MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
AURORA CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015
5:30 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2015 and Special Council Meeting of June 23, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSMENTS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the receipts for June 2015 in the amount of $108376.42 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the following disbursements for June 2015 in the amount of $353,042.57 and Payroll in the amount of $81,263.70. MOTION CARRIED

MOVING PERMITS

NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following correspondence: RAMS Board Press Release regarding New Executive Director and May-June Newsletter; CGMC Regarding Summer Conference in Duluth July 22-July 24, 2015; State Demographic Center regarding 2014 Population Estimates; St. Louis County Planning and Comm. Development regarding New Duluth Office Location; MN Energy regarding Calling 811 Before you Dig; MN Dept of Commerce regarding Draft EIS for MN Power for Great Northern Transmission Line; St. Louis County Sheriff's Volunteer Rescue Squad Regarding Donation; St. Louis County Comprehensive Water Management Plan Amendment. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

NONE

PUBLIC FORUM

Nathan Thompson, Northern St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity and Paul Knuti, Board Chair of the Northern St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity were present to discuss the Habitat for Humanity Program with the City Council. Mr. Thompson thanked the City for the support and stated they have found a new partner family who they are working with to refresh the home on South 1st Avenue East.

Mr. Knuti stated that Aurora is very special to him as portions of Aurora were founded by his family. He is proud of the houses being built through this program. Currently, they are in the process of constructing a house in Ely. They are off to a great start this year with two projects scheduled for Virginia, one project for Hibbing that is being done in conjunction with the school. Four projects are being completed in the Quad Cities and Hibbing is considering a 5th project. Habitat owns a lot in Aurora that they anticipate building a new home. Mr. Knuti explained that the process for making a decision is Are there enough funds? Do we have a family? Do we have a lot? Do we have enough volunteers?

Mayor Hess asked if the organization does their own mortgages. Mr. Knuti stated that yes, Habitat acts as the lending institution with the payments from one house going into the costs to redo another house.

Councilor Lislegard asked if the program considers revitalizing existing homes with sweat equity and paint rather than always constructing new. Mr. Knuti explained that we do remodel older homes, ones that have character. The dollars are tricky in some respect as it must be energy efficient and it can be challenging as there is a skill that must be required.

Mr. Kearney asked how many homes have been constructed to date. Mr. Thompson stated that 73 families have been placed in homes since 1995 in fourteen communities in St. Louis County. Mr. Knuti stated that they partner with many corporate sponsors as well.

Councilor Lislegard asked if the owners are allowed to rent the property to others. Mr. Thompson stated that the homeowner must be the primary resident and for the first 10 years, Habitat must have the first right of refusal. And on the rare occasion they get a house back. The homes that have been constructed are being appraised at amounts that are higher than what it cost to construct.

Rudy Ceglar, discussed his opposition to the proposed changes to the Ordinance that would allow Chickens in town. He stated that he has numerous reasons, and listed that rodents would be attracted such as rats, foxes, and weasels. And in this case, the resident who is requesting chickens is near the school. He felt that by allowing chickens, we would be endangering other citizens. The lots in many areas of town are too small for coops, and he feels that approval would be a huge step backwards. He stated that the Council represents many of the people, not just a few. He also stated that because of the Bird Flu (aka Avian Flu) chickens are not being allowed at the State Fair nor the County Fair.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Public Works Director Wayne Thuringer thanked everyone for their patience through the road construction. Traffic has been moving. Roads have been falling apart and getting muddy in

the weather and construction crews have been addressing these areas as they go along. Curb and gutter will be placed in a couple weeks with the first coat of blacktop placed shortly after. They will begin reclaiming blacktop in the next phase next week.

Paula Chapman reported that the summer reading programs are nearing their conclusions. To date, 102 children and 17 teens have signed up to participate. We haven't started tallying pages read yet, but lots of reading slips are being turned in! The last day to turn in reading slips is Friday, July 17. Last week, Climb Theater presented a play for children and families at the library, and we have several programs and events still coming up in July. This Thursday, at 2:00, students from the Northern Lights Music Festival will give a concert for children at the library, and on Friday morning, at 10:30, we will have a story time for preschoolers. Next week, we will have a story club with a book and activities for school-age children on Tuesday, July 14 at 2:00, and on Thursday, July 16, at 3:30, Pint-Sized Polkas will present an interactive program for children at the Community Center. The following week, on July 23, at 3:30, story teller Zarawaar Mistry will present a program of folk stories and music from India at the Community Center.
Finally, although the tickets for the Northern Lights Music Festival's Ely and Chisholm opera performances have all been taken, we have vouchers for two other upcoming events. We currently have 3 vouchers to late July or early August performances of the play "All the Aprils of the World" in Cloquet, and 9 vouchers to the late July or early August "Day Out With Thomas" event at the Depot in Duluth. We invite people to come to the library and pick up the vouchers if they would enjoy these events! Due to the small number of vouchers and high demand, we are limiting the Thomas the Train vouchers to 2 per family at this time.

Jan Moore, Spruce Up Aurora, stated that the road work is getting done as she was able to get out of her driveway. She thanked everyone for all their donations for flowers around town. She stated that the appearance of town is wonderful she has been receiving many compliments and she wants to commend Wayne Thuringer and the Public Works crew on their efforts. She encouraged everyone to go to Pine Grove Park as it is looking wonderful and she wants to compliment the crews on their work there and on the trees by the Fire Station.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess stated that the we have received the reports from Boards & Commissions including a hefty lists of permits to approve from Planning and Zoning July 6, 2015 Meeting.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the variance request from Wanda Dale at 204 S 2nd Street West for a 634 sq. ft. variance from the maximum allowed 590 sq. ft. of Accessory Structure in order to construct a 16' x 24' addition to the existing for a total of 1224 sq. ft. of accessory structure in a Residential Area. Proposed completed garage will be 24' x 51'. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the variance request from Wanda Dale at 204 S 2nd Street West for a 1' variance from the required 5' side yard from the side property line in order to build a 16' x 24' addition to the existing 24' x 35' garage. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following ZONING PERMITS as presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their July 6, 2015 meeting:

1. Steve & Krisin Raver – 29 S. Erie Street

- **New 14' x 16 Deck on Rear of House,**
- **Privacy Fence in Rear Yard**

2. Shon & Mary Thompson – 21 S 4th Street W
- **24' x 36' Detached Three Stall Garage**

3. Wanda Dale – 204 S 2nd Street West
- **24' x 16' Garage Addition**
- **Siding & Garage on Garage**

4. Bryanna Ceglar – 303 S 3rd Street West
- **Fence in Backyard**

5. James Nelson – 303 W 2nd Avenue North
- **New front steps**

6. Dustin Miller – 306 W 2nd Avenue North
- **Gutters**
- **12' x 12' Deck on House**
- **Repair of leaking basement**

7. Mike Giersdorf – 11 N Erie Street
- **New Fence in Backyard**

8. Robert D. Hanson – 427 S 2nd Street East
- **New Fence in Side Yard**

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENT PERMITS as presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their July 6, 2015 meeting:

1. James & Paula Chapman – 210 W 1st Avenue North
- **New Roof on House & Garage**
- **Reinforce Garage Trusses**

2. Laurie O'Laughlin – 18 S. Erie Street
- **New Roof on House**

3. Franciane LaPrairie – 208 South 2nd Street W
- **New Roof on House & Garage**
- **Reinforce Garage Trusses**

4. Carol Armstrong – 17 N 1st Street E
- **Install New Windows**
- **Install New Siding**

5. John Greenlee – 303 Main Street S.
- **Install New Windows**

6. Richard Oftelie – 103 W 1st Avenue North
- **Install New Windows**
- **Install New Storm Doors**
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

7. Denny Reagan – 313 W 2nd Avenue North
- **Re-roof House**

8. Bill Krueth – 308 W 3rd Avenue South
- **New Roof on House & Garage**

9. Anthony & Barb Plattner – 318 South 2nd Street West
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

10. Matt & Megan Uhan – 733 Maple Drive
- **New Windows**

11. Ann Marie Vito – 211 W Central Avenue
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

12. Julie Pirnat – 20 E 5th Avenue North
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

13. Shirley Zinski – 22 E 2nd Avenue
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

14. Bonnie L. Peterson – 703 Summit Street
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

15. Orlin Ekeroth – 313 South 1st Street East
- **Replace Roof Shingles on Screen House (14' x 16')**

16. Frederic Hudela – 335 Forestry Road
- **Replace Roof Shingles on Garage**

17. Maurice Cline – 316 S Main Street
- **Replace Roof Shingles**

18. Richard Bovee – 202 E 3rd Avenue North
- **Replace Shingles on Roof**
- **New Gutters on House**

19. Nancy & Randall Flom – 320 W 1st Avenue North
- **Replace Windows**
- **Repair Siding on House**

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT PERMIT for Northern State Bank at 213 North Main Street in order to build an interior wall to create a new office as presented by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their July 6, 2015 meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions: Animal Control – June 2015 Report; Joint Labor Management Committee – May 19, 2015; East Range Public Safety Board – May 6, 2015 Minutes; Aurora Fire Department May 2015 CORRECTED Minutes, June 2015 Minutes; HRA Minutes – June 9, 2015; Tree Committee – June 15, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lislegard thanked all the staff and volunteers for what they do for the Aurora Patriotic Days. He stated he sat back this year and watched the workings of the festival in order to understand what it takes to make it all work. He stated that to Jan Moore's point, we should be very proud of Pine Grove Park and noted that there will be a Little League Tournament the weekend of July 10-11, 2015 in honor of Ed Berdice. Lislegard discussed the utility poles on South Main Street near the cemetery. He stated that he would like the City to ask the utility company to get off the poles and relocate onto the new poles.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to send a letter to all utility companies to remove the vacated shorter poles along South Main Street. MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Lislegard discussed the building on Main Street adjacent to the Post Office Building and stated we are seeking options to purchase the building for demolition.

Councilor Cromley stated that there have been a few more emergency calls than normal. The contractors are not breaking the gas lines on purpose and reminded everyone that there is a reason for the evacuations.

Councilor Worshek stated there was beautiful weather for the 4th of July and that all looked good. He stated that the clean up crew that is responsible for the cleanup behind the MP Nextel/Lake County project is moving through town now and that they did a good job in his yard. He asked when budget discussions were going to occur. Administrator See-Benes asked that they begin in mid-August as she will not have much of the required information until that time.

Councilor Smolich stated that the 4th of July continued even though the funding always decreases, while costs are continually increasing. The Last Mans Club at the Legion was the Parade Grand Marshalls and Smolich stated it was an honor to assist them in the parade. He commended the Fire Department for the wonderful job with the kids games and stated that the ERPD did a good job as well. Freedom Fete did a wonderful job this year. He stated the Public Works Student Workers are doing a great job again this year. He also wanted to reiterate what Councilor Lislegard said and remind everyone about the Ed Berdice Memorial Tournament this weekend.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess thanked the Public Works crews for the wonderful job they do year round. She congratulated Ms. Suvi Rova on winning Miss Aurora. She got to meet all the Queen Candidates at the Princess Party on June 30th. She thanked the 4th of July Committee for all their hard work. The All Class Reunion Committee as well as the 4th of July Committee are both gearing up for next year. Northern Lights Music Festival is being conducted right now. Arts & Crafts is held in Aurora every Tuesday and Thursday through early August.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Rudy Ceglar discussed the Main Street and Railroad Crossing. Councilor Lislegard offered to assist City staff in reaching the proper contacts.

OLD BUSINESS

Worshek stated that the Chicken Committee has met and has placed an ad in the paper and on the City website asking for public input regarding the proposed changes to the City ordinance that would allow chickens in town. He expects this item would be up for a vote on August 4, 2015.

Moved by Councilor Worshek and supported by Cromley to table the request to consider revision to Ordinance 92.31, Keeping of Animals in order to allow Chickens in the City Limits for more information. MOTION CARRIED

The Stop Sign Committee has meet and discussed removal of a few stop signs and placement of stop signs. Discussion was held on removal of signs.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to place two (2) additional stop signs on the intersection at Central Avenue and 4th Street West, in order to make the intersection a four way stop. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator See-Benes stated that two (2) quotes were received for tree removal along 2nd Avenue. The tabulation of the quotes was provided in the packet.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to award the quote for removal of one tree at 319 W 2nd Avenue North and one at 311 W 2nd Avenue North to 3-T Trimming in the amount of $990.00, as per Tree Committee recommendation from their 06/15/2015 meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Approve Pay Estimate No. 2 From Casper Construction Inc. in the amount of $1,035,552.40 for the 2015 Street Improvements Project

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 From Casper Construction Inc. in the Amount of $195,834.49 for the 2015 Street Improvements Project. MOTION CARRIED

18.3 Request from Vicki Meacham-Harris for "Children-At-Play" signs at 444 S. 2nd Street East

18.4 Request from Mr. Patrick Gallagher for Apron at 12 North 1st Street East, Aurora

18.5 Request for Change from Design for Water Shutoff Standpipe 50 S Erie Street

Public Works Director Wayne Thuringer thanked everyone who is affected by the Street Project for their patience. Casper Construction crews are doing their best with the rain and trying to stay on schedule.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer