

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 18, 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: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Kat Robb of the Aitkin Independent Age, Stan Gustafson

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 sidewalk shoveling was made by Chris Dotzler, 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 was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke, and approved with all in favor.

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- Accounts Payable:
 - City of Aitkin
 - Liquor Store
 - Financial Reports: 12/11/2023 – 12/15/2023
 - Minutes from 12/04/202
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4. **Public Hearing:** Opened at 6:02 PM & Closed at 6:03 PM – No Comments

- Truth in Taxation; 2024 Budget & Levy Presentation
- Public Comment and/or questions.

5. **Mayor's Report:**

6. **Administration Report:**

- IRRRB GRANT AWARD, DNR, USDA – Administrator Skrbich noted that we were just awarded \$250,000 dollars from the IRRRB. We also met with the DNR to close out our other grant and will be receiving \$20,000 dollars for that and we will soon be getting our \$50,000 dollars from the USDA.
- Rink & Liquor Store Hiring Update - We have 2 applicants for both positions and Mike and Sam will be interviewing the liquor store applicants on Thursday with a recommendation to follow.
- Resolution 2023-12-18A Adopting the Final 2024 Tax Levy – A motion was made by Julie Miller to approve the Final 2024 Levy for \$20,000 less than proposed for a total levy of \$1,944,872. The motion was seconded by Jason Henke and the Mayor called the vote: Dotzler-no, Henke-yes, Miller-yes, Galliger-yes The motion passed.
- Resolution No. 2023-12-18B Adopting the Final 2024 Budget – A motion was made to Adopt the Final 2024 Budget with a \$20,000 dollar reduction in capital funding to balance out the budget with the new levy. It was seconded by Julie Miller and the Mayor called the vote: Galliger-yes, Miller-yes, Henke-yes, Dotzler-no The motion passed.
- Hiring of Temporary Office Help – A motion was made by Chris Dotzler to allow the office to hire some temporary help until we can hire a new Administrator and Accountant. It was seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.

7. **Old Business:**

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8. **New Business**

- Contract: Madden Galanter, Hansen, LLP 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2024 – A motion was made by Kathy Galliger to approve, seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all in favor.

- Pay /request #1: Baratto Brothers Construction, LLC- Park Building – A motion to approve payment was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler and approved with all in favor.
- Letter of Resignation: Brandon Koonce Effective 1/15/2024 – Kathy Galliger made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets and to proceed with posting the job, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor.
- Sidewalk Shoveling - Lon Nicko discussed the problem with enforcing residential shoveling and what the financial consequences of that action. They all decided that Lon will source some door hangers to help facilitate the process.

9. Committee Reports:

- Public Works: Next meeting 1/8/2024.
- Budget Committee:
- Planning and Zoning: (Cancelled Meeting for 12/27/2023) 6 PM
- Park Committee: Next meeting 01/09/2024 – Lon will work on signage for trails and Steve Wilson would like to come in and discuss access to ATV trails.
- Library: - Next meeting 03/14/2024 _ Shris Dotzler said they need more board members and is reaching out for increased community participation.
- Fireworks:
- Airport Commission: The next meeting will be held 12/27/2023 at the library.
- Personnel Committee: (Next Meeting 01/10/2024) - Mike will set up ZOOM interviews for 12/27/2023.
- EDA: (Next meeting 1/19/24)

10. Closed Meeting – Severson Porter Law- Attorney Client Privilege – Minn. Stat.

ss13D.055, subd. 3(b) – A motion was made at 7:23 by Kathy Galliger to close the meeting, seconded by Jason Henke and approved with all in favor. Kurt Porter did not show up and an update he provided Mike was reviewed and it was decided that the Council would like him to attend our next meeting to discuss questions.

11. Closed Meeting - Discuss preliminary consideration of allegations against an individual subject to the Council’s authority – Minn. Stat.§ 13D.05, Subd. 2(b).

A motion was made by Jason Henke to close the meeting, seconded by Julie Miller, and approved by the City Council with Kathy Galliger voting no and all other Council members voting yes. A letter from City Administrator Mike Skrbich was read. This letter stated, among other things, that the issue was about the interpretation of contract language and was not a performance issue. A discussion was held. A motion was made by Megan Workman to submit the contract language dispute to arbitration or mediation, seconded by Kathy Galliger, and approved by the City Council with Jason Henke voting no and all other Council members voting yes. A motion was made by Chris Dotzler to close the closed meeting, seconded by Kathy Galliger, and approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council. A motion was made by Chris Dotzler to re-open the open meeting, seconded by Kathy Galliger, and approved by the unanimous vote of the City Council.”

12. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM was made by Kathy Galliger seconded by Julie Miller and approved with all in favor.



Megan Workman
Mayor



Jennifer Thompson
City Clerk