

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 20th, 2023

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Megan Workman, Council Members: Kathy Galliger, Jason Henke, Julie Miller, Chris Dotzler

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Paul Ryan, Amy Dotzler, Jen Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Megan Workman at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda.**

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the Council Vision Statement, and the hospital road (Bunker Hills) discussion was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Chris Dotzler, and approved with all ayes.

3. **Consent Agenda.**

The following items were included in the consent agenda: - A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke, and approved with all ayes.

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- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 03/06/2023
  - Minutes – Special Work Session – no meeting last time
  
  - Accounts Payable:
    - City of Aitkin  
Batch Name: CAP03202023 - \$27,481.07
    - Liquor Store  
Batch Name: LAP03202023 – \$57,825.41
  - Financial Reports: - Through March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Resolution No. 2023-03-20A
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4. **Public Hearing:** There was no public hearing this evening.

5. **Mayor's Report:** - The mayor talked about the bonding bill and noted that HF0617, and HF2880 are listed in Section 21, Line 50.1 on 3/16/2023, and the Council can watch the progress of this if they desire to do so. She noted there were similar requests from other Cities throughout the state.

6. **Administration Report:**

- Administrator Skrbich noted that he has had contact with Senator Stauber's staff and updated our application for the WWTP, and he also provided letters for support from Aitkin County and Riverwood Medical Center.
- Mike noted that we are beginning our audit and Kari Jacobson will need to work a few additional hours during the audit process.
- Mike noted that Councilor Galliger and he attended a meeting with Chris Dotzler and a group of County and Township officials along with Legislator Brian Johnson. Legislator Ron Kresha was unable to attend. Councilor Galliger and Mike both noted they would want Council direction if they were to continue with this group.

7. **Old Business:**

- There was no old business this evening.

8. **New Business**

- Vision Statement: - The following vision statement was provided by Councilor Heke, and a motion to approve it was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all ayes. "Aitkin strives to be a citizen-focused and welcoming community that provides opportunities for recreation, employment, thriving businesses, and affordable housing with an eye toward the future."
- Bunker Hill Drive – Hospital Road: - Administrator Skrbich and Lon Nicko discussed Riverwood's request for road weight limits relief for them this Spring when they are

bringing in structural steel, span Crete and other heavy materials. Administrator Skrbich is working closely with Bolton & Menk and Lon Nicko to try to come up with a plan to help them get deliveries this Spring. Mike is waiting for follow up from Bolton & Menk.

**9. Committee Reports:**

- Park Committee: - Jason reported on the efforts to provide a proposal to the Klobuchar Funding Request and discussed the efforts to fund the Park Plan. He also mentioned “Plan B” funding if we do not get any funding through the legislature to construct the community field house.
- Tree Committee: - Kathy Galliger talked about the tree meeting and mentioned we will be doing some Arbor Day planting in May. She also discussed the grant and noted that we can only do tree removal in the winter months, and we would like to plant trees that feed birds and animals when we do replanting.
- Personnel Committee: – There was no meeting this month, but the Mayor mentioned we are trying to fill the Accounting Clerk Position.
- Library Committee: - Chris Dotzler mentioned problems with traffic flow, the bike repair stand installation, and possibly doing an Aitkin County Cookbook with the “Friends of the Library” as a fundraiser. They have also requested that we contact the owners of the building to the North to facilitate a repair of the fencing on the North side of the parking lot.

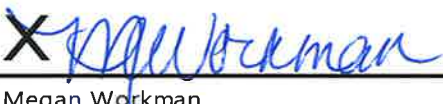
**10. Comments from Visitors:** -There were no comments from visitors this evening.

**11. Closed Session per MN Statute 179A.01-179A.25 for Labor Negotiations:** - At 6:45 PM Councilor Miller made a motion to close the open meeting to discuss labor negotiations. It was seconded by Councilor Henke and approved with all ayes. The Council proceeded to discuss the approval of the Teamster’s Supervisor’s Contract and review the details as they relate to the other contracts we have been negotiating. At 7 PM Councilor Henke made a motion to close the Labor Negotiations and reopen the Council Meeting. It was seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all ayes.

**12. Personnel; Approve Teamsters Local 320 – Supervisory Employees 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2025 Contract:** - A motion was made by Jason Henke to approve the contract, seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all ayes.

**13. Adjournment**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all ayes.

X 

Megan Workman  
Mayor

X 

Mike Skrbich  
City Administrator