

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 17, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Lon Nicko, Brian Pisarek, Mike Hills & Mark Jeffers – Aitkin County, Deb Smolenski, Mary & Bob Gangl

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. **Approval of Agenda.**

A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Resolution 2023-04-17C was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.

3. **Consent Agenda.**

The following items were included in the consent agenda: - A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to pass the consent agenda, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor. Councilor Galliger also thanked Kari Jacobson for improved clarity on the financial reports.

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- Minutes
 - Minutes – Normal Council Meeting 04-03-2023
 - Accounts Payable:
 - City of Aitkin
Batch Name: CAP04172023 \$57,838.15
 - Liquor Store
Batch Name: LAP04172023 \$48,837.38
 - Financial Reports – Second Meeting of the Month
 - Consulting Agreement – Commercial Cleaning Contractors
 - Resolution no. 2023-04-17B Authorized Signatures

4. **Public Hearing:** There was no public hearing this evening.

5. **Mayor's Report:**

- There was no Mayor's report this evening.

6. **Administration Report:**

- Mike discussed Ed Anderson's addition to the EDA and welcomed him to the group.

• **Old Business:**

- Creamery Lot Appraisal – Mike stated that he is currently waiting for a quotation on a commercial real estate appraisal for this property.
- Brian Pisarek mentioned that they believe the river will crest at 16.8 feet by Saturday and they are watching flooding carefully.

7. **New Business**

- Board of Appeal presentation by Mike Dangers, County Assessor - Mike discussed the revaluation of residential properties in 2022 and discussed moving towards completing all of the commercial properties during 2023. He noted that we are now at approximately 90% of real values and the State mandates valuations need to be in the 90-105% range. We are at the low end of that scale.
- Resolution No. 2023-04-17A Transferring Local Board of Equalization to the Aitkin Co. Board. _ A motion was made by Jason Henke to approve the resolution, seconded by Julie Miller. The Mayor called the vote and it was Galliger-yes, Miller-yes, Henke-yes, Dotzler- yes.
- Branding Aitkin Co. / Presentation by Mark Jeffers, Aitkin County Economic Development. - Mark provided us an overview of the program and the thought process that went into its creation. The new slogan is: "Naturally Better in Aitkin." They will be utilizing this as a cornerstone of the marketing efforts for our region. Mark also asked that we try to incorporate this into our signage project.
- Resolution 2023 -04-17C Application funding request to IRRRB for the Community Fieldhouse Project. – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to approve the

resolution, seconded by Jason Henke. The Mayor called the vote and it was Dotzler-yes, Henke-yes, Miller- yes, Galliger – yes.

8. Committee Reports:

- Public Works Facilities. - Councilor Galliger reviewed the high points of the meeting and discussed a problem with a catch basin elevation and a discussion for the need for bathroom updates at the Municipal Liquor Store. There was also a bit of discussion relating to the PUC and 2 forthcoming engineering requests for the Wastewater Plant and future Water Tower Project.
- Park Committee. – Jason Henke provided an overview of the Confluence update and the elements that the Park Committee are currently focused on:
 - A motion was made by Mayor Galliger to have City Administrator Skrbich move forward and solicit bids for the construction of the Community Fieldhouse Project. It was seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.
 - A motion was made by Councilor Henke to approve a contract for a wetland delineation from Maps by Mitch for a total price of \$1900.00 dollars. The motion was seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all in favor. Lon Nicko also mentioned that he has closed the dirt roads in the park until the frost comes out of the ground and that they have put up the Pickleball Nets.
- Personnel. – Administrator Skrbich mentioned that we are considering two contracts for approval this evening and they will be discussed in the closed session portion of the meeting:
 - Approval of Teamsters Local 346; Public Works Employment Contract
 - Approval of Teamsters Local 346; Municipal Liquor Store Employment
 - A motion was made by Councilor Galliger to approve the contracts with Teamsters Local 346 as listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilor Henke and the Mayor polled the Council: Galliger-yes, Miller-yes, Henke-yes, Dotzler-yes.
- Tree Board City of Aitkin -**Arbor Day, May 17th/Mayor Proclamation**
- **Tree City USA Proclamation** – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger, to approve the proclamation, seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all in favor.
- At 7:30 pm, a motion was made by Jason Henke to suspend the open meeting and go into closed session for the negotiating discussion. The motion was seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.

9. Comments from Visitors.

– Fire Chief Brian Pisarek mentioned that they have 4 members retiring and they have been able to recruit 4 new members how hope to be starting by May 9th. He also asked for a motion to approve the purchase of some Fire hose from FBS, our vendor from Minneapolis. Kathy Galliger made a motion to approve the purchase for \$11,300.00 dollars from FBS, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.

- Lon Nicko thanked the Council for allowing them to put on the safety workshop and they had 67 attendees. Councilor Miller thanked him for putting it on.
- Police Chief Ryan informed the public that they will be having a “mock crash” set up for this Wednesday behind the High School.

10. Closed Session per MN Stature 179A.01-179A.25 for Labor Negotiations.


-The Council met in closed session to discuss the remaining open contracts in the City of Aitkin and then went back to their open meeting to vote on the contracts on the agenda. At 7:30 Kathy Galliger made a motion to open the closed session, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.

At 7:50 pm, Councilor Dotzler made a motion to close the closed session and resume the normal council meeting. It was seconded by Councilor Henke and approved with all in favor.

11. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.

X 
Megan Workman
Mayor

X 
Mike Skrbich
City Administrator