

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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 5:03 p.m.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Council Meeting held on Regular Meeting on February 5, 2014 and Special Meeting on February 12, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts in the amount of \$89,459.52 for February 2014 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the following disbursements in the amount of \$260,368.57 and the Payroll for February 2014 in the amount of \$67,514.72

ACTIVAR	\$ 200.29	MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	\$ 200.00
AMERICAN BANK 7532	\$ 150.25	MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	\$ 1,450.00
AMERICAN BANK 8928	\$ 570.94	MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	\$ 767.35
AMERICAN BANK 8977	\$ 505.50	NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	\$ 1,620.00
AMERICAN BANK 9587	\$ 867.58	NORTHERN MN SERVICES	\$ 675.00
AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP	\$ 375.00	NORTHERN STATE BANK	\$ 6,250.23
AT & T MOBILITY	\$ 299.24	NORTHERN STATE BANK	\$ 6,250.23
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	\$ 499.06	OFFICEMAX CONTRACT INC.	\$ 92.03
BLAKE BERTRAM	\$ 1,700.00	OSI ENVIRONMENTAL INC.	\$ 85.00
BRADACH LUMBER	\$ 346.14	PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	\$ 159.75
CARQUEST AURORA	\$ 219.44	PALMS TOWN PUMP	\$ 32.96
CHEMSEARCH	\$ 194.87	PAUL HUNTINGTON SALES	\$50,000.00
CHRIS VREELAND	\$ 201.18	PLAGEMANNS FLORAL & GIFT	\$ 37.41
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	\$ 3,630.00	PORTABLE JOHN	\$ 98.00
COLDSRING MEMORIAL	\$ 402.00	PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	\$ 160.32
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	\$ 858.00	PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	\$ 275.14
DEMCO INC.	\$ 148.25	RANDY MATTSO	\$ 1,000.00
DVS RENEWAL	\$ 39.00	RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	\$ 361.66
EAST RANGE FIRE DEPT. COALITIO	\$ 50.00	RANGE PAPER	\$ 197.18
EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD	\$ 3,750.00	RANGE TIMES	\$ 604.51
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	\$ 258.21	RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	\$ 1,592.50
EDWARDS OIL	\$ 621.65	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	\$ 89.00

FRONTIER	\$ 1,055.97	SHANNON'S INC.	\$ 3,062.26
G & K SERVICES	\$ 45.77	SHI	\$ 226.60
GECRB AMAZON	\$ 244.02	SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	\$ 97.48
HAWKINS INC.	\$ 442.50	ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF	\$35,700.00
JOHNSTONE SUPPLY	\$ 540.09	TAMMY MUELLER	\$ 106.87
JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	\$ 2,100.00	THE CONTROL COMPANY	\$ 480.00
L & M - VIRGINIA	\$ 898.70	THE TEACHER EXPRESS	\$ 23.90
LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	\$ 748.68	TM LOGISTICS INC	\$ 1,275.00
LEAGUE OF MN CITIES	\$ 99.00	TOMAHAWK FORD	\$12,443.31
LMCIT	\$ 2,482.00	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 500.00
LUNDGREN MOTORS INC.	\$ 325.67	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	\$ 250.00
MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	\$79,555.05	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	\$ 315.09
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	\$ 145.22	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	\$ 220.00
MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 19.94	US BANK	\$ 425.00
MESABI DAILY NEWS	\$ 182.00	USA BLUE BOOK	\$ 43.78
METRO SALES	\$ 299.86	VERIZON	\$ 7.26
MINERS NATIONAL BANK	\$ 8,914.90	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 85.02
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	\$ 6,941.75	WES PETERSON	\$ 1,000.00
MINNESOTA POWER	\$ 9,222.01	WOLFMAN SERVICES	\$ 400.00
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	\$ 1,559.00		

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following communication: MN Energy Resources regarding Rate Increase, Request from Mesabi East Congradance Committee for Donation, Request from Marlene Kauppinen regarding donation for John Kauppinen Law Enforcement Scholarship Foundation, Aurora Chamber of Commerce Regarding 1st Annual Rockin Chili Contest. MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hess encouraged all to attend the Chamber 1st Annual Rockin' Chili Cookoff on March 27, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. A Silent Auction will also be held during the event. Anyone interested in donating items for the Silent Auction can deliver them to City Hall.

PUBLIC FORUM

Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer See-Benes stated there was not any requests to speak at the meeting.

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director, stated that he hopes everyone has taken notice of the ads the City is running regarding keeping the water running. There is only one company who is thawing lines if the City is not able to open them, and they have a long waiting list. Everyone should keep their watering running. All are asked to drive slow, as snow banks are high.

Paula Chapman, Librarian, reported The Adult Winter Reading Program is nearing its end; Friday, March 7 is the final day to enter the drawings. Participants may enter their name in the drawing once for each library book or magazine they read. We will do the final drawings on Monday, March 10. This has definitely been a good winter for reading! Last week, the library

coordinated with Mesabi East to bring juggler Sean Emery in to the school to provide a motivational as well as entertaining performance. The 3rd-6th grade students, as well as their teachers, seemed to enjoy the performance immensely. We have no library programs scheduled for March, but at the end of the month, I'll be visiting 2nd grade classes to do Minnesota History afternoons using a library kit developed by the Minnesota Historical Society. Both programs were made available through Minnesota's Legacy Fund. Currently available at the library area number of museum passes, as well as tickets to the play "Stuart Little" (which will be performed in Grand Rapids on March 7) and tickets to a March 22 Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra performance of "Musical Postcards."

Jan Moore, Spruce Up Aurora, stated that in the dead of winter, will we ever be able to plant?? Yes, spring is coming and donations are being accepted for Spruce Up Aurora fund to purchase and maintain plants in the flowers beds around Aurora. Anyone interested in taking care of a pot or planter, contact Jan Moore.

Bernie Mettler, Sergeant, urged everyone to slow down while driving. The Aurora Sheriff's office has handled many two vehicle accidents. Drive slow as there is snow in every intersection and proceed with caution. He further stated that anyone who has been ticketed for Calendar Parking violations more than once will be towed. He also urged everyone to have patience with their neighbors as we all are dealing with the huge amount of snow and it has to go somewhere.

Mayor Hess asked Sergeant Mettler how the Polar Plunge during Hoyt Lakes Cabin Fever Days went. Sgt. Mettler stated that his team, the Embarrass Community Credit Union team, took first place in the amount of donations received with all donations going to the Gillette Childrens Hospital.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The following reports from the Boards & Commissions were reviewed: Aurora HRA - January 13, 2014 Minutes and February 11, 2014 Minutes; East Range CAP Meeting - January 9, 2014; East Range Joint Powers Board - January 22, Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce - January 21, 2014; Aurora Fire Department - February 12, 2014; Aurora Public Library Board - February 26, 2014; Aurora Park Committee Meeting - February 19, 2014 and Animal Control Report - February 2014.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-007, authorizing submittal of a MN TWINS GRANT for the Ed Berdice Field in Pine Grove Park. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2014-008 authorizing submittal of DNR Grant Outdoor Rec Grant for the Ed Berdice Field in Pine Grove Park. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL

Councilor Lislegard reminded everyone that the comment period for the PolyMet SDEIS ends March 14, 2014. It's important for everyone to get their comments in by this deadline. He

stated that he was at the Capital meeting with our legislators recently about topics concerning the area. Highway 53 is a major concern and this end of the Range needs to stay engaged as access to Virginia area will directly affect us. What is being proposed for Highway 53 is not the right choice.

Councilor Cromley stated that the Aurora Fire Department had a successful Vintage Snowmobile Run. It was lots of fun with lots of snow this year. The Pepsi Challenge will be on March 8, 2014. 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. The more people cheering on the racers, the better for them.

Councilor Worshek commended the City Crews on getting the streets cleaned off. He stated that he felt that the guys were doing a good job. Mesabi East Girls Basketball will be participating in the 1st playoff game. They are currently second in Section.

Councilor Smolich reported that he also visited the Capital last week to meet with Tomassoni and Metsa. He also thanked Councilor Lislegard for fighting the fight for PolyMet. The Highway 53 Impact Committee will meet on Wednesday March 5, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. in Virginia. He also attended the Youth in Action Conference at Fortune Bay. Approximately 500 kids participated in the conference. IRYA meeting will also be held on Thursday, March 6, 2014. He also expressed a good luck to the Mesabi East Girls Basketball team. He also congratulated the Boys Swim team and the Ski Team on their success. He also urged all to slow down while driving in town and watch out for kids. He also thanked City Crews for keeping the streets clean.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that she attended a fundraiser for students who will be attending a National Archery Shoot in Kentucky. She announced that Volunteer Recognition Social will be held on April 10, 2014 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Instead of mailing to individual students, a notice will be posted in the school. She thanked all the volunteers and stated without them we would not be able to accomplish as much as we do. Mayor Hess stated that she has received very few complaints about snow plowing and that she thinks the streets look good.

MEETING OPENED TO PUBLIC

Gary Albertson stated that Aimee Allen of Mesabi East High School is a finalist for the 2014 Triple 'A' Academics, Arts and Athletics. Winners will be announced March 15, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Administrator See-Benes stated that because the City no longer has a certified Local Board of Appeal and Equalization person, this year's Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held at the County Assessor's Office in Virginia on April 16, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to authorize Mary Hess and Scott Smolich to attend Local Board of Appeal and Equalization training in Cotton on March 28, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hess commended everyone on the Negotiating Committee this year for the quick job in negotiating contracts. Presented to the Council today is the Non-Union Employee Contract for 2014-2016. Councilor Lislegard asked about putting a Health and Wellness program into the contract. Mayor Hess explained that she would prefer to see a program such as that a part of the City's policies, and not tied to a contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Hess read the communication from Paul Martinetto regarding his retirement from the Aurora Fire Department after 31 years of service.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to accept the letter of resignation from Paul Martinetto, and to send a letter expressing our appreciation for his 31 years of service and dedication. MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Cromley requested that the City Staff be allowed to advertise for firefighters. With the vacancy of Mr. Martinetto, the department will be short three staff members.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to authorize advertising for the position of Firefighter to fill up to three vacant positions. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Conditional Use Permit for RK Welding for 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich adopt Resolution No. 2014-009 in support of the PolyMet Mining NorthMet Project. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the Application for Excluded Bingo for the Knights of Columbus Bishop Baraga Council #4477 in order to conduct Bingo Games on March 30, 2014 and October 26, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to table the Policy Regarding Frozen Water Lines to the next Council Meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer