

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER  
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014  
4:00 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; Kris Dickinson

The Council discussed the purchase of land for an easement from Kristopher and Stephanie Dickinson. These lands lie to the West of Knuti Drive and will be used for future access into the new Woodlands Addition.

Public Works Director Thuringer stated that the City provides placement of the water line and sewer line to the property line. The City will be adding a manhole, a hydrant, and approximately 270' of water/sewer line. The property owner is responsible for the placement of lines from the shutoff (the point where the City stops) to the residence.

Mr. Dickinson stated that he is seeking the City waive the Water and Sewer Access Charges, City allow for in-kind service to run the water line and sewer line from the shutoff to the residence, and the materials which are estimated to be approximately 1000' of 2" water line and 1000' of sewer line. Mr. Dickinson is estimating the parcel of land that the City is desirous of acquiring to be worth approximately \$15,000.00. City Administrator See-Benes stated that when she spoke with County Assessor Tom Carlson previously, Mr. Carlson indicated that an acre of vacant land has an estimated value of between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to table the purchase of land for an easement from Kristopher and Stephanie Dickinson until further cost estimates can be obtained. MOTION CARRIED**

At the City Council meeting on May 6, 2014, a new proposed agreement between the City of Aurora and City of Hoyt Lakes for Animal Control Storage and Pound was discussed, however the resolution was not ready for approval.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution No. 2014-014, authorizing entering into an Animal Control Agreement between the City of Aurora and City of Hoyt Lakes. MOTION CARRIED**

Administrator See-Benes stated that at the last Biwabik Public Utilities Meeting on May 8, 2014, the Commission agreed to a five year agreement with a 3% increase, with the understanding that both parties are moving towards a joint water district and/or facility.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize negotiation a 5 year agreement with the City of Biwabik Public Utilities Commission for Water/Wastewater Services for the City of Biwabik. MOTION CARRIED**

Summer hiring for Park & Recreation was discussed. Chris Shuck, Park & Rec Director has forwarded his recommendations for Coaches, Umpires, and Field Maintenance for Park and Rec.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize increasing the pay scale for Umpires to \$20.00/game for Home Plate Umpire and \$15.00/Game for Base Umpire effective in the 2014 season. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to authorize hiring of a Nicholas Przybylski for field maintenance at a rate of \$10.00 per event, per field. MOTION CARRIED**

The Tree Committee will be conducting a meeting very soon to discuss the removal of trees and stumps in town. City Administrator See-Benes stated that quotes will be sought for tree removal.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to authorize obtaining quotes for tree/stump removal, with the trees to be removed to be determined by the Tree Committee. MOTION CARRIED**

In January 2014, the City Council authorized sending notification to St. Louis County regarding Parcel No. 100-0015-00310 as the City is interested in obtaining the parcel for public purpose with the intent to demolish the existing structure. Karen Zeisler, St. Louis County Land Dept. has contacted Administrator See-Benes to advise that the parcel has been forfeited to County and would like the City to make an offer. Demolition costs are estimated to be approximately \$10,000.00 with a reimbursement from IRRRB in the amount of \$3.00 a square foot.

**Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize sending correspondence to St. Louis County requesting that the property at 18 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Aurora, Parcel Code No. 100-0015-00310, for \$1.00 as the City must incur costs for demolition and asbestos remediation. MOTION CARRIED**

At the May 6, 2014 Council Meeting, the Council tabled awarding the bids received for Town of White/City of Aurora Infrastructure Project – West County Road 110 Water Main until more information was ascertained about funding, and to request that Town of White consider paying for half of the project. Administrator See-Benes stated that if the Council should choose, the money to replace the water line could be taken out of the Water Capital Account. Public Works Director Thuringer stated that the replacement of this water line was estimated to be \$160,000.00 so the bid received by Utility Systems of America in the amount of \$71,000.00.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to authorize awarding the bid for Add Alternate A, for the Town of White/City of Aurora Infrastructure Project – West County Road 110 Water Main, to Utility Systems of America in the amount of \$71,000.00, contingent upon the Town of White accepting the Base Bid. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution 2014-015, Opposing the call for a PEIA in the Superior National Forest and Calling on MN Leaders to demand USDA cease PEIS consideration. MOTION CARRIED**

Discussion ensued on the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Services in Aurora. Communication was received at the May 6, 2014 Council Meeting from Hoyt Lakes asking the City of Aurora to consider an option of a newly created Police Force. The estimated savings are approximately \$300,000.00. It was proposed in this letter that each City cut their budget by \$100,000.00 and the remaining \$100,000.00 be placed into a contingency fund with the remaining money split equally between the two cities. The Council expressed their concerns, especially regarding the level of service and coverage. Concerns were discussed.

Discussion was held regarding the need to hire a facilitator to bring the two parties together to discuss the matter.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to authorize hiring Randy Lasky, Northspan Group, to act as a Facilitator in the discussion between the City of Aurora and City of Hoyt Lakes regarding joint law enforcement, in an amount not to exceed \$500.00. MOTION CARRIED**

A Special Meeting will be held on May 27, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the Joint Law Enforcement options.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer.