

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2014
5:00 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; 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 Lislegard to approve the following minutes, as presented: the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2014, the Special Meeting of June 10, 2014, the Special Meeting of June 19, 2014. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the receipts for June 2014 in the amount of \$94,950.54 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following disbursements for June 2014 in the amount of \$298,383.78 and the Payroll for June 2014 in the amount of \$73,960.89.

AMERICAN BANK 6005	122.85	FREEDOM FETE	95.00
AMERICAN BANK 8928	61.35	FRONTIER	1,047.22
AMERICAN BANK 8977	434.10	G & K SERVICES	43.52
AMERICAN BANK 9587	80.10	GECRB AMAZON	32.49
AT & T MOBILITY	291.23	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	58.00
AURORA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	75.00	GRAINGER	16.06
AURORA DRUG	29.69	GRANDE ACE HARDWARE	21.99
B MILLER PRODUCTS INC	90.76	GREAT NORTHERN PUBLISHING LLC	24.00
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	527.31	HAWKINS INC.	887.59
BLACKHAWK ELECTRIC INC.	150.00	HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS, LTD.	276.02
BLAKE BERTRAM	1,620.00	HIBBING COMMUNITY COLLEGE	805.00
BRADACH LUMBER	812.08	HOMETOWNFOCUS.US	252.00
C & C WINGER, INC.	6,109.00	INCOGNITO COSTUME SHOP	374.00
CARQUEST AURORA	293.02	IRON RANGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY	12.00
CHARLES F. WILLIAMS	122.08	JOLA & SOPP EXCAVATING, INC.	27,640.02
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	3,725.00
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00	LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	321.11
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	912.00	LIFE SECURITY AND CONTROL	216.00
CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA	73.80	MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	1,944.77
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	1,090.62	MAIL FINANCE	218.83
EMERGENCY AUTOMOTIVE TECH	6,319.70	MENARDS - VIRGINIA	1,426.63
ERA LABORATORIES	974.57	MESABI BITUMINOUS	1,166.00
EXCEL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	686.00	MESABI DAILY NEWS	39.75

MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	5,440.67	SEH	1,512.52
MESABI SIGN COMPANY, INC.	720.00	SERVICE SOLUTIONS INC	89.00
METRO SALES	331.20	SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY	1,063.64
MINNESOTA DISCOVERY CENTER	264.20	SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	3,581.84
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	1,870.54	SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	89.10
MINNESOTA POWER	8,222.03	ST. LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF	35,700.00
MN CITY COUNTY MANAGE ASSOC	130.00	STRAIGHT THRU ARCHERY	100.00
MTI DISTRIBUTING INC.	191.86	TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	536.38
NORTH SHORE ANALYTICAL, INC.	500.00	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPERATIVE	1,770.00	TOMAHAWK FORD	12,726.22
NORTHERN HEALTH & FITNESS PLUS	1,915.00	TOWN OF WHITE	2,484.15
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	4,245.47
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	84.75	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
PETTY CASH	165.43	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	319.28
PLAGEMANNS FLORAL & GIFT	51.13	US BANK	2,443.75
PORTABLE JOHN	269.43	US TREASURY	22.00
RANDY MATTSO	1,000.00	VERIZON	12.40
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	222.47	VERIZON WIRELESS	85.04
RANGE PAPER	1,833.31	VESSCO, INC.	590.08
RANGE TIMES	1,007.95	WOLFMAN SERVICES	400.00
RAPID ROOTER SEWER & DRAIN INC	720.00	ZEE	69.65
ROGERS ONLINE	1,835.00	ZEP SALES & SERVICE	76.38
SARANENS, INC.	212.24	ZIEGLER INC.	134,430.00

MOTION CARRIED

MOVING PERMITS

NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Administrator See-Benes stated that no applications were received internally for the posting of Water/Wastewater Technician. Councilor Cromley asked how long the position was posted internally. See-Benes stated that it was posted ten days internally, then again for an additional eight days with agreement from AFSCME due to a typo. This position was vacated by Jesse LaCount, when he was reappointed to Combination Specialist II.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize advertising externally for the Water/Wastewater Tech Position. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following communication received in June 2014: Iron Range Tourism Board Regarding Calendar of Events for the Area; League of MN Cities regarding Dues Increase for 2015 Fiscal Year; City of Hoyt Lakes regarding Open House on July 10, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.; FEMA Regarding Community Meeting in July; St. Louis County regarding 2014 Clean Shop Collection Dates; Mediacom regarding Return Payment Charge. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to authorize the Travel Request of Wayne Thuringer, Water/Wastewater Department in order to attend the MPCA

Wastewater Treatment Technology Seminar on 08/11/14-08/14/14 in Brainerd, Minnesota. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

Matt Reid, SEH, Inc. was present to discuss the recently completed 2014 City-Wide Street Surface Condition Evaluation Plan. They evaluated the streets, roads, gutters and looked at potential drainage concerns. Spreadsheets and maps were created, giving streets a rating of good, fair, or poor with suggestions that range from nothing, mill & overlay to reconstruct.

Rod Hansen, business owner on North Main Street was present to discuss the painting of the yellow curb in front of his business. He stated he felt the City has gone too far as the paint extends 4 feet past the north corner of the building. He stated that when vehicles park on Main Street at the point where the yellow paint ends, cars entering onto Main Street from Central Avenue are still having a hard time seeing oncoming traffic. According to Hansen, vehicles and drivers are still not using enough caution when exiting from Central Avenue. He stated that numerous clients cannot access his business due to the extended yellow curb blocking his entrance. He stated that he cannot walk far, he cannot stand long, he cannot stand climb, and he cannot stand stairs. The painting of the curb directly affects him. He also stated that there are more curbs more dangerous than the curb at Main Street and Central Avenue. He suggested that the City install more stringent yellow curbs at every other business in town. City should look at installing flashing red lights and stop sign on Main Street at Central Avenue. He suggested that the City look at cutting off and vacating Central Avenue. He proposed the City cutback on the yellow curb, at least one car length.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to assess the parking/visual impairment of traffic and mobility at the intersection of Main Street and Central Avenue as well as the entire Downtown District. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Librarian Paula Chapman prepared a report that Mayor Hess read which stated "The library has had a very active June! June events included 4 children's story times, 1 children's Discovery Table, a radio drama program for all ages, 2 dramas for children, a family music and storytelling program, a teen craft program, and 2 author visits, almost all of which were very well attended. The highlight event was the visit by Minnesota mystery writer William Kent Krueger, with over 100 people in attendance. As well as lots of folks from the area, guests came from various parts of the state (from International Falls to Alexandria to Rochester). We even had guests who were visiting Minnesota from at least three other states coming to hear William Kent Krueger here. People spoke well of Aurora and its businesses; one couple from out of the area had never been here, and said they so enjoyed it they may come back for an annual weekend visit. To date, 128 children and 15 teens are signed up to participate in this summer's reading programs. The programs will conclude on July 18 with a children's music and dance program at the Community Center by the Zinghoppers. Children and teens are encouraged to report their reading totals by July 18 to be entered in the top reader contest. School aged children should also come in to claim any earned county fair "Read and Win" coupons".

Deputy Sheriff Bernie Mettler reported that Deputy Schendel will be leaving the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department as she has been hired by the Hoyt Lakes Police Department.

The new truck has been outfitted and is up and running. It will be put into full service in October 2015.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Hess reported that the Aurora HRA has forwarded the minutes of their June 16, 2014 Minutes. The HRA is recommending the City pay Randy Mattson the remaining balance due on the contract for deed for the property near Knuti Drive. The HRA also has received notice of resignation of two of its members.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to proceed with final payment on the contract for deed between the City and Randy Mattson for the property near Knuti Drive. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to accept resignation of Ron Harpin from Housing and Redevelopment Authority and sending a letter of appreciation for years of service on the board. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize advertising for vacant position on the HRA board vacated by R. Harpin. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to accept resignation of Steve Biondich from Housing and Redevelopment Authority and sending a letter of appreciation for his service on the board. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize advertising for vacant position on the HRA board vacated by S. Biondich. MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hess stated that the following minutes were received: Animal Control Report for June 2014, the Aurora Tree Committee Minutes of June 3, 2014 and Aurora Fire Department, June 11, 2014 Minutes. The Aurora Fire Department has received notice of resignation of one of its members. Councilor Worshek asked at what point we would be advertising again for firefighters. Councilor Cromley, liaison to the Fire Department, stated that they would like to advertise for replacement firefighters in August 2014.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to accept the resignation of Angela Bealka from the Aurora Fire Department and to send a letter of appreciation for her dedication and service to the City of Aurora.

Mayor Hess stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has presented the minutes from their June 9, 2014 and June 24, 2014 meetings for approval.

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the presented permit requests and have forwarded their recommendations in the June 9, 2014 minutes.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following Zoning Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission from their June 9, 2014 meeting:

- **Carlo Del Caro – 314 S 1st Street East in order to install a fence in rear yard**

- **Kristen Johnson – 200 E 6th Street South in order to install a fence in rear yard and a new roof on house**
- **Steve & Deanne Ceglar – 201 East 4th Avenue North in order to install a fence in rear yard**

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following Residential Improvement Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission from their June 9, 2014 meeting:

- **Richard & Michele Lammi – 613 Central Avenue West in order to install replace shingles on house and attached garage and add a new egress window**
- **Joan Burkhort – 321 Central Avenue West in order to replace existing windows**
- **Lawrence Peggarr – 325 South 5th Street West in order to replace existing windows**
- **Warren Hauschild – 713 Summit Street in order to install a new roof on house**
- **John Barry – 315 W 2nd Avenue North in order to install a new roof on house and replacement windows**
- **Ellen Rodley – 704 Maple Drive in order to install a New Roof on Garage**
- **John DuShane – 21 E 5th Avenue North in order to install a New Roof on House & Garage**

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the presented permit requests and have forwarded their recommendations in the June 24, 2014 minutes.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following Zoning Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission from their June 24, 2014 meeting:

- **David & Siri Soltvedt – 310 Midland Drive in order to install a fence in rear yard**
- **Kris Dickinson – 5660 Lane 55 in order to install a new Residential Structure (2800 sq. ft)**
- **Joshua Grooms & Melisa Makela – 304 Main Street South in order to install a fence in rear yard**

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following Residential Improvement Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission from their June 24, 2014 meeting:

- **Ronald Harpin – 212 S 6th Street East in order to install a new Roof on House**
- **Bruce & Marge Cornelius – 728 Arrowhead Street in order to replace existing windows and a new roof**

MOTION CARRIED

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has received a letter of resignation from Steve Biondich for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to accept the resignation of Steve Biondich from the Planning and Zoning Commission and send a letter of appreciation.

MOTION CARRIED.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize advertising for the vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Commission. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that the R100 and the 4th of July reported to have gone well. Both events would not have gone as planned without the support of city staff, the Aurora Sheriff's Office, and the numerous volunteers. All are greatly appreciated. He stated he would like a budget meeting to be set very soon. The new hosts at Whiteface have stated that they like the area and really expressed how much they like Aurora.

Councilor Lislegard stated it has been an extremely busy month and that the fourth of July was good. The newspapers have not had good news lately. The delay of Highway 53 has a negative impact on mining; the denial of the variance for Mesabi Nugget is not good news, Antofagasta's decision to not partner with Duluth Metals is going to pose a challenge. He expressed his frustration with the delays, including with PolyMet, and the need to continue with mining in the area without further delays. He and Councilor Smolich attended a meeting with IRRRB Commissioner Sertich regarding creating an opportunity for Northeastern MN to meet with the State Department Commissioners to find out where we are in the permitting process for the area. This meeting will be conducted through the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS). Ron Dicklich, former RAMS director has retired and RAMS will be re-purposed with new Director. More information will be provided to the Council about this meeting when it becomes available.

Councilor Smolich stated that the Highway 53 Task Force group will begin meeting again. The R100 was again held in Aurora, with Ken Corbett doing a wonderful job as well as 60-80 volunteers. The Ed Berdice Field is being maintained and worked on by Chris Shuck and volunteers. He recently attended the Support Our Steel Rally with about 2000 other people. 4th of July/Freedom Fete is coming up, and they are always looking for fundraising opportunities. He gave compliments to summer workers on how wonderful a job they are doing with the rotten weather that we have been having. Mayor Hess is again offering Arts & Crafts for the area kids. The Mesabi East School under the direction of Food Service Director Dan Darbo is serving over 100 kids daily with their free breakfast/lunch program. This program is open to any child in the area who may need a meal. Northern Lights Music Festival is going to be in town July 1-20th.

Councilor Cromley reported that the Special Olympics will be conducting a car wash at the Fire Hall on August 9, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. He complimented the full time staff and summer crew on the great job they have done in town.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess stated that the Northern Lights Music Festival has been very busy with the first opera of the season coming up on Friday July 11, 2014. Arts & Crafts is in full swing with 19 kids registered. She also thanked all the volunteers who participated and helped with the 4th of July and R100.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

Ed Modetz thanked the Sheriff's Department for checking on him at 3:00 a.m.

Jan Moore stated that because of great volunteers we have an outstanding school, hospital, and clinic. We can all be so proud of what we have.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to table adopting the ordinance regarding Franchise Fees for Lake County Connections. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to table adopting the ordinance regarding Franchise Fees for Mediacom. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the approve the rezoning of the property to be known as 405 South Main Street Aurora, Minnesota from R-1 Single Family Residential to C-1 Central Business District in order to allow for the construction of a Retail Merchandiser. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the request from Spectrum Community Health at 304 E 3rd Avenue South for a 13.50 variance from the required 15' parking lot setback in order to construct a parking lot 1.5' from the front (south) property line. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve the variance request from Patrick Ogrinc & Julianne Casey of 405 South Main Street to approve the construction of 37 parking spaces, varying from the required 75 parking spaces. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to approve the variance request from Patrick Ogrinc & Julianne Casey of 405 South Main Street to approve a 28.3' variance from the required 50' front yard setback in order to construct a pylon sign 21.7' from the east property line (Main Street). MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the variance request from Patrick Ogrinc & Julianne Casey of 405 South Main Street to approve a 186 sq. ft. variance from the maximum allowed 64 sq. ft. of signage in order to construct up to 250 sq. ft. of signage (150 sq. ft. for the building sign and 96 sq. ft. for the pylon sign). MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to table the correspondence from Coalition of Greater MN Cities regarding membership. MOTION CARRIED

The Clerk's Office has solicited quotes for the dismantling and removal of up to 21 Trees and 14 Stumps. Eighteen of the trees were located in the cemetery, one tree on West 2nd Avenue North, one tree on East 2nd Avenue North, and one in Central Park. The stumps were all in the cemetery. Four quotes were received.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Lislegard to enter into a contract with Wrights Tree Service, in an amount of \$5000.00, for removal of up to 21 Trees and 14

Stumps and to allow the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer to enter into a contract for said services. MOTION CARRIED

The Council reviewed the Communication received from St. Louis County. Three parcels, 100-0080-01180, 100-0015-00310, and 100-0030-00775 are going to be made available for public sale on the next tax sale.

Moved by Liselgard and supported by Cromley to offer St. Louis County \$1.00 for each of the three tax forfeited parcels 100-0080-01180, 100-0015-00310, and 100-0030-00775. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Liselgard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2014-17 Authorizing Mayor and Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to Execute Agreements to Purchase Tax Forfeit Property Located at 18 E 4th Avenue North. MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hess stated that she was approached by the Up North Quilt Guild about the fee for the rental of the Community Center for the quilt show during Aurora Patriotic Days. As they are not part of the 4th of July Committee, the City Clerk's Office has made them pay the fee for the rental of the Community Center. The fee was increased this year to \$125 for the entire building. However, the Northern Lights Music Festival is using the building for free, so the entire building is not available, even though the Guild is paying the fee for the entire building. Mayor Hess suggested that because it is such a big draw to Aurora that the City may want to consider waiving the fee.

Moved by Liselgard and supported by Worshek to authorize the use of the front two sections of the Aurora Community Center by the Up North Quilters Guild for two days during the Aurora Patriotic Days at no charge. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion ensued on the State of MN Legislature has granted the City of Aurora through the Taconite Tax Relief Fund \$257,000 for a "Shovel-Ready" project. Proposals were received by JPJ Engineering Inc. and the recommendation is to award the bid for the base project of 1st Street North from 2nd Street East to 4th Street East to Casper Construction Inc. in the amount of \$289,451.50.

Moved by Liselgard and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution No. 2014-18 accepting the bid from Casper Construction Inc. for the North 1st Street East from 2nd Street to 4th Street project and authorize Mayor and Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer to enter into a contract with Casper Construction Inc., in the amount of \$289,451.50, for the North 1st Street East from 2nd Street to 4th Street Project. MOTION CARRIED

The expansion of the Cemetery was discussed. The Cemetery Board has been working with Benchmark Engineering on Phase I of the Cemetery expansion which is to include water lines, drainage, and creation of 200' of roadway. Bids were sought for Phase I, and recommendation has been received from Benchmark Engineering to award the bid for Phase I of the North Cemetery Expansion to Hibbing Excavating Inc. in the amount of \$43,580.00.

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2014-19 accepting the bid from Hibbing Excavating Inc for the Forest Hill Cemetery North Expansion – Phase I in the amount of \$43,580.00. MOTION CARRIED

The blight condition at 436 S 2nd Street East was discussed. The property owner has been cited. Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer See-Benes would like to move forward with cleanup of the property. A bio-hazard team will be brought in to clean the property and remove garbage. Councilor Worshek asked who would pay for this service. Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer See-Benes stated that the City would pay for the cost up front and then assess the fees to the property as a Special Assessment to be paid with the property taxes. Councilor Worshek stated he would like to see a cap on the amount spent for such cleanup.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2014-20, ordering the Abatement of Nuisance Conditions at 436 S 2nd Street East, Aurora with a maximum costs to the City of \$1000.00. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Hess and supported by Smolich to table the discussion regarding a rental ordinance until such time as further information can be received. MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Hess stated that the next regular meeting date is Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. However, we need to set up a special meeting to discuss the 2015 Street Project and AFSCME Request regarding Biwabik Agreement.

Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to set a Special Meeting for July 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. with the agenda to be as follows: 2015 Budget; 2015 Street Projects; AFSCME Request regarding Biwabik Agreement. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer