

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

February 5, 2024

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Amy Dotzler, Tami Jacobs, Mark Jeffers, Kat Robb of the Aitkin Independent Age.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 01/16/2024
- Minutes – Special Council Meeting 1/20/2024 (Admin Interviews)
- Minutes - Special Council Meeting 1/29/2024 (Admin Interviews)
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- Minutes – Aitkin PUC 12/19/2023
- Resolution No. 2024-02-05A 2024 Election Judges & Pay Rate
- Gambling Permit; NWTF Aitkin Gobblers Event: 4/6/2024
- Resolution No. 2024-02-05B Authorize Application & Accept Funds from IRRRB (Riverview Lodge/Aaron Oliver Demo Project)
- Gambling Permit; Knights of Columbus Event: 3/17/2024
- Renewal Contract with Generator Power Systems

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. Motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- None

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Mayor Workman read the 2/5/2024 Administration Report prepared by Jen Thompson.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fieldhouse Project Pay Request No. 2 Baratto Bros.;**
 - A motion to approve pay request no. 2 in the amount of \$82,659.68 was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. Motion carried with all voting aye.
- **Fieldhouse Project Change Order No. 2**
 - Change Order No. 2 for the addition of a hand sink in the concession area and an additional interior door on the meeting room in the amount of \$5,630.25 was presented. A motion to approve was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with Miller, Henke, & Dotzler voting aye. Galliger nay.
- **Fieldhouse Project – Minnesota Energy Agreement**
 - A proposal for an installation agreement from MN Energy with a total cost of \$3,656.25, was presented for approval. A motion to approve was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- **Quote – Dinges Fire**
 - Two quotes have been obtained, one from Dinges Fire in the amount of \$13,690.00 and the other from Bulldog Hose Company in the amount of \$13,711.60 for the purchase of 200 feet of hose for emergency flood water pumping. Street Supervisor Lon Nicko recommends proceeding with the Dinges Fire Quote and noted that

shipping costs will be in addition to the quoted price. Nicko stated that the funds received from FEMA for the 2023 flood will cover the amount of the purchase. A motion to approve the Dinges fire quote was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Hiring – City Administrator Position**

- Mayor Workman asked the council if they were prepared to make a decision, and everyone said yes. Jason Henke made a motion to hire Jen Thompson as the City Administrator, Chris Dotzler seconded the motion. The motion carried with Dotzler, Henke, & Miller voting aye. Galliger, nay. An employment offer will be made.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- Next meeting 1/22/2024

PLANNING & ZONING

- The 1/22/2024 meeting was cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.
- Next meeting 2/26/2024

PARK COMMITTEE

- 1/9/2024 Draft meeting minutes were included in the packet.
- Next meeting 2/13/2024

LIBRARY BOARD

- Next meeting 3/14/2024

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- 1/24/2024 Draft meeting minutes were included in the packet.
- Next meeting 2/28/2024

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- **Police Chief Interview Date, Time & Location**

- The personnel committee met 2/5/2024 prior to the city council meeting. They determined at that meeting that interviews are scheduled for 2/12/2024 starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Aitkin Police Department. The committee anticipates having a hiring recommendation to the council on 2/20/2024.

- **Police Officer Position Opening Discussion**

- The police department has had an opening for a police officer posted since December 19, 2023, to date no applications have been received. The difficulties were discussed. It was noted that the starting wage for an officer in the city of Aitkin is \$2 to \$3 less per hour than nearby communities and other local agencies. The personnel committee will discuss solutions further.

- The next meeting will be 3/12/2024.

EDA

- 1/25/2024 Draft meeting minutes were included in the packet.
- **CBP Loan Application – Rosallini’s**
 - With recommendation of approval from the EDA board an application from Rosallini’s for the EDA CBP Revolving Loan Program was presented for final approval to the City Council. A motion to approve the loan in the amount of \$15,000 was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

COMMENTS

- None.

ADOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.


X _____
Megan Workman
Mayor


X _____
Jennifer Thompson
City Clerk