

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 16, 2024

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Interim Mayor Gary Tibbitts, Council Members Chris Dotzler, Jason Henke, Julie Miller & Kathy Galliger

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Police Chief Colter Riedel, Justin Cartie, Kat Robb, & Stan Gustafson, Mike Hills, Charlie Christensen, Teresa Smude, Dan Stifter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 12/02/2024
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- 2025 Tobacco License Renewals (6 Licenses)
- Renewal 2025 Legal Services; Nuisance Attorney Quinlivan & Hughes
- Office Shop; City Admin Copy Machine Lease Agreement

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- **None.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Tibbitts awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Council Member Kathy Galliger, recognizing her two terms of service on the City Council from January 2017 to December 2024.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution No. 2024-16A Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance**
Resolution No. 2024-12-16A, Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance, was presented to the Council for consideration. The property at 517 2nd Street NW, Aitkin, owned by Christopher Crapser, has been identified as a nuisance. Despite previous notices, minimal progress has been made in addressing the issue. Mayor Tibbitts inquired if Mr. Crapser was present to speak to the Council, but he was not, and no comments were received from him. A motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-12-16A was made by Kathy Galliger and seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- **INH Properties, Bunker Hill Housing of Aitkin LLC – Request to Extend Tax Abatement**
 - On December 2, 2024, the City Council approved the request for an extension of the tax abatement agreement for the Bunker Hills workforce housing project. The Fryberger Law Firm has drafted the second amendment, which revises the project's commencement and completion dates and includes provisions related to the Workforce Housing Program. These provisions involve a Deferred Loan Agreement between the City and the Developer, secured by a Promissory Note. The loan provided to the City by the MHFA will be passed through to the Developer as a loan under the Deferred Loan Agreement. In the event of default by the Developer under either the Development Agreement or the Deferred Loan Agreement, including failure to comply with the Workforce Housing Development Program, it will constitute an Event of Default under both agreements, allowing the City to pursue any applicable remedies. A motion to approve the Second Amendment document was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **New Hire Recommendation; Rink Attendants**
 - Two candidates have been selected for the Seasonal Rink Attendant position. An offer letter, contingent on a background check, was presented to the Council for consideration: Nolan Dotzler at Grade SS5, Step 1, with a wage of \$15.08, and returning attendant Jeremy Egstad at Step 2, with a wage of \$15.57. A motion to approve both hires was made by Jason Henke and seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.
- **2025 City Meeting Calendar**
 - A motion to approve the 2025 city meeting calendar was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS

- None.

PLANNING & ZONING

- None.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- None.

PARK COMMITTEE

- Fieldhouse – Flooring Discussion
 - The replacement flooring has arrived and will be installed this week.

LIBRARY BOARD

- None.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- Draft Minutes; 11/27/2024 Mtg.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- None.

EDA

- Draft Minutes; 12/4/2024 Mtg.
- **Resolution No. 2024-12-16B; Cost Share Participation for Lobbying Services**
 - The Aitkin City Council considered the recommendation of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) regarding a \$10,500 cost-share contribution for the hiring of Costin Group Inc. to provide lobbying services for the school district's infrastructure funding and new school campus construction. The EDA voted to approve the request with the following vote: Council Member Miller – Aye, Executive Director Smude – Aye, Council Member Henke – Aye, Board Member Anderson – Abstain, Commissioner Wedel – Nay.


After discussion and considering the EDA's recommendation and vote, a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-12-16B was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with Dotzler voting nay, Henke – aye, Miller – aye, & Galliger – aye.

COMMENTS

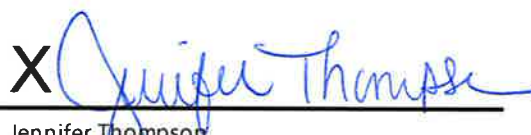
- Charlie Christensen from Glen Township spoke to the council to express his dissatisfaction with the timeliness of the monthly Fire Reports.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm was made by Kathy Galliger, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.



 Gary Tibbitts
 Mayor



 Jennifer Thompson
 City Administrator