

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 20, 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: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Chief of Police Colter Riedel, Chief of Police Paul Ryan, Kat Robb, Stan Gustafson, Jacob Schanz, & Michiyo Schanz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 5/6/2024
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- Financial Reports as of 4/30/2024
- Gambling Permit; NWTF Aitkin Gobblers – Event 7/20/2024
- Resolution No. 2024-05-20A Off-Site Gambling/Quarterbacks – Event 10/25/2024

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- None

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- Retirement Coffee and Cake at PD June 13, 2024, 2-4 p.m. for Chief Paul Ryan
- Electronics Waste Day; Saturday, June 1, 1p.m. at Aitkin Co. Recycling Center
- IRRRB grant awarded to Rippleview Motel in the amount of \$23,885.00

OLD BUSINESS

- **INH Properties Tax Abatement Extension**
 - To accommodate the recent Workforce Housing Program application and award timing, INH Properties is requesting an extension of the Tax Abatement Agreement. The construction commencement date will need to be extended to start December 1, 2024 with a completion date by February 1, 2026. A motion to move forward with the extension request was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. Motion carried with all voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

- **THC Sales at Aitkin Liquor Store**
 - Liquor store manager Sam Keil requested approval by the council to increase revenue by introducing THC products. Thompson stated she has confirmed that this addition will not incur any additional insurance costs. Keil would adhere to state guidelines for sales notification and will confirm the financial arrangements with Security State Bank. A motion to approve the addition of THC Sales was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. Dotzler, Henke, & Miller voting aye, Galliger opposed. Motion carried.
- **2024 Assessment Summary**
 - County Assessor Mike Dangers presented the 2024 assessment summary, highlighting changes to the homestead market value exclusion formula. In the City of Aitkin, commercial and industrial land values increased by 25%, while apartment and assisted living building values increased by 20%.
- **Authorize Bidding of New Water Tower Construction Project**
 - Public Utilities Manager Dave Cluff requested the Council's approval to bid the Water Tower Construction Project. A motion to approve the advertisement and bidding of the project was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried.

- **Authorize Bidding of Wastewater Treatment Facility**
 - Public Utilities Manager Dave Cluff requested the Council's approval to bid the Waste Water Treatment Facility Improvement Project. A motion to approve the advertisement and bidding of the project was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried.
- **Compost Site**
 - The Aitkin County compost site south of Aitkin will be open May 2 to November 1. Last season the council volunteered their time on weekends to open the facility on Saturdays. After discussion it was decided that there was not enough participate to open the facility on the weekends this year.

TREE COMMITTEE

- **Arbor Day**
 - The committee planted 20 trees (8 species) at Tibbitts Trails and Parks on May 15th and celebrated Arbor Day.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- Draft minutes; 5/14/2024 meeting.

PLANNING & ZONING

- None.

PARK COMMITTEE

- Draft minutes; 5/14/2024 meeting.

LIBRARY BOARD

- None.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Police Officer position; A motion to approve the conditional offer letter to Daniel Merrill, Grade STA6, Step 1 was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. Motion carried with all voting aye.
- Liquor Store Clerk; A motion to approve the conditional offer letter to Kathy Peterson, Grad SS%, Step 1 was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Kathy Galliger. Motion carried with all voting aye.

EDA

- None.

COMMENTS

- None.

CLOSED SESSION (Closed at 6:49 CD/JH)

- The council entered into a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subdivision (c), to consider an offer for the sale of real property.

OPEN MEETING (Open at 7:11 KG/CD)

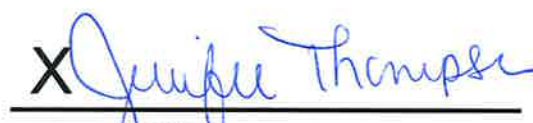
- An offer from Jacob Schanz to purchase PID #56-1-012600 (Creamery Lot) on a contract for deed for \$70,000, with a \$10,000 down payment and monthly payments of \$1,000 for five years at 0% interest, was considered and discussed by the council. A motion to accept the offer as presented, with the funds first covering the expenses from the general fund (101) and the remainder of the funds to go to the EDA fund (420) was made by Jason Henke and seconded by Kathy Galliger. The motion carried with all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.



 Megan Workman
 Mayor



 Jennifer Thompson
 City Clerk