

**MINUTES
CITY OF AURORA COUNCIL MEETING
AURORA COMMUNITY CENTER
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015
5:00 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: None

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

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to approve the following minutes, as presented: Regular Meeting – March 3, 2015; Special Council Meeting – March 23, 2015; and Special Council Meeting – March 31, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & DISBURSMENTS

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the receipts for March 2015 in the amount of \$96,653.35 as presented. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to approve the following disbursements for March 2015 in the amount of 220,191.05 and Payroll in the amount of \$71,599.87.

ADVANCED MINNESOTA	1,200.00	CULLIGAN OF NORTHEAST MINNESOT	35.90
AIM ELECTRONICS	1,600.00	DULUTH COATING SYSTEMS	5,865.00
AMERICAN BANK 7110	468.78	EAST RANGE JOINT POWERS BOARD	3,750.00
AMERICAN BANK 8928	251.14	EAST RANGE POLICE DEPT	29,166.67
AMERICAN BANK 8977	577.50	EDWARDS OIL	278.96
ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM	2.50	ERA LABORATORIES	756.94
AT & T MOBILITY	294.02	ESSENTIA HEALTH	50.00
ATTACHMENTS DIRECT LLC	58.36	FASTENAL COMPANY	82.54
AURORA ELECTRIC	9,760.00	FIRSTLAB	42.95
AUTO VALUE VIRGINIA	264.37	FRONTIER	1,206.85
BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS	487.02	G & K SERVICES	48.32
BISS LOCK INC.	100.00	GECRB AMAZON	184.17
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD OF MN	494.31	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	42.65
BRADACH LUMBER	341.43	HAWKINS INC.	223.50
C & C WINGER, INC.	9,727.00	HD SUPPLY WATERWORKS, LTD.	254.36
CARQUEST AURORA	315.23	J & R WASTEWATER SERVICE	7,579.45
CHEMSEARCH	154.63	JOLA & SOPP EXCAVATING, INC.	18,459.50
CHRIS VREELAND	201.18	JPJ ENGINEERING, INC.	10,828.00
CHRISTENSEN PARTS SERVICE INC	251.15	LAKEHEAD CONSTRUCTORS	30,730.00
CITY OF HOYT LAKES	467.04	LAWSON PRODUCTS INC.	118.27
CLIMATE AIR, INC.	5,570.00	LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES	120.00
COLOSIMO, PATCHIN, KEARNEY	833.00	LUNDGREN MOTORS INC.	115.32
COMPUDYNE INC.	28.75	MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT	748.57

MATCO TOOLS	51.90	ROGERS ONLINE	6,752.00
MENARDS - VIRGINIA	159.91	SHRED RIGHT	15.00
METRO SALES	429.18	SKUBIC BROS. INTERNATIONAL	122.52
MIDWEST TAPE	152.21	SPEE DEE DELIVERY SERVICE INC.	93.13
MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES	4,890.98	ST CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY	430.00
MINNESOTA POWER	8,015.56	ST. LOUIS COUNTY AUDITOR	150.00
MN DEPT OF HEALTH	150.00	STATE OF MINNESOTA	20.00
MN UC FUND	1,690.13	TACONITE TIRE SERVICE INC.	50.75
NARDINI FIRE EQUIPMENT COMPANY	1,301.60	THE CONTROL COMPANY	480.00
NORTHERN STATE BANK	6,250.23	TOMAHAWK FORD	13,314.93
NORTHLAND FIRE & SAFETY VA	170.00	U. S. POSTAL SERVICE	250.00
PORTABLE JOHN	152.21	U.S. POSTMASTER 1	321.56
PRAXAIR DISTRIBUTION INC. - 40	35.30	USA BLUE BOOK	1,380.04
PRINTING SYSTEMS INC.	709.15	VERIZON	10.98
RADKO IRON & SUPPLY INC.	238.37	VERIZON WIRELESS	85.09
RANGE OFFICE SUPPLY	632.54	VIVID DESIGN	155.00
RANGE PAPER	4,423.69	WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP	362.29
RANGE TIMES	73.88	WISCONSIN CENTRAL	284.73
RED ROCK RADIO CORPORATION	154.00	ZEP SALES & SERVICE	90.27
RED TOP CONSTRUCTION LLC	387.50	ZIEGLER INC.	17,521.80
RMS COMPANY	21.90	ZUPS	237.01
ROGER VANCLEAVE	360.00		

MOTION CARRIED

MOVING PERMITS
NONE

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to approve advertising for Summer Youth Workers. MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Smolich and supported by Worshek to receive and file the following correspondence: Mediacom Regarding Change to Channel Lineup; Virginia Elks Lodge Regarding Family Carnival on Sunday, April 19, 2015 from 12:30-2:30 at the Virginia Elks Lodge; St. Louis County Planning Commission Regarding Proposed Draft Zoning Ordinance 62; Lawrence E. Cook regarding Mayor's Letter to Star Tribune; St. Louis County regarding Public Hearing to Consider Amending 2015 Fee Schedule; and St. Louis County regarding Draft Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan. MOTION CARRIED

TRAVEL AND TRAINING REQUEST

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the travel request of Mayor Hess in order to attend the League of Minnesota Cities Minnesota Mayors Association Annual Meeting April 24-25, 2015 in White Bear Lake, MN. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC FORUM
NONE

REPORTS FROM STAFF MEMBERS

Librarian Paula Chapman stated that between programs and story times and circulation, March was an eventful month with the library. 154 5th and 6th graders, along with 29 staff, attended a Civil War history program, and 238 9th-12th graders, along with a 5th grade class, approximately 15 staff, and 30 members of the public attended a concert of Celtic music and dance. At least 49 children and 44 adults attended a Jungle Safari and Zoomobile program offered by the Early Childhood Coalition, with whom the library partners. 9 high school students attended a workshop on doing research using the Electronic Library of Minnesota, and 67 children attended 7 preschool story times. Most of this month's story times featured Minnesota authored and illustrated "Moo!", the book selected for Minnesota's "Every Child a Reader" program. Library systems around the state funded a free copy of the book for every child in a Minnesota Head Start class; the Aurora Friends of the Library funded copies of the book for children who came to each of the other 6 "Moo!" story times. The Friends also funded a new "Moo!" story time in a bag, bringing the total number of story time kits families can check out from the library to 11. Library patrons checked out a total of 1,931 items from the Aurora Public Library in March. April will be an active month as well! This Friday, April 10, the library will be starting a 6-week story time session to be held Friday mornings at 10:30. The library will also be doing Minnesota History Mornings with 2nd graders, featuring the 1930's and including information from the history of Aurora put together for the Centennial. National Library Week falls in April, and the Friends of the Library are funding a prize drawing for anyone who gets a new library card, clears a library account, checks something out from the library, or uses a library computer any time between April 13 and April 24. The Aurora Friends of the Library will hold their spring mini book sale on Thursday, April 16; Friday, April 17, and Monday April 20—at the library during regular library hours. Toward the end of the month, the library is partnering with Mesabi East Community Ed. to offer a program on Straw Bale Gardening, presented by gardener and author Joel Karsten. The program will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 6:00 pm in the Mesabi East Board Room.

Jan Moore, Spruce Up Aurora, stated that believe it or not, Spring IS here! She commended the Public Works crews for the tree trimming in the park and stated how pretty it looks. Spruce Up Aurora is run through donations, she urged all to help continue to keep Aurora pretty by sending in donations of any amount. To make a donation, send them to Jan Moore, 34 South Erie Street. Aurora, MN 55705.

East Range Police Dept. Chief Soular thanked the Public Works staff for their assistance on the office remodel at the Aurora City Hall. He reminded all that it is Blight season and encouraged all to clean up the junk in yards and get the cars licensed. The 1st contact for blight will be verbal, and the department will pursue to the full extent of the City Code when necessary. If you have blight complaints, please contact the Police Department at (218) 225-2000 and leave message with address and specific problem or concern regarding blight. They will look at each complaint they receive.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilor Smolich stated that the Planning and Zoning Commission met on March 24, 2015 and is now forwarding the Residential Improvement Permit for Al Braaten 713 Arrowhead Street in order to install new windows.

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to approve the Residential Improvement Permit of Al Braaten, 713 Arrowhead Street, in order to install new windows. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Lislegard to receive and file the following reports:

Park Committee – March 23, 2015 Minutes; Animal Control – March 2015 Report; East Range Joint Powers Board February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes and March 13, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes; East Range Public Safety Board – February 9, 2015 Minutes; Aurora Fire Department February 11, 2015 Minutes and March 11, 2015 Minutes; Aurora Chamber of Commerce – January 20, 2015 Minutes; HRA – March 10, 2015 Minutes; and Planning & Zoning – March 25, 2015 Minutes. MOTION CARRIED

REPORT FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Lislegard stated that he would like the Planning and Zoning Commission in Aurora to give serious thought to suggesting the Council adopt the State Building Code as part of the Rental Code. It is a challenge in Virginia and he would like a special meeting to discuss this matter further. He commented that it was sad news for the area with the shut downs of the mines in the western part of the Iron Range. As a region, the East Range understands what they are going through and sends our thoughts with all who are affected by this shutdown.

Councilor Worshek stated that he was speaking with his neighbor who stated how happy they are to see the ERPD patrolling in their neighborhood. He stated that he attended a meeting with Congressman Nolan and Representative Jason Metsa regarding steel and trade agreements. Worshek stated that the overall message was that there is basically nothing we can do with the trade agreements, unfortunately.

Councilor Cromley reported that the Fire Department will hold a pancake feed on April 26, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Aurora Community Center. At 2:00 p.m. on April 26, 2015, the department will be participating in Donkey Basketball at the Mesabi East School. Tickets are available for Donkey Basketball at Aurora City Hall, Hoyt Lakes City Hall, and the School. Severe weather awareness week is April 16, 2015. It's a good time to practice your families emergency plans.

Councilor Smolich stated he attended the Iron Range Youth in Action meeting with both Commissioner Nelson and Rukavina in attendance. Dry conditions are continuing so there is a fire ban. The ERPD is getting ready to move into their new office in Aurora City Hall.

Mayor Hess recognized Chris Shuck in the audience and asked if he had a report for the City Recreation Department. C. Shuck thanked his three outdoor rink attendants this year: Max Sieter, Kerry Elmberg, and Randy Mattson for their work at the rink. He is now working with Randy Anderson to get the ballfields ready for the upcoming season. He thanked all the basketball coaches, and continues to keep the gym open on Sundays for all to use. Sign up is going on now for Spring/Summer sports at each City Hall.

REPORT FROM MAYOR

Mayor Hess thanked the Police Department for all their work and said it was nice to see them patrolling through town. Mayor Hess thanked Wayne Thuringer and the Public Works Staff for the fine job this winter. The Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held on April 16, 2015 from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. with sloppy joes and brownie sundaes served.

April 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aurora Community Center the ACT for Alzheimer's Core Action Team invites all community members to attend a dinner to hear what the team is planning to make the area a more dementia capable community.

She stated that also attended the meeting with Nolan and Metsa.

MEETING OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

The Council reviewed the communication from St. Louis County 911 Regarding Renaming of West Portion of Highway 110. The name will now be Old Highway 110.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to table the discussion regarding communication from Jef Hall-Flavin regarding property at 410 South 1st Street East and purchasing the garage until more information is received about fair market value. MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Worshek to deny the request from Vicki Meachem to waive utility charges at 440 S. 2nd Street East and send a letter explaining City policy. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the Proclamation declaring April 16, 2015 "Volunteer Day" in the City of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the Proclamation declaring April 2015 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month". MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to approve the Proclamation declaring April 24, 2015 as "Robert L. Olson Day" in the City of Aurora. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Worshek and supported by Cromley to set the dates of May 13 & 14, 2015 for Spring Curb Side Pickup as the County Landfill is having Hazardous Waste Disposal day on April 14, 2015. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Smolich and supported by Cromley to approve the request from Jane Bradford, Early Childhood Program for one (1) City Staff & City Equipment at the Mesabi East School on April 16, 2015 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. and to authorize overtime for the event. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Smolich to authorize City Staff to submit a grant to MN Power Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 for Interior Furnishings and Kitchen Appliances for Concession Stand at Ed Berdick Field. MOTION CARRIED

Administrator See-Benes reported that item 18.8 was informational to let everyone know that Severe Weather Awareness Week & Statewide Tornado Drill will be held on April 16, 2015 at 1:45 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the 2015 Street Project. The City will need to obtain a GO Bond and Utility Bond to pay for the project. The Special Assessment letters will need to be sent, so the

interest rate for the project must be determined. Administrator See-Benes stated that at past meetings with Springsted Staff, a 5% interest rate was discussed.

Moved by Worshek to adopt the Resolution Declaring Cost To Be Assessed, And Ordering Preparation Of Proposed Assessment with a 4% interest rate on Special Assessments, and payback terms of 20 years. Motion failed for lack of support.

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to adopt Resolution No. 2015-010 Declaring Cost To Be Assessed for the 2015 Street Improvement Project, And Ordering Preparation Of Proposed Assessment with an interest rate of up to 5% on Special Assessments, and payback terms of 20 years.

AYES: Smolich, Cromley, Lislegard, Hess – 4

NAYS: Worshek

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Lislegard and supported by Cromley to set the Special Assessment Hearing for the 2015 Street Improvement Project for 5:00 p.m. on May 5, 2015 at the Aurora Community Center, with the City Council meeting immediately following. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cromley and supported by Worshek to approve the Proclamation declaring April 22, 2015 “Azheimer’s Community Awareness Day” in Aurora. MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to recess the meeting. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting recessed at 5:54 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

Al & Erika Hodnik presented the City of Aurora with a check in the amount of \$12,500.00 as a donation to the City for the Ed Berdice Field. Mr. Hodnik shared some of the fond memories he had of both Ed Berdice and Carl Berdice. The Berdice family has done a lot for the City and with appreciation; the Hodniks dedicated this money to complete the Ed Berdice field.

Moved by Cromley and supported by Smolich to adopt Resolution No. 2015-011, accepting the donation from Al & Erika Hodnik for the Ed Berdice Memorial Field. MOTION CARRIED

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Mary Hess, Mayor

ATTEST:

Britt See-Benes, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer