

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 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 Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Council Meeting held on Reorganization Meeting of January 7, 2014, Year End Meeting of January 7, 2014, and Strategic Planning Meeting of January 21, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the receipts in the amount of \$103,279.59 for January 2014 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the disbursements in the amount of \$198,894.28 and the Payroll for January 2014 in the amount of \$101,769.97, as follows:

ACTIVAR	\$ 200.29	FRONTIER	\$ 1,055.97
AMERICAN BANK 7532	\$ 150.25	G & K SERVICES	\$ 45.77
AMERICAN BANK 8928	\$ 570.94	GECRB AMAZON	\$ 244.02
AMERICAN BANK 8977	\$ 505.50	HAWKINS INC.	\$ 442.50
AMERICAN BANK 9587	\$ 867.58	JOHNSTONE SUPPLY	\$ 540.09
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP	\$ 375.00	JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	\$ 2,100.00
AT & T MOBILITY	\$ 299.24	L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 898.70
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 499.06	LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 748.68
BLAKE BERTRAM	\$ 1,700.00	LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 99.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 346.14	LMCIT	\$ 2,482.00
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 219.44	LUNDGREN MOTORS INC.	\$ 325.67
CHEMSEARCH	\$ 194.87	MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$79,555.05
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18	MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 145.22
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 3,630.00	MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 19.94
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 402.00	MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 182.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 858.00	METRO SALES	\$ 299.86
DEMCO INC.	\$ 148.25	MINERS NATIONAL BANK	\$ 8,914.90
DVS RENEWAL	\$ 39.00	MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 6,941.75
EAST RANGE FIRE DEPT. COALITIO	\$ 50.00	MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 9,222.01
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD	\$ 3,750.00	MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	\$ 1,559.00
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 258.21	MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	\$ 200.00
EDWARDS OIL	\$ 621.65	MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	\$ 1,450.00

MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	\$ 767.35	SHANNON'S INC.	\$ 3,062.26
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	\$ 1,620.00	SHI	\$ 226.60
NORTHERN MN SERVICES	\$ 675.00	SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 97.48
NORTHERN STATE BANK	\$ 6,250.23	ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF	\$35,700.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	\$ 6,250.23	TAMMY MUELLER	\$ 106.87
OFFICEMAX CONTRACT INC.	\$ 92.03	THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 480.00
OSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC.	\$ 85.00	THE TEACHER EXPRESS	\$ 23.90
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	\$ 159.75	TM LOGISTICS INC	\$ 1,275.00
PALMS TOWN PUMP	\$ 32.96	TOMAHAWK FORD	\$12,443.31
PAUL HUNTINGTON SALES	\$50,000.00	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 500.00
PLAGEMANN'S FLORAL & GIFT	\$ 37.41	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 250.00
PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 98.00	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	\$ 315.09
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	\$ 160.32	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	\$ 220.00
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$ 275.14	US BANK	\$ 425.00
RANDY MATTSON	\$ 1,000.00	USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 43.78
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 361.66	VERIZON	\$ 7.26
RANGE PAPER	\$ 197.18	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 85.02
RANGE TIMES	\$ 604.51	WES PETERSON	\$ 1,000.00
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	\$ 1,592.50	WOLFMAN SERVICES	\$ 400.00
SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 89.00		

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve hiring of Michael T. Peterson for the position of Temporary Part Time Laborer position at a wage of \$11.41 per hour with position not to exceed 67 shifts, contingent upon a successful background check. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to receive and file the following communication: Habitat for Humanity Winter Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser on February 6, 2014; Mediacom Regarding Addition of New Channels; Mediacom Regarding New Fees effective 02/22/2014; Range Mental Health Center, Inc. Regarding Donations for Events; St. Louis County Fair Board Regarding Donation; American Veterans Traveling Tribute Regarding Offer for Replica Vietnam Wall; and Range Times Regarding Designation of Newspaper. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the travel request of Britt See-Benes to attend the MCFOA Clerk's Conference on March 18-22, 2014 in St. Cloud MN. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the travel request of Mayor & Council to attend the League of MN Cities Legislative Days on Feb 26-27, 2014, in St. Paul, MN. Mayor Hess, Councilors Lislegard, Smolich and Administrator See-Benes will be attending. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Hess stated that Ed Bernik had asked to be on the agenda regarding Snow Removal in Aurora. He was not present at the meeting.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Paula Chapman from the Library reported The Aurora Public Library Centennial celebration open house was a fun party; thanks to everyone who helped with the event and who came! We lost track of numbers and just visited with people—but there were over 100 folks here. The Centennial Committee will meet again this winter to start planning more events. The word went out well about the museum pass—all 50 passes, as well as 12 tickets to a play and 20 tickets to a concert, have been given out. We will shortly receive another batch of museum passes. On February 27, the library is collaborating with the school to bring Sean Emery to do an education, inspirational, and humorous juggling program in the Mesabi East Auditorium. I believe that the 3rd-6th grade students will attend the program; there will additional seating open for parents and grandparents and others who would like to attend as well. The adult winter reading program began on January 21 and will run through March 7. It's very low key; adults may sign up, receive a bookmark, magnet, and reading log and read! They may enter their name in a drawing for each library book or magazine they check out or download and read. To date, 46 adults have signed up. This program is funded in large part by the Arrowhead Library System; prizes are funded by local donation.

Britt See-Benes reported that the Negotiating Committee has met with the Non-Union employees and have a tentative agreement. The Council members are urged to review the agreement and bring any recommendations back to either Mayor Hess or Britt. A special meeting will be held soon to discuss the agreement.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ed Modetz reported that the Cemetery Board has approved the Master Plan for the Cemetery and is now seeking Council approval to move forward with the first Phase of the North Cemetery Expansion.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to authorize City Staff to proceed with seeking Requests for Proposals for Phase I of Cemetery North Expansion to include drainage and 200' of roadway. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following reports from the Boards & Commissions: Cemetery Board – January 22, 2014, East Range CAP Meeting – November 14, 2013; East Range Joint Powers Board –December 18, 2013 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce – December 10, 2013; Aurora Fire Department 12-11-13 REVISED Minutes and 01-08-14 Minutes; Aurora Public Library Board – January 28, 2014; Ambulance Report – 4th Quarter 2013 and Joint Labor Management Safety Committee – October 9, 2013. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilor Lislegard thanked everyone from Northeastern MN for supporting PolyMet at the Public Hearings and expressed how proud he was of everyone of Northeastern MN. There is no doubt that we of the area fully support this project from Aurora to Duluth to the Twin Cities. There was overwhelming support. Public comments for the PolyMet SDEIS project are still being accepted until March 14, 2014. Councilor Lislegard stated that he had met with Ed Bernik and explained that it was a City Council decision that the snowplowing efforts proceed with the flow of traffic, not against traffic. It is a huge liability for the City to be plowing on the wrong side of the road.

Councilor Worshek thanked Dave Lislegard for putting all the effort and time in showing support. He is very proud of how our area turned out in support. He attended the RAMS meeting on January 30, 2014 where Congressman Nolan spoke, showing his support for PolyMet. Every Iron Range delegate spoke giving their support of the PolyMet project.

Councilor Cromley reported that the Aurora Fire Department and City crews want to thank those who have helped in keeping the fire hydrants clear of snow this winter and asks that everyone do their part in keeping them free of snow. He urged everyone to remember that traffic is still to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks and take extra caution by watching out for kids. The 3rd Annual Aurora Fire Department Vintage Snowmobile Run will be held on March 1, 2014. Visit the City's website at www.aurora-mn.com for more details. March 8, 2014 is the Pepsi Challenge ski race. The Aurora Fire Department in conjunction with the Palo Fire Department will have a feed and beverage station on the race. Please consider attending and cheering on your favorite racer at the finish line.

Councilor Smolich stated that he attended the RAMS meeting on January 30, 2014 as well. Congressman Nolan gave his full support of the PolyMet project, as we all want the project done right. He thanked the local businesses for supporting the PolyMet and the public hearings. Thanked the Public Works crews for snowplowing efforts. He noted that the Pine Grove Hockey Rink has been utilized for how cold it's been. He urged everyone to watch out for kids on sliding hills and in and around snow banks. Smolich reported he will be attending the Iron Range Youth in Action Make a Difference Conference on February 10, 2014 at Fortune Bay. He thanked Paula Chapman and the Centennial Committee for a fantastic Library Centennial Celebration. He asked if City staff knew any information about the propane shortage, and urged everyone to check on elderly neighbors in this cold weather.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that the support for the PolyMet at the recent public hearings was overwhelming. She also attended the RAMS meeting. On Tuesday, she stated that she attended a Highway 53 Meeting regarding the relocation near Virginia. There is an area of concern as they are considering placing a stop sign in the middle of the Highway 53/ Highway 135 portion – which would affect those traveling from Virginia towards the East Range. The next meeting is on February 12, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. at the coffee shop located at ____ Chestnut Street (across from Shoes & Things, the former Alto's Menswear). The safety of our employees and our citizens and visitors is imperative when we are removing snow. If you have complaints about the work being done by the City Crews, do not yell at the employees. There is a process and a chain of command for complaints. Direct your complaints to City Hall. Keep an eye out for kids who are playing around and near snow piles.

MEETING OPENED TO PUBLIC

Ed Modetz thanked Dave Lislegard for all his work with the PolyMet hearings. Mayor Hess thanked Gary Albertson and the Range Times for all their work

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize Entering into a Certificate of Indebtedness with Northern State Bank -Aurora Branch in the amount of \$350,000.00 plus interest

and to authorize Mayor and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer to execute all necessary documents. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve Home Business Licenses for 2014 for the following: Cherro's Italian Market; Mary's Productions; and J & R's Outing. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the Conditional Use Licenses for 2014 for Diamond Cuts. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize submitting a grant request to St. Louis County Environmental Services Department for a Recycling Bin Grant for Parks and Grant for Event Centers. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to deny the request from Rita Kuth regarding use of Fire Hall for the Class of 1964 Float on July 3, 2014 as it is not desirable to relocate the fire equipment during this busy time. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to authorize two (2) Public Works staff members to assist that Pepsi Challenge on March 7, 2014, as requested by the East Range Cross Country Challenges, Inc. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and approved by Cromley to approve the Proclamation declaring February "I Love to Read Month". MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Adopt Resolution No. 2014-005 regarding Support for Copper Mining. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to Award the Contract for Concrete Crushing to George Bougalis & Sons Inc, in the amount of \$20,000 lump sum for up to 2500 tons of concrete and \$8.00 per ton for every ton thereafter. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve the Year End Transfer of Mining Effects monies from General Fund to Infrastructure in the amount of \$13009.23. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to approve a transfer of \$6139.82 from Transfer Station to Sanitation. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Lislegard to transfer \$3468.45 from Water to Wastewater due to an error in receipting. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2014-006, Authorizing Purchase of 2005 International 7600 Cab & Chassis from Paul Huntington Sales in the amount of \$55,000.00. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to call for a Special City Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the following items: Non-Union Employee Contract; Police Services; Strategic Planning. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer