

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014  
5:00 p.m.**

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

**ABSENT:** NONE

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Mike Kearney, City Attorney; Bernie Mettler, St. Louis County Sheriff

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes, as presented: the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2014 and the Special Meeting of August 19, 2014. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the receipts for August 2014 in the amount of \$90,217.96 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following disbursements for August 2014 in the amount of \$642,509.63 and the Payroll for August 2014 in the amount of \$70545.80. MOTION CARRIED**

AMERICAN BANK 7532	36.18	G & K SERVICES	5.60
AMERICAN BANK 8928	1,307.15	GECRB AMAZON	33.91
AMERICAN BANK 8977	202.38	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	51.15
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	75.00	GRAINGER	227.59
AT & T MOBILITY	292.95	GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	68.99
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	35.00	HAWKINS INC.	1,094.09
AURORA DRUG	7.67	HENRY'S WATERWORKS, INC.	2,794.67
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	424.19	HIBBING EXCAVATING INC	38,543.87
BRADACH LUMBER	376.64	J & R WASTEWATER SERVICE	1,080.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	3,123.00	JOLA & SOPP EXCAVATING, INC.	35,363.34
CARQUEST AURORA	125.03	JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	8,220.00
CHEMSEARCH	450.18	L & M - VIRGINIA	93.46
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITES	30.00
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	370.47	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	1,762.00
CLAREYS SAFETY EQUIPMENT INC	74.24	LMCIT	250.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	418.00	MARY HESS	87.65
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	209.00	MAXFIELD RESEARCH INC	2,100.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	1,534.50	MESABI EAST BAND BOOSTERS	50.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	35.90	METRO SALES	345.49
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	601.13	MIDWEST TAPE	41.99
EDWARDS OIL	224.51	MIKES REPAIR SERVICE INC	1,977.95
FRONTIER	1,103.11	MINNESOTA POWER	8,066.32

MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	1,559.00	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	89.00
MN DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY	50.00	SHRED RIGHT	110.56
MN PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY	145,948.78	SPECTRUM HEALTH	120,666.00
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	38.69	SPECTRUM HEALTH	182,134.00
NATIONAL PEN COMPANY	238.90	SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	101.48
NELSON ROOFING INC.	182.80	ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	587.65
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	1,620.00	ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR3	13,337.50
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF	35,700.00
NORTHLAND MONUMENTS	325.00	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	53.25	TOMAHAWK FORD	13,047.27
PORTABLE JOHN	328.00	TOWN OF WHITE	1,128.50
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	73.47	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
RANGE PAPER	207.35	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	314.71
RANGE TIMES	561.00	ULTIMATE BODY AND FRAME	644.02
RED ROCK RADIO CORPORATION	138.00	UNITED ELECTRIC	603.68
RICKS BOBCAT SERVICE	350.00	VERIZON	12.64
SEH	750.00	VERIZON WIRELESS	84.99
SEPPI BROS.	453.25	ZIEGLER INC.	574.43

MOVING PERMITS  
 NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Administrator See-Benes stated that interviews were held on August 20, 2014, and that the Interview Committee's Recommendation is to hire Josh Benda as the Water/Wastewater Technician.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize the hiring of Josh Benda, as Water/Wastewater Technician, with a start date of September 3, 2014 contingent upon completion of a successful background check and pre-employment physical. MOTION CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following correspondence: St. Louis County Planning & Community Development Regarding Upcoming GIS Request for Data; MN Association of Small Cities Regarding 2014-15 Membership Drive; Coalition of Greater MN Cities Legislative Session Report; and League of MN Cities Regarding Upcoming 2014 Regional Meetings. MOTION CARRIED**

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize the Travel Request of Kim Zinski, Cemetery to attend the MN Association of Cemeteries Annual Conference in Hinckley MN on September 16-19, 2014. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Liselgard and supported by Smolich to authorize the Travel Request of Britt See-Benes to attend the MCFOA Region II Meeting in Cass Lake, MN on September 19, 2014. MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC FORUM  
 NONE

## REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Thuringer stated that the 2014 Street Project (1<sup>st</sup> Street from 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue) has begun with subcutting starting today. The project should be doing excavating and removals in the next couple days.

Paula Chapman, Librarian reported “I frequently highlights events going on at the library, but lots of folks of all ages are still reading for both pleasure and information, so I’d like to start this month by highlighting a few summer additions to the library’s collection. For those of you who enjoy William Kent Krueger’s mysteries set in a fictional Aurora, Minnesota, “Windigo Island” was just released on August 19. The library owns a copy—I’d have brought it along, but it is checked out. Another title that hasn’t been on the shelves since we purchased it in July is “Mercy Springs” by Aurora resident Jennifer Osufsen. Jennifer’s rich language comes through in her description of the book as “a love story blooming beneath the towering trees of east Texas, under the canopy of grace and mercy, and in the shadow of lurking danger.” We’ve also added three new story times in a bag this summer. Each bag circulates for three weeks and contains a selection of picture books, a music CD, an early literacy brochure and story time tip sheet, and flannel or magnetic sets that can be used to retell a story and a nursery rhyme, to make up a new story, or to reinforce a concept. The themes of the bags are “Dinosaurs,” “The Four Seasons,” and “Help Me Grow: Social Skills.”

Between the region-wide Legacy programming, the Friends of the Library, and the Centennial Committee, we are planning a broad range of events that the library will host over the next few months. This month, Sara Pajunen will use her violin, her voice, and an archival collection to share a story of Finnish immigration and discuss how we continue to migrate through time and place over the course of our own lives. Sara will present her program at the library on Friday, September 19, at 1:00. Events you’ll hear more about in upcoming months include the Pumpkin Fest Quilt Show at the Library, a classical accordion music program, the Friends of the Library Fall Book & Bake Sale, a program about the history of aprons, a presentation by Olympic Hockey Silver Medalist Henry Boucha, a holiday tea open house, and a program by a henna artist”.

Sergeant Mettler stated that the truck is fully equipped and functioning. He reminded everyone that school is in session and that vehicles are required to stop when people are in the crosswalk. .

## REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess stated that the Aurora Fire Department has forwarded their minutes from August 18, 2014. The Department has received two resignation notices.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to accept the resignation of Michelle Ebnet from the Aurora Fire Department and to send a letter thanking her for her service. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to accept the resignation of Perry Keskitalo from the Aurora Fire Department and to send a letter thanking him for his years of dedicated service to the community. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to to receive and file the following reports from Boards and Commissions as presented: Aurora HRA – August 13, 2014 Minutes; Animal Control Report – August 2014; Aurora Fire Department – August 18, 2014 Minutes; Aurora Library Board Minutes – August 26, 2014. MOTION CARRIED**

#### REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek stated that he attended a meeting with Range Association of Municipalities and Schools members. They are discussing the position vacated by Ron Dicklich, and he is hoping that the RAMS board will set up a meeting to discuss what is happening and how a new director will be selected. Jack Greenlee of the Tree Committee has marked the 18 trees in the Cemetery that are to be removed, and he will look at the trees in Central Park to determine if they are diseased or infested. He also requested that at the next Council meeting the Council discuss political signs on City property, including the number of signs allowed.

Councilor Lislegard stated that the Annual City of Aurora Community meeting will be held on October 9, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. He stated it is a time for the community to come together and honor one of our own for their contribution to our City.

Councilor Smolich reminded everyone to slow down when driving through town, especially around the school. Kids are excited and they are not always watching for vehicles. He reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> Street East Project is going well. He commended Public Works Director Thuringer and his staff for doing an exceptional job this summer. Volleyball and Flag Football has started. The Flag Football games are played at 5:00 p.m. at the Ed Berdice field. He also reported that the flooring at the Spectrum project is being poured.

Councilor Cromley encouraged all to apply for the position of Firefighter in the Aurora Fire Department. Letters for Fire Prevention week sponsors have been sent out. Monies received will be used to purchase Fire Prevention Week material for kids.

#### REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that she has been working with the ACT on Alzheimer's Community Awareness. The goal is making people aware of what the disease is and how to deal with it. If anyone is interested in volunteering to conduct community surveys or if you know someone who has Alzheimers, please contact City Hall or Mayor Ness. Mayor Hess also stated that she wanted to comment on the recent Orchids and Onions that was submitted to the Mesabi Daily News. The City of Aurora has passed an ordinance that states that 10% of the net profit earned from lawful gambling must be paid to the City. This ordinance was passed in June. This was not an attack on any one business or gambling license holder, and it was not a punishment. It is a way to allow the City to ensure that gambling monies are spent in town.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Moved by Smolich and supported Lislegard to table adopting the ordinance regarding Franchise Fees for Lake County Connections. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to table adopting the ordinance regarding Franchise Fees for Mediacom. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to appoint Linda Cazin on the Housing and Redevelopment Board with a term to expire 12/31/2014 and Mary Mulari on the Housing and Redevelopment Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016, and to send a letter thanking all who applied. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to appoint Scott Rolando to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the term ending 12/31/14. and to send a letter thanking all who applied. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Ordinance entitled “Banning the Sale, Possession, Transfer, or Manufacture of Synthetic or Alternative Drugs”. MOTION CARRIED**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to authorize the sale of the following surplus equipment using a sealed bid process: 2011 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, Ruemelin Sandblaster, Type A.S.M.E., S/N 38250; Christmas Decorations and Marathon Circular Chopsaw. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the On Sale Liquor License Application for David T. Miller d/b/a Dave’s Southern Grille LLC, 111 N Main Street, Aurora contingent upon the applicant meeting all requirements of licensing. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve Sunday Liquor License Application for David T. Miller d/b/a Dave’s Southern Grille LLC, 111 N Main Street, Aurora contingent upon the applicant meeting all requirements of licensing. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-22, approving Change Order No. 1 for North 1<sup>st</sup> Street East/Central Avenue West Project decreasing contract amount by \$7225.64. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to table the request from the HRA for a Special Levy in 2015 Budget. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-23, authorizing Delinquent Utility Assessments to be certified in September 2014. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-24, Authorizing Mayor & Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer to enter into agreement to participate in MN Dept of Revenue “Revenue Recapture Program” for Delinquent Utilities. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Cromley and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-25, authorizing Mayor and Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to execute a Quit Claim Deed to transfer the title of the property located in the NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 9, Township 58N, Range 15 from the City of Aurora Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA). MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Hess stated that the City of Aurora has been in discussion with the City of Hoyt Lakes regarding joint law enforcement. The Sheriff's Department has done nothing wrong, They have provided the best service and we have been very apprehensive of making any changes to the service we have received from the County. The decision to proceed was not simply about saving money, but rather the decision to be a part of a cooperative effort.

Sheriff Ross Litman stated that he was debating on whether he should attend the meeting today or not, but wanted to come to speak to the Council. He stated that the City and County have had a long standing service. He stated that he has never gone out and actively sought out service, and that it is difficult for him to come here when it seems that the Council has already made their decision. He continued to state he was concerned that this decision is not in the best interest of the City. He stated that the rule of thumb when closing a contract first and foremost is that the service received should be better or improved, not the same or a step down. He was concerned that this was regarding money only. He cautioned that the savings will not be realized, that he had received no official correspondence regarding negotiations and the numbers he provided were not to be used as a bid or quote. He stated that he would let us be the judge if we will get the same service we had. He stated that he senses a real good relationship with the City and offices here, more administration type. Litman stated that clearly the Sheriff's Department will be there to assist and support the City in any transition.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No 2014-26, authorizing Mayor & Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer to enter into a Joint and Cooperative Agreement with the City of Hoyt Lakes to provide Full Time Public Safety Services for the Cities of Hoyt Lakes and Aurora MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-27 approving Change Order No. 1, increasing the contract of Casper Construction Inc., for Aurora 1<sup>st</sup> from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Street Project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported Smolich to table the discussion regarding placing of Garbage in the Alley vs. on the Street until more information is received. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize the placement of Wear Course on 1<sup>st</sup> Street East from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 4<sup>th</sup> Street Project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve Pay Request #1 for Forest Hill Cemetery Project in amount of \$38,543.87. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2014-28, accepting bid from JPJ Engineering, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for the Preparation of Feasibility Reports For the 2015 Street Project. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to appoint Councilors Lislegard and Smolich to the East Range Joint Powers Public Safety Board. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to set a Budget Meeting/Special City Council Meeting on September 9, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer