

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

August 5, 2024

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Police Chief Colter Riedel, Attorney Kurt Porter, Kat Robb, Tami Jacobs, Tom Kuppich, Darren Tollakson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Chris Dotzler, 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 7/15/2024
- Minutes – Special Council Meeting 7/23/2024
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- Minutes – PUC 7/18/2024
- Resolution No. 2024-08-05A Authorize & App to IRRRB for Water Tower Project

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

The mayor reported that her home is currently pending sale. Should the sale be finalized, she will no longer meet the eligibility requirements for holding the office of Mayor. In such a case, she intends to submit her resignation.

In the event that the mayor is no longer eligible, Jason Henke will assume the role of Acting Mayor. The council will then declare a vacancy in the mayor's position and proceed to appoint a new Mayor.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- **Primary Election**
 - City of Aitkin residents will vote in person at the Aitkin Public Library on Tuesday, August 13. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8.p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- **None.**

NEW BUSINESS

- **National Night Out**
 - The Aitkin PD organized a National Night Out event scheduled for Tuesday, August 6th – 5:00 to 7:00 at the Aitkin City Park. The community is welcome!
- **Event Permit: Harvest Moon Brewfest**
 - An application from Aitkin County Friends of the Arts for the Harvest Moon Brewfest on 9/7/2024 was presented to the Council. Thompson informed the council that there were complaints received after the Friends of the Arts Ripplesippi event held on 7/26/2024. The calls received were concerned because the alley off 3rd St NW was blocked, and delivery trucks were unable to get through. A motion to approve the event permit was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- **Temporary Liquor License**
 - In connection with the Harvest Moon Brewfest an application from the Friends of the Arts for a temporary liquor license on 9/7/2024 was presented. A motion to approve was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Catlin Litigation**

- Attorney Kurt Porter was present to discuss the Catlin Litigation. He expressed his disappointment with the court's ruling and with a news article published in the newspaper. He noted that neither he nor the city was consulted for comments on the case. Attorney Porter stated that had he been given the opportunity to comment, he would have expressed sympathy not for the Catlins but for the residents of Aitkin and the current and previous councils.

A discussion took place between Attorney Porter and the Council regarding the case.

The Council then voted to enter a closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.05, Subdivision 3(b), to discuss attorney-client privileged information.

A motion to close the meeting and enter the closed session was made by Kathy Galliger and seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting in favor. The meeting was closed at 6:37 p.m.

In the closed session the council discussed the option of appealing the District Court's decision.

A motion to close the closed session and reopen the public meeting was made at 7:35 by Jason Henke and seconded by Julie Miller.

Upon reopening the Council meeting, a motion to table the decision to appeal until the next meeting was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- **None.**

PLANNING & ZONING

- Draft minutes 7/22/2024 Meeting

PARK COMMITTEE

- **None.**

LIBRARY BOARD

- **None.**

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- Draft minutes 7/24/2024 Meeting

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- **None.**

EDA

- 7/24/2024 meeting was canceled.

COMMENTS

- **None.**

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

X

Jason Henke
Acting Mayor

X

Jennifer Thompson
City Administrator