

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014
5:00 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; 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 of the Regular Meeting on March 4, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the receipts in the amount of \$\$97,905.31 for March 2014 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the following disbursements in the amount of \$161,191.91 and the Payroll for March 2014 in the amount of \$68,074.84. MOTION CARRIED

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Communication was received from Britt See-Benes and Paula Chapman regarding Hiring of a Casual Employee for Library. At the February 25, 2014 Library Board Meeting, the Board discussed hiring of a Casual Employee to act as fill-in position if the current staff were not able to work. In order to limit the costs of training and ensure flexibility and knowledge of the Library System, it is the recommendation of the Library Board to hire Brooke Dahl. Brooke currently works at the Hoyt Lakes Library as a Casual. She knows the Arrowhead Library System thus required training is minimized. Additionally, in order to maintain continuity, we also suggest the wage for this position be \$10.55 per hour. This would be the same as the wage that the Hoyt Lakes Library has set for the same position.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to authorize hiring Brooke Dahl as Library Casual Fill-In employee, starting April 2, 2014 at a wage of \$10.55 per hour contingent upon a successful background check. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to authorize City Staff to advertise for summer seasonal temporary position. MOTION CARRIED

Communication was received from Britt See-Benes and Wayne Thuringer regarding Hiring of an Intern for the Water/Wastewater position.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to offer the Intern Position of Temporary Water/Wastewater Technician to Mr. Josh Benda, with a start date of May 27, 2014 contingent upon a successful background check to meet with the requirements of the City hiring policy. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to authorize Library Director Paula Chapman to proceed with hiring of an Intern Position for the Library, to interview, and return with a recommendation to hire for the next meeting. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following communication received in March 2014: St. Louis County Public Works Department regarding Proposed Traffic Sign Policy Request for Comments; Iron Range Youth in Action Regarding Donation; and Mediacom Communications Corporation regarding Non-Standard Converter Fee, Deletion of Channel 209 effective April 15, 2014, Changes To Channel Line Up Effective April 29, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

TRAINING REQUESTS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve travel request of Jim Gentilini to attend the MPCA Stabilization Pond Seminar on April 22-24, 2014 in Brainerd, MN. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the travel request of Karin Kruger to attend the MCFOA Clerk's Institute on April 28-May 2, 2014 in Plymouth MN. MOTION CARRIED

APPEARANCES

Kirsten Reickel, candidate for St. Louis County Commissioner in the 4th District was present. She stated that she wanted to introduce herself as a candidate. She is a former graduate of AHL and is seeking election as she feels this area needs a strong voice. Councilor Worshek stated that Mike Forsman was a strong voice for this area and stated that we need a strong voice as the rest of us on this end of the range cannot be left out. Ed Modetz asked what Ms. Reickel her view of the PolyMet project. Ms. Reickel stated that PolyMet has done a great job of rising to the task of answering the questions being asked of them.

Lynn Voss, Aurora Chamber President, explained that the Iron Range Tourism Board receives funds from taxes paid for lodging. For every \$10,000 submitted, a city can have one representative. She stated that it is her opinion that this end of the range has not received a very big portion of these funds. She also stated that the Iron Trail Convention and Visitors Bureau will hold a Sport & Event Planning Open House on April 16, 2014 at 4-8 at the Holiday Inn Express in Mt. Iron. Giants Ridge will close on April 14, 2014. She requested that the City write a letter expressing concern regarding receiving the minutes and agendas of the IRTB in the future.

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to authorize sending correspondence to the Iron Range Tourism Board requesting that all approved minutes and agendas for the Board be provided to the City of Aurora beginning May 1, 2014 and thereafter. MOTION CARRIED

Lori O’Laughlin, Director of Nursing- Long Term Care at Essentia Health - Northern Pines Medical Center was present to discuss the ACT on Alzheimer’s campaign. This campaign is a collaborative effort statewide to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s, improve detection and care, sustain caregivers, and equip communities.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Sgt. Bernie Mettler stated that in 2-6 weeks there will be a significant turnover in the Aurora Office of the Sheriff’s Department. Three of the current deputies are leaving and three new ones are coming.

Mayor Hess reported that Library Director Paula Chapman could not attend tonight, but that she had prepared a report. Mayor Hess read the following “the adult winter reading program has concluded; in the end, 33 of the 50 adults who signed up reported reading a total of 459 library books/magazines/audiobooks this winter. 19 of the adults who reported said that the program encouraged them to read more library materials than they might otherwise have done this winter. Plans are now underway for the children’s and teens’ summer reading programs; it should be an active and fun summer at the library! Upcoming library events this month include the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale, with hundreds of hardback and paperback adult fiction and nonfiction titles, as well as magazines and some children’s nonfiction, all available by donation. The sale will be held Thursday, April 10; Friday, April 11; and Monday, April 14 during regular library hours. The Library, in partnership with the Hoyt Lakes Public Library and Head Start, will hold an early literacy workshop for Head Start children and their parents this month. The Aurora Public Library will also have a library card sign-up table at the Mesabi East Early Childhood Coalition’s Kindergarten Transition event. Library staff from Aurora and Hoyt Lakes also have an April meeting scheduled with the elementary school principal at Mesabi East to discuss library services and ways that the libraries and the school can better communicate and work together toward shared goals”.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The following reports from the Boards & Commissions were reviewed: Aurora HRA - March 11, 2014 Minutes; East Range CAP Meeting – February 14, 2014 Minutes; East Range Joint Powers Board – February 25, 2014 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce – March 18, 2014 Minutes; Aurora Fire Department – March 12, 2014 Minutes; Aurora Public Library Board – March 25, 2014 Minutes; Animal Control Report – March 2014; Planning & Zoning – March 25, 2014.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the Commercial Improvement Permit for Megan’s Restaurant at 114 N Main Street, in order to replace sheetrock and insulation. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported Lislegard to approve the Sign Permit for Bradach Lumber at 216 W 3rd Ave N, in order to replace Wall and Awning Signage. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the Final Plat for Red Top Addition, as approved by Planning and Zoning. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilor Worshek reported that he will be attending the CAP Meeting on April 10, 2014. A meeting will be held in Hoyt Lakes on April 3, 2014 regarding joint police services. A meeting with the school will be

held on April 2, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. to talk about a joint athletic facility. The City Volunteer Appreciation Social will be held on April 10, 2014. Worshek stated that a real asset to the City was lost when we lost Ed Berdice.

Councilor Cromley stated that no applications were received for the Firefighter positions, but we will be advertising again in the coming months. The Annual Firefighter Pancake Feed will be held on April 27, 2014 at the Community Center. He also expressed great interest in the ACT on Alzheimer's collaborative effort as the Fire Department deals quite often with persons dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's.

Councilor Lislegard stated that Ed Berdice was a scholar and a gentleman. He was known as the Mickey Mantle of the Range. We have lost someone very special, who cannot be replaced. It is a big loss but the City will continue to honor him. The City and Town of White met with the Legislators of the area last month and were assured that the school would receive a tax break to assist with bond payments. Then last week, a newspaper article highlighted how the bill that would exclude Mesabi East. In response to this bill, ISD 2711, Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes, and Town of White again went to the Capital and expressed our dismay in being left out. The outcome seems to be positive. Highway 53 realignment is also a topic to be watched. All communities are coming together as the realignment will directly impact this area. The sulfate standard being held to 10 ppm will affect everyone and will continue to be watched. He stated that if you can only see how important it is for the East Range to come together, if we don't those 612'ers will roll right over us.

Councilor Smolich stated that he attended the Legislative Meeting in St. Paul last week. He attended a Snowmobile Meeting regarding moving of the trail due to the Highway 53. A 4th of July meeting was held and a request for donations will be forthcoming. He stated that Ed Berdice is going to be missed. He stated that we will finish this ball field. The next Iron Range Youth in Action Board meeting will be on April 10, 2014. The snowmobiles are officially closed. Congrats to the MN Iron Rangers on winning the first playoff game. The third game is tonight.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that Ed Berdice was the type of person who did not want any recognition for all he did, but he is going to be missed as a citizen, a volunteer, and a neighbor.

Volunteer Recognition Day is April 10, 2014. This event is to thank all those who volunteer their time.

She stated that with the discussions about PolyMet, Highway 53, and the School, it seems that the East End of the Range is always battling.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2014-010 Creating Frozen Water Service Policy. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the Proclamation designating April 10, 2014 as Volunteer Day in the City of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to table the spraying for mosquito control until another bid has been received. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-011 opposing the proposed Minnesota Department of Transportation plan for an “at grade” intersection of State Trunk Highways 53 and 135. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-012 Establishing a Local Board of Appeal and Equalization effective in 2015. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to set the vacancy date of 301 South 2nd Street West of February 2013. MOTION CARRIED

Andrew Mostyn was present to discuss his request. He is the owner of The English Oak Catering Company. They are looking for kitchen space to use as needed for catering events.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to update the Rental Use & Agreement fee schedule and forms for Kitchen Use Only and bring to the next meeting. Items to be included are a fee of \$40.00 per day with deposit of \$100.00 and proof of commercial liability insurance to be provided. MOTION CARRIED

Sgt. Mettler stated that the 2013 Dodge Charger with 40,000 miles on it. The 2006 Crown Victoria has 130,000 miles on it. The Crown Victoria will be sold as a Surplus Item and the money received will be used to assist in the outfitting of the new vehicle.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-013 authorizing the purchase of one (1) 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 SSV Crew Cab, 4x4 Pickup Truck, to be used as a squad/patrol vehicle, in the amount of \$24,530.00 from Mike Motors of Ely. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to set a Special City Council Meeting on April 7, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

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