

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 16, 2023

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Jen Thompson, Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Kat Robb of the Aitkin Independent Age, and Aitkin Police Officers.

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 was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke, 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 with correction to the 10/2/2023 council minutes was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Julie Miller, and approved with all in favor.

• Accounts Payable: N/A

○ City of Aitkin

○ Liquor Store

• Financial Reports: - As of 9/3/2023

• Minutes – Aitkin PUC 8/15/2023

• Gambling Permit; Knights of Columbus – Event 11/12/2023

4. **Presentation:** Chase Ableiter has been with the Aitkin Police Department for 1 year. Mayor Workman read him the Oath of Office. The Aitkin Police Department was present in support along with Ableiter's family. Officer Ableiter's sister pinned his badge after the oath of office.

5. **Public Hearing:** N/A

6. **Mayor's Report:**

• Mayor Workman stated for the record that she read that Hill City has passed a 2024 preliminary 12% levy increase.

7. **Administration Report:** - None.

8. **Old Business:**

• Mayor Appointment List – Updated Budget & Personnel Committee members.

• Resolution No. 2023-10-16A; Notice of Order to Remove Hazardous Building (PID# 56-1-070100). This resolution replaces no. 2023-09-18A. The updated resolution allows for the council to set a reasonable timeframe for the property owner to abate the nuisance. Nuisance Attorney Joe Krueger has advised on the situation and recommends setting a deadline. A motion to set a 12-month deadline and approve resolution no. 2023-10-16A was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler with all in favor.

9. **New Business**

• Sewer Lining: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko presented two quotes for sewer lining. He explained that this is necessary repair to get the pipes through until the 2030 MnDOT project when these pipes can be replaced. Nicko made a recommendation to approve the quote from Ouverson Sewer & Water. This expense will be paid from the 617 Utility Replacement Fund. A motion to approve was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke with all in favor.

• County Engineer, John Welle shared an Alternative Transportation grant opportunity with city staff. He believes the city may be eligible for funding through this grant to rehab the walking trails within the city park. Construction is funded 100% and he also said that he believes the county would be able to assist with the engineering for this project. A letter of intent is due by November 9, 2023. A motion to move forward with the letter of intent was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller with all in favor.

10. Committee Reports:


- Public Works:
- Budget Committee:
- Planning and Zoning:
- Park Committee:
 - Jason Henke gave an overview of the 10/10/2023 Park Committee.
 - Chris Dotzler shared a picture of a gate that could be installed at each end of the new paved trail. He spoke to area businesses who said they would donate some of the material, he said it would only cost the city approximately \$2,000. The proposed gates would be used to close the trail during deer hunting rifle season each year. After discussion the council decided to wait until next year to discuss further.
- Library:
- Airport Commission:
- Personnel Committee:
 - Kathy Galliger presented a resignation letter from Accounting Clerk – Kari Jacobson, last day is Wednesday, October 25th. A motion to accept the resignation letter was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke with all votes in favor.
 - Kathy Galliger spoke to the council and shared that Mike Skrbich has been working with Kari Jacobson since June to update the job description of the accounting clerk. As of the time of the meeting, the description was not complete. Discussion was had as to when the position should be posted. Dotzler and Henke agreed that the position should not be posted until the job description is complete.
 - Kathy Galliger said that the personnel committee discussed the hiring of the City Administrator position. She asked the Council if they wanted to contract with a recruitment company. Julie Miller stated she is not interested in paying for a recruitment company due to the cost. After discussion it was decided to post the Administrator position and to advertise locally, League of MN Cities, LinkedIn, Indeed, & Facebook.
- EDA:
- Fireworks:


11. Comments from Visitors:

None.

12. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke, and approved with all in favor.

X 
Megan Workman
Mayor

X 
Mike Skrbich
City Administrator