

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
AURORA COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
5:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mayor Hess; Councilors Cromley, Smolich, Worshek

ABSENT: Councilor Lislegard

ALSO PRESENT: Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; Mike Kearney, City Attorney

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to approve the following minutes, as presented: Year End Meeting of January 13, 2015, Reorganization Meeting of January 13, 2015, and Special Council Meeting of January 27, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSMENTS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the receipts for January 2015 in the amount of \$139,527.42 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following disbursements for January 2015 in the amount of \$180,998.29

ALLIED GENERATORS	766.82	FASTENAL COMPANY	14.42
AMERICAN BANK 3761	50.22	FRONTIER	1,122.00
AMERICAN BANK 8217	1,709.83	GECRB AMAZON	267.24
AMERICAN BANK 8928	3,771.15	GMRPT COALITION	150.00
AMERICAN BANK 8977	381.35	HAWKINS INC.	163.33
ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES INC.	1,010.00	HEISEL BROTHERS INC.	2,138.31
ARROW AUTO	420.95	IIMC	155.00
AT & T MOBILITY	293.49	IRYA	250.00
AURORA DRUG	14.17	JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	42,265.60
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	338.91	L & M - VIRGINIA	93.67
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	494.31	MENARDS - VIRGINIA	34.97
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	494.31	MESABA HEATING A-C PLUMBING	109.95
BRADACH LUMBER	553.71	MESABI EAST SCHOOLS ISD 2711	3,219.43
C & C WINGER, INC.	4,540.00	MESABI SIGN COMPANY, INC.	70.00
CARQUEST AURORA	425.82	METRO SALES	314.71
CHEMSEARCH	394.86	MIDWEST TAPE	107.06
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	MIKE MOTORS	2,315.98
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	151.41	MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	7,816.10
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	350.00	MINNESOTA POWER	9,411.05
EAST RANGE SHOPPER	249.43	MN DNR WATERS	570.83
ERA LABORATORIES	798.54	MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	300.00

MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY	13.00	ST. LOUIS COUNTY RECORDER	20.00
MN PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY	12,099.58	TITAN MACHINERY	248.53
MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	225.00	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	500.00
MN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION	250.00	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	320.04
MN STATE FIRE CHIEFS ASSOC.	150.00	ULTIMATE BODY AND FRAME	3,720.75
MN UC FUND	910.07	UNITED TRUCK BODY COMPANY	30.11
NATIONAL PEN COMPANY	189.40	US BANK	57,443.75
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	USA BLUE BOOK	176.04
PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	106.50	VERIZON	33.36
PORTABLE JOHN	98.00	VERIZON WIRELESS	85.07
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	839.13	VESSCO, INC.	487.14
RANGE PAPER	221.23	VIVID DESIGN	152.50
RANGE TIMES	204.63	WINTER EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.	281.88
SCHINDLER ELEVATOR CORPORATION	560.11	WISCONSIN CENTRAL	322.68
SEH	5,067.77	WM RECYCLE AMERICA	37.80
SELCO	91.00	WOLFMAN SERVICES	400.00
SHRED RIGHT	15.00	ZEE	189.79
SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	387.78	ZIEGLER INC.	250.29
SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	94.35	ZUPS	8.99
ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	216.68		

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Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the Payroll for January 2015 in the amount of \$102,879.34. MOTION CARRIED

MOVING PERMITS

NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to receive and file the following correspondence: St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina regarding upcoming St. Louis County Board Meeting on December 1, 2015; Habitat for Humanity Winter Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser on February 5, 2015; Minnesot

a Pollution Control Agency Biosolids Annual Report Submission/NPDES Permit for 2014; St. Louis County regarding Meetings regarding creation of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan; Range Times Regarding Designation of Newspaper for 2015 and Wade Klingsporn of Vermilion Community College thanking the City of Aurora and its Employees for Tour.

MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Training Requests of Britt See-Benes to attend the following: MCFOA Region Meeting to be held on February 13, 2015 in Bigfork, MN and MCFOA Clerk's Conference to be held March 17-20, 2015 in Red Wing MN.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM

NONE

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Mayor Hess read a report prepared by Paula Chapman, Librarian. This winter's adult winter reading program is well on its way, with 45 adults currently signed up to participate. The program runs through March 6, so there's still plenty of time to sign up and read, and possibly win prize drawings! Quite a few people are using their Kindles to borrow and read library e-books through the Arrowhead Library System. For those who would like to learn more about how to use Kindles to read library books, the library is offering a Tech Training session on just that subject. The workshop will be held at the Aurora Public Library on Thursday, February 12, at 1:30 pm.

The library currently has, through Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the Arrowhead Library System, a number of free tickets to three regional events: a concert by the Suchon Wind Quintet at the Goodman Auditorium in Virginia, on Tuesday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m.; a concert of swing, Gypsy, and jazz music by Harmonious Wail at the Hibbing High School Auditorium, on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.; and a Children's Theater Company production of the *Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* at the Myles Reif Performing Art Center in Grand Rapids, on Friday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m. The library periodically receives tickets as they are available, so anyone looking for an affordable outing can make sure check with the library to see what tickets are available.

This month, the Centennial Committee and the Aurora Friends of the Library will hold the final Centennial event of the year: a Holiday Open House at the library on Thursday, December 11, from 2:00-4:00 pm. They will provide complimentary hot beverages and various goodies—and they are some wonderful bakers! The library has also invited various local and regional authors to attend the event and offer books for sale and signing. 12 authors have accepted the invitation; it will be a wonderful opportunity for those who like to purchase unique gifts with a local connection.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to table the request from the Cemetery Board to consider extending the road access between Block 17 & 24 to Highway 110 in the Cemetery until further information can be received. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to receive and file the following reports: Cemetery Board – January 29, 2015; Animal Control – January 2015 Report; East Range Joint Powers Board –December 16, 2015 Minutes; Ambulance Report – 4th Quarter 2014; Aurora Fire Department – January 14, 2015 Minutes; Aurora Public Library Board – January 27, 2015; Park Committee – January 27, 2015; HRA – January 20, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Worshek reported that we have the Street Project in 2015 set up but that he would like to set up a Strategic Planning meeting, at least once a month to discuss other areas. There will be a Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) Meeting will be held on 02/05/15 in Mt. Iron. He suggested that the Mayors of the communities that are in RAMS meet to set the legislative priorities for the area. The RAMS Annual Meeting will be held on February 13, 2015.

Councilor Smolich stated he attended the Coalition of Greater MN Cities, lobbyists for Greater MN. They appear to be a good organization with a lot of useful information which will benefit the City. He thanked the neighboring communities for attending with us as well. He stated he felt we sent quite a message by sitting together as an area at the meeting. He stated he attended the Joint Water Supply meeting with Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes, and Town of White as this project is still moving forward. He also attended the Highway 4 extension meeting in Biwabik. While this issue does not affect us directly it is important for the area for EMS Safety issues and school district transportation issues. Smolich attended the Iron Range Youth in Action Meeting at Fortune Bay on February 9, 2015. The Pepsi Challenge will be held on March 7, 2015. The East Range PD has been in business for one month, with over 300 calls.

Councilor Cromley reported that the 4th Annual VFD Fun Run will be held on March 7, 2015.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess reported that Spectrum Aurora Carefree Living has opened today with people moving in. An Open House will be held on February 19, 2015. She also attended Legislative Days in St. Paul. She felt that we have accomplished some good things down there. On February 14, 2015 the White Community Hospital Foundation will be holding a dance at the Community Center. Tickets are \$15.00 a person. There will be a DJ, snacks, coffee, and BYOB. There will be various baskets and prizes. Tickets are available at Aurora Drug and at the door. The ACT on Alzheimer's initiative has completed their survey of the community. Fifty surveys have been received and entered into the program, which then gives us the highs and lows of what we have in the area for services and what is needed for those with Alzheimer's or dementia. Another meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. on 02/04/15 at the Essentia Hospital in Aurora. Another grant will be sought to assist in making our community more Alzheimer's or dementia aware.

Councilor Smolich reported that Councilor Lislegard was not able to attend the meeting tonight as he was at the State Capital with Hoyt Lakes Mayor Skelton testifying regarding non-ferrous mining.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Hess read the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 51, Garbage and Refuse Collection and Disposal which was discussed at the January 2015 Meeting.

Bill Johnson, 317 West Central Ave. stated that we have alleys so that we can place our garbage cans in them. Personally he feels moving the garbage pickup to the street would be very inconvenient. Those that have steps up to their house will have a hard time getting the garbage out to the street. He stated that those that have driveways can drag their cans down to the end of the driveway, but those who do not have driveways will have a hard time getting their garbage to the front of the house. He asked how are old widows going to get it into the front of the street. He stated there is too much decrepit property now and placing garbage cans in the front of the houses is going to add to the blight. He also stated that there has been garbage pickup for 60 years in the alleys, why is there a problem now?

Betty Klemensich, 310 West 1st Avenue North, stated that she has two sets of stairs to go down that she would have a hard time navigating. She also stated her sidewalk is not plowed, which is not an issue but if she had to navigate that and the snowbank to get garbage out there, she would have

difficulties. She goes out the back door now with her garbage and she has never had trouble with garbage pickup.

A resident of 5th Street South , stated that she would not be able to haul it out the front due to hardships.

Anne Sandvig, 15 South 5th Street West, stated that she lives in the alley between 5th and 6th Street West and the driveways all about the alleys. The garbage truck driver only has to make two runs, there is no good reason to change the path of his route. It would be a hardship for all who live on a hill to get their garbage out to the front.

A resident of 6th Street South, stated that it would be very hard for her and other residents to get the garbage from the house to the front of the house. Everyone on her street would have to move the garbage from the back of the house to the front with great hardship.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to table the proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 51, Garbage and Refuse Collection and Disposal for further research. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve Ordinance 90.05 Entitled Tree Planting and Maintenance. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Smolich to table approving the Emerald Ash Borer Plan for City Trees as presented by Tree Committee until the next meeting. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the verbal request from AFSCME Representative Ida Rukavina to Administrator See-Benes to ask for approval of sending two employees to AFSCME Day on the Hill at the State Capital. The Local Union pays for the expenses; the employee would be paid his regular wages for the day. Staffing was discussed. The date was not known at the time of the meeting. (Day on the Hill is March 25, 2015).

Moved by Mayor Hess and supported by Smolich to approve sending up to two (2) AFSCME employees to AFSCME Day on the Hill, with expenses to be paid by AFSCME Local, contingent upon approval by the Public Works Supervisor based on workload. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo from Knights of Columbus Bishop Baraga Council #4477 on 03/22/15 and 10/25/15. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Conditional Use License for Richard Keil d/b/a RK Welding at 306 W 1st Avenue North contingent upon the applicant providing all necessary material. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to approve the request from the Aurora Public Library Board to authorize hiring Michelle Lammi as an Alternate Library Assistant to be used on an as needed, on-call basis. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2015-003 Authorizing Delinquent Utility Assessments to be certified as a Lien in September 2015. MOTION CARRIED

Administrator See-Benes stated that Items 18.6 and 18.7 on the agenda were requested to be withdrawn by the applicant.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to set a Special City Council Meeting/Strategic Planning Meeting on February 17, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the 2015 Street Project, Strategic Planning, Repayment Request for Utilities. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer