enjoy the Minnesota History mornings and were interested to see photos from the 1930's in Aurora's centennial book. 15 children and 3 adults applied for and received new library cards during National Library Week, and the Friends of the Library spring book sale went well. 32 adults attended Joel Karsten's workshop on Straw Bale Gardening; if anyone missed it, the Aurora Public Library has his book. May will be a less eventful month at the library, but plans and preparations will be made for the summer reading program, which will start on June 1.

#### REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met on April 28, 2015 and is now forwarding the following permits for the City Council's approval.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Zoning Permit of Lake County d/b/a Lake Connections in order to construct a 14' x 28' Building (NOTE: Variance was granted in December 2012). MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the following Residential Improvement Permits: Lawrence Pegg - 25 South 5th St. West in order to Replace Windows; Florence Opitz - 205 South 3rd St. West in order to Shingle Garage, Denny Reagan - 319 West 2nd Ave North, in order to install a new roof, Barry Lesar & Thea Riebel - 312 West 2nd Ave North in order to install a new roof, James McCarter III - 102 North 1st St. West in order to install new siding, repair front entry, replace boards on deck, install new windows & doors and install new roof. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the Commercial Improvement Permit of Aurora Methodist Church -110 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in order to install an new metal roof. MOTION CARRIED**

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lislegard stated that tonight at the Public Hearing for assessments we discussed the City's strategic plan set forth when Mr. Hodnik was Mayor as part of keeping the City indebtedness under control.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to direct Curt Antilla, ERJPB, to attend the next City Council Meeting to give the City an update on what funding has been sought for the City. MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Cromley stated that interviews for firefighter could not be held because there was not a quorum. They had one applicant. He has spoken to other departments in the coalition who are also seeking applicants. He reminded everyone that it's Spring, and to keep their yards cleaned up.

Councilor Worshek stated that he heard that Lakeland/Makinen had a fire recently and had a hard time getting people to second fires. He also stated that these public meetings were eye openers.

Councilor Smolich stated that the City's Comprehensive Plan is being drafted through the ERJPB and is needed by September 2015. He attend the Safety and Loss Prevention meeting provided by the League of MN Cities. The Fire Dept. Pancake Feed was a success. He will be attending Youth in Action on Wednesday and Spring Clean Up at the Cemetery on Tuesday.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that Blight needs to be cleaned and will be addressed. She stated hats off to the kids and students of the area on all the good things they have done throughout the year. The City is looking a Deer Feeding ordinance and she asks that all stop feeding deer, pigeons, and seagulls. Arts and Crafts will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June.

#### MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Karin Christianson asked who the Animal Control Office was for Aurora as she noticed feral cats in the area.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-12 Accepting Donation of \$1331.11 from Aurora American Legion Post #241 for the purchase of Two (2) Park Benches to be Placed in the Forest Hill Cemetery. MOTION CARRIED

Jennifer Osufsen was present to discuss her request to consider revision to Ordinance 92.31, Keeping of Animals in order to allow Chickens in the City Limits. She stated that many cities put regulations on the keeping of chickens such as no roosters, no more than five hens, and she suggested that if we consider it, we model our ordinance after Duluth. She encouraged everyone to visit her website at [www.auroracitycluckers.com](http://www.auroracitycluckers.com) for more information.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to table the request to consider revision to Ordinance 92.31, Keeping of Animals in order to allow Chickens in the City Limits. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the request from Aurora 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee for Donation of Funds for the Kids Games with the funds to be taken out of the Gambling Funds. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to table the discussion regarding the Proposed Ordinance Amending City Code, Title IX, Chapter 92: Animals: Prohibition of Deer Feeding. MOTION CARRIED**

Attorney Kearney and Administrator See-Benes stated that the resolutions allowing for a Joint Agreement with the State of Minnesota for E-Charging services will allow the City Attorney to prosecute criminal charges electronically.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2014-12A approving entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota on behalf of the its Prosecuting Attorney and Police Department. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize the City of Aurora to enter into Agreement for Court Data Services with the MN Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Criminal of Apprehension on behalf of its Prosecuting Attorney. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to authorize the City of Aurora to enter into a Master Subscriber Agreement with the MN Office of State Court Administration on behalf of its Prosecuting Attorney and allow the Mayor and Administrator to Execute said Documents. MOTION CARRIED**

No Communication was received from the Aurora 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> of July Parade. It is anticipated that this information will be brought to the next meeting.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve a Level One Sponsorship from Freedom Fete for Advertising in the 2015 Freedom Fete Event Booklet, in the amount of \$800.00. MOTION CARRIED**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer