

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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

**ABSENT:** Councilor Lislegard

**ALSO PRESENT:** Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; City Attorney Mike Kearney; Bernie Mettler, Aurora Sheriff's Dept.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the following minutes, as presented: October 1, 2013 Regular Council Meeting; October 15, 2013 Special Council Meeting; and October 18, 2013 Special Council Meeting. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the receipts in the amount of \$85,355.72 as for October 2013 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the disbursements in the amount of \$340,595.42 for October 2013 as presented. MOTION CARRIED**

Fire Chief Bryan Cromley stated that seven (7) applications were received. After the interview process and fit testing, the committee has recommended that the City hire R. Siltman and J. Hill as firefighters.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve hiring Joseph Hill and Russell Siltman as firefighters contingent upon the completion of background checks and pre-employment physicals. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to receive and file the following correspondence: Norshor Agency Inc. regarding Option for Local Agent for League of MN Cities Insurance Trust, MN DNR State Executive Council Meeting Regarding Mineral Leases, St. Louis County Auditor regarding 2014 County Assessor Services, St Louis County Environmental Services Dept. regarding Ordinance 61 Draft, regarding St. Louis County Subsurface Sewage Treatment, Range Shrine Circus request for Advertisement , St. Louis County Land & Minerals Dept regarding Classification of State Tax Forfeited Land, ARDC Regarding Nominations for St. Louis County ARDC Representative. MOTION CARRIED**

Lynn Voss, Aurora Chamber President, was present to discuss the Iron Range Tourism Board. As per State Statute, the city's 3% lodging tax goes towards the Tourism Boards. Grants are given from the board for projects that increase tourism in the area. December 10, 2013 is the Annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party at the American Legion. All Chamber Members are invited to attend.

Paula Chapman updated the City Council on activities at the Library.

Ed Modetz stated that the damaged bench near the Columbarium has been fixed. The concrete sealer has been placed on the Columbarium cement. City crews are working on removing the fence in the Cemetery.

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission has conducted a Public Hearing Rezoning of Parcel Codes 100-0080-00690, 100-0080-00695, 100-0080-00693, located on the corner of East 3rd Avenue South and South 2nd Street East, from R-1 Single Family Residential to R-3 Multifamily Residential as requested by the Aurora HRA. It is the recommendation to approve the rezoning of this request.

**Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve Resolution No. 2013-34, approving the Rezoning of Property Identified as PC# Parcel Codes 100-0080-00690, 100-0080-00695, 100-0080-00693, Aurora, Minnesota. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following Zoning Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission: Richard & Marcy Keil at 306 W 1<sup>st</sup> Ave North to Replace Front Steps and Ren Padgett at 113 North Main Street in order to install a New Awning 24' In Length, 3' High. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the following Residential Improvement Permits as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission: Bobbi And Robert Thuringer at 716 Maple Drive for New Roofing; Richard & Marcy Keil at 306 W 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North for new siding and windows; Barbara A. Saliski at 105 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street W for New Roof On House and Garage; Mary & Bob Hall at 301 E 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South to install new roof. MOTION CARRIED**

Councilor Worshek stated that he noticed that the trees have been planted in the Cemetery, they are looking good. The blue house on the corner of Central Avenue and Main Street has been demolished. It is looking really good. Pine Grove Park is wrapping up with the completion of the dugouts. He congratulated Scott Smolich and Mary Hess on the recent election. Worshek also extended a thank you to those who also ran as it is good to have more folks interested in City politics. Veterans Day is November 11 and a day to remember all who have served. He extended a safe deer hunting season to all.

Councilor Smolich congratulated Worshek and Mayor Hess on recent election. He sent a thank you to the voters. Mesabi East School will be having a Veterans Day Program on November 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. All are encouraged to attend. Pumpkinfest was well attended this year. Pine Grove Park work is wrapping up with bleacher work and dugouts. The field will be very nice when it is done. The demolition of the blue house on corner of Main and Central is good. The cemetery is good. 1<sup>st</sup> Street Project has been wrapped up for the season. Fire Hall painting is completed. A problem with a beaver on Lake St. James has been reported.

Councilor Cromley gave congratulations to those who won the recent City election. At the Fire Hall they are working on some projects that need to be taken care of. New people at the Fire Department are settling into their roles. He expressed a thank you to all those who applied for the recent Firefighter posting.

Mayor Hess congratulated Councilors Worshek and Smolich on the recent election. She thanked the citizens for their support and stated that she is happy to be serving as Mayor. She stated that the Ed Berdice Field at the Pine Grove Park is almost complete and it is really looking good. She has been busy showing the former clinic to a prospective tenant. The Union Hall is being cleaned up. A Veterans Day Program will be held on Friday November 8 at the School. The Holiday Heritage Festival will be held December 13-14, 2013. Tickets for the dinner on December 13, 2013 are available for purchase from the American Legion, City Hall, Aurora Drug, and Bradach Lumber. Mary Mulari & Doug Gregor have approached the City to ask about having the tree behind the former Barry's Up North building lit up for Christmas. Donations for the lighting are being accepted at City Hall.

Councilor Cromley stated that grants for the purchase of a new fire truck are being sought. The pumps were tested as part of the ISO Rating Audit. We received a 73 on the No. 2 engine. This does not meet regulations and we must have a replacement plan in the works in order to keep the ISO rating. FEMA grants have been released for application with a 95/5 match. SCBA grant may be submitted at the same time.

Mayor Hess reported that Chris Shuck is on the mend and is receiving radiation treatments for his cancer.

John Jammick from JPJ Engineering was present to update the Council on the North 1<sup>st</sup> Street East/Central Avenue project. He stated the curbs have been placed and the 1<sup>st</sup> lift of blacktop has been laid. The 2<sup>nd</sup> lift will be done in the spring as well as sod and restoration. The project is approximately 82% complete.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve Pay Request #3 to Jola and Sopp in the amount of \$195,386.63. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize entering into an agreement with Walker, Giroux and Hahne in the amount of \$21,400 for audit services for the 2013 fiscal year. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to authorize advertising for a Rink Attendant for the 2013-2014 season. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Cromley to authorize sending up to two (2) council members to Local Board of Appeals and Equalization Training before December 1, 2013. MOTION CARRIED**

AFSCME has provided a request to begin negotiations. Mayor Hess stated this item will be discussed at the Special City Council Meeting on November 12, 2013. The following items will also be placed on this agenda: Budgets, Holland Park, Canvass Votes, Lease of Former Clinic Building, Contract Negotiations & Set Negotiating Committee, Scenic Acres Request and Committee for Proposed School Facilities on City Property.

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to authorize selling the following surplus items using a competitive bidding website 1985 Ford L-8000 Flat Bed Truck (Truck #6); 1969 Osh Kosh Mobile Blower; John Deere Lawn Tractor; Xl Hustler Lawn Mower; 1995 4x4 F-250 With Liftgate & Boss Plow; Portable Welder (Non-Functional); Tennis Court Pole Lights (4 Poles & Fixtures); Christmas Decorations; Clark Loader (To Be Sold After New One Is Purchased In Early 2014); Two (2) Furnaces From Rec Bldg (90+% Efficient Condensating); Hydraulic Fittings Machine & Fittings (From Ltv Surplus Sale). MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Hess and supported by Worshek to adopt Resolution No. 2013-35 accepting a donation from a private donor in the amount of \$15,000 for Pine Grove Park. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to adopt Ordinance No 66 an ordinance of the City of Aurora, Minnesota, amending City Code, Title V, Chapter 50: Utilities Generally, Section 50.13, Paragraph B (5) by amending provisions relating to BILLING, PAYMENT & DELINQUENCY. MOTION CARRIED**

**Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to adopt Ordinance No. 67, an ordinance of the City of Aurora, Minnesota, amending City Code, Title XV, Chapter 153: Zoning, Section 153.007 Variances, Subd B, Paragraph 2 by amending provisions relating to ZONING. MOTION CARRIED**

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.