

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 1, 2024

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, Fire Chief Brian Pisarek, Teamsters Union BA Marika Oliver.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 3/18/2024
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- 2024/2025 Aitkin County Municipal Maintenance Agreement
- Resolution No. 2024-04-01A Development Agreement – Aaron Oliver/Riverview Lodge Motel

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- None

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- The Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce approved a monetary request in the amount of \$3,587.50 from the Aitkin Retail Committee. The funds will be used to promote the downtown during the 2024 MnDOT road construction. Dedicated social media, website, and signage, letting people know that downtown Aitkin is open and accessible. The group will highlight alternative routes to get to Aitkin that may be more convenient than the identified MnDOT detour.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024/2025 Insurance Renewal & Deductible Options**

The city's insurance agent, Bob Cummings, provided the council with information regarding the 2024/2025 insurance renewal, including deductible options aimed at potential costs savings for the city. The city's current insurance plan carries a \$2,500 deductible, with a renewal cost of \$113,615. Alternatively, options were presented for a \$5,000 deductible with a cost of \$107,533 or a \$10,000 deductible with a cost of \$99,033. Agent, Bob Cummings, recommended the \$10,000 deductible due to the cost savings. A motion to approve the renewal with the \$10,000 deductible options and renewal cost of \$99,033.00 was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

FIREWORKS COMMITTEE

- **Draft Meeting Minutes 3/20/2024 Minutes**
- **2024 Fireworks Event**

- The Fireworks Committee met on 3/20/2024 to deliberate the fate of the 2024 fireworks event. The committee discussed the financial situation and noted that the fireworks fund is at roughly at \$2300 deficit. The group unanimously recommends to the City Council the cancellation of the 2024 fireworks event due to insufficient funding. The council heard the explanation and discussed possible options going forward. A motion to cancel the 2024 fireworks event was made by Julie Miller, the motion was seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye. A press release notifying the public will be published in the Aitkin Independent Age.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- None.

PLANNING & ZONING

- None.

PARK COMMITTEE

- None.

LIBRARY BOARD

- None.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

• MOU LELS

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Aitkin and Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) was presented to the council for approval. The MOA proposes an adjustment of the police officer wages by \$3.75, effective 4/5/2024, and expiring 12/31/2025. The purpose of the adjustment is to enhance hiring and retention efforts withing the police department. A motion to approve the MOA was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

• MOA Teamsters 320

- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Aitkin and Teamsters 320 – Supervisory was presented to the council for approval. The MOA proposes an adjustment of the Police Chief wage by \$3.75, effective 4/5/2024, and expiring 12/31/2025. The purpose of the adjustment is to enhance hiring and retention efforts withing the police department. A motion to approve the MOA was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

EDA

- None.

COMMENTS

- None.

A motion to close the open meeting at 6:47 was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

CLOSED SESSION

- A motion to open the closed session at 6:48 was made by Kathy Galliger seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.
 - The Council closed the public session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd. 3(b) and excused all members of the public. The Council met with attorney Kurt W. Porter, Severson Porter Law, to discuss the ongoing lawsuit with the previous landlord of the City. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Council closed the closed session and re-opened the open session of the meeting.

A motion to re-open the open meeting was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.



Megan Workman
Mayor



Jennifer Thompson
City Clerk