

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

July 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: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Mark Jeffers, Noel Bailey, Jessica Seibert, Stan Gustafson, & Mark Wedel

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 an overview of the citizen complaint process be added to old business was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Kathy Galliger, and approved with all in favor.

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 in favor.

-
- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 06/20/2023
 - Minutes – Special Council Meeting 06-28-2023
 - Minutes – Special Work Session 07-12-2023
 - Minutes – PUC 5/16/2023
 - Accounts Payable:
 - City of Aitkin
Batch Name: CAP07172023 - \$172,393.45
 - Liquor Store
Batch Name: LAP07172023 –\$190,307.58
 - Financial Reports: - As of 6/30/2023
 - Resolution No. 2023-07-17A – Accept donation from Kenneth Keller Foundation
 - Resolution No. 2023-07-17B Data Practice; Appointing Responsible Authority
 - Resolution No. 2023-07-17C Authorize & Accept Funds IIRRRB Community Fieldhouse
-

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:**

- Administrator Skrbich thanked the Fireworks Committee and the Aitkin Fire Relief Association for their contributions to the 2023 Fireworks Show. He also noted that he sent a message out to the Firework's Committee that we should have a review meeting and plan for 2024. He thanked Councilor Dotzler for his work on the raffle and Chris also felt we needed a planning meeting.
- Councilor Skrbich noted that he hoped to be able to attend a funding meeting at IRRRB Headquarters in Chisholm on 7-18-2023.

7. **Old Business:**

- INH Abatement – Administrator Skrbich reviewed the financial impacts of granting INH a tax abatement to build 2 apartment buildings, and Councilor Miller made a motion that the Council and Administrator work with David Drown to set up a Public Hearing on August 7th at 6:15 PM to discuss the abatement. The Mayor called the vote and it was Galliger-yes, Miller-yes, Henke-yes, Dotzler-yes. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Citizen Complaint Process – Councilor Miller wanted an overview of the City Complaint Process and it was provided by Administrator Skrbich and Kathy Galliger.

8. **New Business**

- RFQ – Water Tower – Administrator Skrbich and PUC Manager Dave Cluff provided an overview of the process with the EPA and the engineers who responded to the

RFQ needed to select an engineering firm. Dave said we had only Bolton & Menk provide a proposal and asked for approval of their contract. Councilor Galliger made a motion to approve the contract with Bolton & Menk, seconded by Chris Dotzler, and approved with all in favor.

- Special Event Permit; American Peat Technologies/Block North – A motion was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all in favor.
- Welcome to Aitkin Sign Project – Councilor Galliger made a motion to approve the bid from Upland Advertising for the City Sign Project, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.
- Informational Only – Notice of Population from MN State Demographic Center
- Hiring of PT Liquor Store Clerk – This was handled under the Personnel Committee Report
- MOU Between City of Aitkin & AFSCME Council 65 – The MOU regarding Comp Time was discussed, and Julie Miller asked that we produce the amount of overtime utilized in the last couple of years. Several Councilors felt it was a reopening of contract negotiations and wanted more information. She made a motion to table it until the 8/7 Council Meeting and thought we should invite the AFSCME Employees or their BA to attend our meeting. The motion was seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.

9. Committee Reports:

- Public Works – Street Supervisor, Lon Nicko discussed purchasing a patching machine and presented multiple quotes. A motion was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Jason Henke and the Mayor called the vote: Dotzler-yes, Henke-yes, Miller-yes, Galliger-yes. The vote passed with all in favor.
- Budget Committee – no report
- Planning and Zoning- no report
- Park Committee
Grant Contract #LW27-04124 – Amendment #5 Hockey Rink/Fieldhouse Project – A motion was made by Julie Miller to approve the change to the grant agreement, seconded by Jason Henke and the Mayor called the vote: Dotzler-no, Henke-yes, Miller-yes, Galliger-yes. The motion passed.
Informational Only- \$5,0000 from Aitkin Community Grant Program
Acceptance of Quote for the Park Field House & approval to move forward with construction. – A motion was made by Councilor Galliger, seconded by Councilor Henke and the Mayor called the vote: Dotzler-no, Henke-yes, Workman-yes, Miller-yes. The motion passed.
- Library
- Airport Commission
- Personnel Committee – Kathy Galliger discussed the need for PT help at the Liquor Store and also the resignation of an existing employee. She made a motion that the Council move forward with hiring Dianne Collins and Sierra Bednarczyk to staff the liquor store. The motion was seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.
Department Head Reviews – Councilor Julie Miller asked how we conduct reviews and wanted a review of the language for the City Administrator for the 8/7 Meeting.
- EDA – Administrator Skrbich asked Julie Miller and Jason Henke if they had any agenda items for our next meeting and the response was no.
- Fireworks – Chris Dotzler reiterated that he thinks we need a planning meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, Fair Board, Long Lake and the Townships.

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

11. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.


X
Megan Workman
Mayor


X
Mike Skrbich
City Administrator