

MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY/TOWN GOVERNMENT CENTER
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
3:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer; Wayne Thuringer, Public Works Director; John Jamnick, JPJ Engineering; Rod Salo, HRA; Linda Cazin, HRA

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

John Jamnick, JPJ Engineering stated that bids were received for the 2015 Street Project. Five bids were received overall with Casper Construction Inc. the lowest bidder in the amount of \$4,236,646.50 for Parts 1 & 2 and \$78,242.50 for Add Alternate No.1 (Railroad Avenue).

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to adopt Resolution No. 2015-007, accepting bid from Casper Construction, Inc., for the 2015 Street Improvement Project in the amount of \$4,236,646.50 for Parts 1 & 2 and \$78,242.50 for Add Alternate No.1 (Railroad Avenue) and authorizing Mayor and Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer to enter into an agreement and sign all necessary documents, contingent upon City obtaining all required financing. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to set the Special Assessment Hearing for Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. MOTION CARRIED

Jamnick asked for clarification on the City of Aurora Special Assessment Policy when a property owner was affected by three assessments. For this project, assessments were calculated for those parcels that were affected by two assessments, with one of those assessments being reduced by half (the short side). In one case in the 2015 Street Project, there is one parcel that will be affected by three assessments.

Moved by Hess and supported by Smolich to apply the following Assessment Structure for the 2015 Street Project for Parcel Code 100-0015-00280 as follows: full assessment for the assessment abutting the street overlay, reduced assessment for the alley reconstruction, and waive the assessment for the avenue reconstruction. MOTION CARRIED

Rod Salo & Linda Cazin of the HRA presented the City Council the HRA's Objective C of the HRA's Five Year Strategic Plan. Objective C is Downtown Beautification. At this time,

the HRA is seeking partnerships with groups and other organizations to place flower pots in the downtown area. Councilor Worshek expressed concern regarding the Spruce Up Aurora group. Public Works Director Thuringer will contact vendors regarding pricing for new light poles. Administrator See-Benes will contact vendors regarding weed control in the downtown area. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

On March 3, 2015 and March 21, 2015 the Council had discussed an increase on the 2015 Water Rates. A committee was formed previously to meet with the MN Rural Water Association to look over our rates for water. The Committee has ascertained that we are not taking in enough money to cover our operating costs.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2015-008, authorizing increasing the water rates effective July 1, 2015, as follows: increase the water residential base fee to \$15.75, the water commercial base fee to \$15.75 and the Commercial Consumption Fee as follows: Usage of 5001 – 50,000 gallons = \$3.15 per 1000, 50,001 – 100,000 gallons = \$3.50 per 1000, 100,001 – 150,000 gallons = \$4.00 per 1000, 150,001 – 999,999 gallons = \$4.50 per 1000. MOTION CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding the state of the local economy and the need for diversification in the area. Capital Equipment planning in the budgets was also discussed.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer