

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

January 2, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Megan Workman, Council Members: Chris Dotzler, & Kathy Galliger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Members Jason Henke & Julie Miller

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Jen Thompson, Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Fire Chief Brian Pisarek, Kat Robb of the Aitkin Independent Age, Tami Jacobs, Mike Hills.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Liquor Store Clerk Hiring

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Accounts Payable
 - City – No payables presented at this meeting.
 - Liquor Store – No payables presented at this meeting.
- Financial Reports as of: N/A
- ~~Minutes from 12/18/2023~~ (Removed & tabled for correction)
- Aitkin Public Utilities; Re-appointment of Harlan Pelarski to a 3-year term for PUC.
- Resolution No. 2024-01-02A; Authorize Payments Prior to Council Approvals
- Resolution No. 2024-01-02B; Authorize Electronic Funds Transfer
- Aitkin Police Dept.; Certificate of Compliance/Annual Body Cam Audit

A motion to remove and table the 12/18/2023 minutes from the consent agenda and approve the remaining items listed in the consent agenda was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- 2024 Mayor Appointments
 - Mayor Workman replaced Kathy Galliger on the Personnel Committee; no other changes will be made for 2024.
- Proclamation
 - A proclamation declaring January 19, 2024, Noel Bailey Day in the City of Aitkin was presented. A motion to approve was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Megan Workman. Motion carried with Chris Dotzler voting nay.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Update on LRIP Application for Bunker Hill
 - App submitted 11/30/2023 and project schedule was shared with the Council.
- Liquor Store Inventory
 - CLA completed the Liquor Store Inventory early morning on 1/2/2024.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Aitkin Retail Committee; Downtown 2-hour parking
 - The Council read the letter of concern from the Retail Committee regarding the 2-hour parking downtown. Mayor Workman felt this was a police issue and vehicles that are parked longer than 2 hours should be reported. Chief Ryan agreed and reminded everyone that there are two public parking lots available. One across from the police department and the other across from Security State Bank. Business owners and employees should be utilizing these lots. The decision was made to not send out a letter to business owners.
- **Rink Attendant Hiring**
 - Lon Nicko told the Council that two applications for the seasonal rink attendant position have been received. Jeremy Egstad and Bret Latterner both have

experience in this position. Kathy Galliger made a motion to hire both applicants on the condition that they pass a background check. The motion was seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Liquor Store Clerk Hiring**

- Sam Keil and Mike Skrbich have interviewed two applicants for the part-time Liquor Store Clerk position. The recommendation is to extend a conditional job offer to Kathryn Chamberlin pending a background check. A motion to approve was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- Next meeting 1/8/2024

PLANNING & ZONING

- Next meeting 1/22/2024

PARK COMMITTEE

- Next meeting 1/9/2024

LIBRARY BOARD

- Next meeting 3/14/2024

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- Next meeting 1/24/2024

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- City Administrator Interviews
 - Mayor Workman made a motion to re-open the application period for the vacant City Administrator position until January 10, 2024, so the Council could accept additional applications. The motion was seconded by Kathy Galliger. Motion carried with all voting aye.
 - Mayor Workman made a motion to set interviews for Saturday, January 20, 2024 – 10:00 a.m. at the Aitkin Police Department. The motion was seconded by Kathy Galliger. Motion carried with all voting aye. Galliger will set up the interview schedule and confirm with the applicants.

EDA

- Next meeting 1/25/2024

COMMENTS

- Kathy Galliger complimented Chief Ryan for passing the Body Cam Audit and thanked the department for their good work.
- A motion to set the City Administration Office hours to Monday – Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm until further notice was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.

A motion to close the open meeting at 6:28 p.m. was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried, all voting aye.

CLOSED MEETING

- Attorney Client Privilege; Minn. §13D.05, Subd. 3(b)
 - Kurt Port of Severson Porter Law provided an update on the litigation status.

A motion to open the closed meeting was made at 7:08 p.m. was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried, all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.



Megan Workman
Mayor



Jennifer Thompson
City Clerk