

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

August 08, 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, Stan Gustafson, Citizens: Lucille Franzen, David Ashton, Diane Landsted

Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Megan Workman at 6:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda.**  
A motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a notification of a fund raiser for the Delta Waterfowl group at the 40 Club to the consent agenda was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler, 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.

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- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 07/17/2023
  - Minutes – PUC 6-20-2023
  - Accounts Payable:
    - City of Aitkin  
Batch Name: CAP 08032023 - \$395,544.37
    - Liquor Store  
Batch Name: LAP 08032023 –\$125,706.05
  - Financial Reports: - As of 7/31/2023
  - Special event: Ripplesippi Music Fest 8/26/2023
  - Special event: Harvest Moon Brew Fest 9/09/2023
  - Temporary Liquor License: Friends of the Arts/Harvest Moon Brew Fest 9/09/23
  - Special event: Delta Waterfowl Fund Raiser, 08/11/23 at 40 Club
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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 discussed the upcoming Tax Abatement Hearing for INH Properties and asked the Council if they would like him to move forward with preparing abatement documents with Fryberger Law Firm.
  - Mike discussed the progress with Bolton & Menk, the EPA, and the PUC as we advance further action on the water tower project.
7. **Old Business:**
  - AFSCME MOU – Councilor Julie Miller made a motion to not approve the Comp Time MOU at this time, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.
8. **New Business**
  - Bog Land Investments, LLC - City Administration Office Lease – A motion was made by Chris Dotzler to have Administrator Skrbich work with Bog Land Investments to extend the lease on City Offices for the next 5 years, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor. He will advance that process.
  - Gambling Permit; NWTf Aitkin Gobblers Chapter – Event 9/30/2023 at American Legion – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to approve the permit, seconded by Jason Heke and approved with all in favor.
9. **Committee Reports:**
  - Public Works – Councilor Dotzler requested that we have a meeting in the near future and Administrator Skrbich noted that we may want to discuss an LRIP Application to MNDOT for Bunker Hills Drive.


- Budget Committee – The Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday 8/9/2023.
- Planning and Zoning:
  - Resolution No. 2023-08-07B CUP Aitkin Community Hospital (Sign) – A motion was made to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission for a CUP by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.
  - Planning Commission Member Appointment – Michael Hills – A motion was made by Jason Henke to approve the appointment of Michael Hills, seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all in favor.
  - Planning Commission Member – Letter of Resignation from Paul Ryan – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to reluctantly accept the letter of resignation for Paul Ryan, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor. The Council thanked Paul for his service.
  - Declare Vacancy and Authorize Advertisement of Open Seat – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to move forward on advertising the open seat, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.
  - Ashton/Hometown Lumber Comprehensive Plan Amendment Discussion – Administrator Skrbich provided an overview of the process and Jerry Bohnsack presented the impacts of making a change to the comprehensive plan and how it would impact this project. The Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the site plan and the potential to amend the comprehensive plan if it were to be presented to the Planning Commission. Jerry and Mike will move forward and work with Jen to begin setting up a Public Hearing for our next Planning Commission meeting on 6-28-2023.
- Park Committee:
  - Aitkin Co. Economic Development 8/01/23 Letter – Denial of Reallocation of Funds – Administrator Skrbich noted that we were not approved for this request.
  - IRRRB Community Fieldhouse Application Update - Administrator Skrbich noted that we were not approved during this funding round, but we were also not denied. We will continue to monitor progress on this. Mike also noted that the Blandin Foundation did allow us to reallocate funds for the Community Fieldhouse, and the Hockey Association is still working on funding for later this Fall or early Winter.
- Library – No report at this time.
- Airport Commission – Mike discussed the Airport Commission’s desire to maintain a 4,000-foot runway and how we plan on seeking funding for that future project, including an application to the County EDA.
- Personnel Committee – Julie Miller requested more information on Department Head Reviews and Mike noted that we have conflicting documents regarding our process. Councilor Galliger noted the Personnel Committee will meet on 8/09, and will review this topic and present a recommendation to the Council.
- EDA – Administrator Skrbich discussed the last EDA meeting and the desire to reach out to the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce regarding the Creamery Lot and that he and Councilor Miller will be attending the Chamber Meeting this Wednesday 8/09. He also provided an overview of a potential Bounty Program for new construction and possibly renovation within the City of Aitkin.
- Fireworks – Resolution No. 2023-08-07A – Accept donations to the Fireworks (803) Fund – A motion was made by Jason Henke to accept the donations to the 803 Fund, seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all in favor. Chris Dotzler said he would like the Fireworks Committee to set up a meeting to plan for next year. Mike said he sent out an email last month but will now do it after we complete our budget work.

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

**11. Adjournment**

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Kathy Galliger and approved with all in favor.

  
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 Megan Workman  
 Mayor

  
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 Mike Skrbich  
 City Administrator