

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 2, 2026

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Gary Tibbitts, Council Members Jason Henke, Julie Miller, Justin Cartie

MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Chris Dotzler

ALSO PRESENT: Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Police Chief Colter Riedel, Tami Jacobs

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Remove: Insurance Renewal, Agen Bob Cummings & Liability Coverage Waiver Form from New Business

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Justin Cartie, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included in the consent agenda:

- Minutes – Regular Council Meeting 2/17/2026
- Accounts Payable
 - City
 - Liquor Store
- Gambling Permit; Knights of Columbus Bingo; Event 3/22/2026
- Temporary Liquor License: Aitkin Chamber – Paddle Your Glass Off 6/13/26
- Temporary Liquor License: Aitkin Chamber – Riverboat Heritage Days 7/31-8/1/26
- Temporary Liquor License: Aitkin Chamber – Fish House Parade 11/27/26

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

PUBLIC HEARING

- None.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mediation with the Supervisory Group is scheduled for March 6, 2026.
- Interviews for the Street Department are scheduled for March 10, 2026.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

- City Administrator Jen Thompson and City Clerk Samantha Sass to attend City Day on the Hill on March 11, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- ~~Insurance Renewal, Agent Bob Cummings~~
 - ~~Liability Coverage Waiver Form~~

- Street Department – Bobcat 84” Road Grader Attachment
 - The current 1978 Fiatallis FG65 road grader is outdated and beyond its useful life. One quote was received from Timmer Implement / Doosan Bobcat for \$11,071.09. This pricing was obtained through the State of Minnesota cooperative purchasing (state bidding process). A second quote was not obtained due to the department’s desire to purchase a Bobcat-branded attachment specifically designed for compatibility with the existing Bobcat skid steer. Street Supervisor Lon Nicko recommends purchasing the 84” Bobcat Grader Attachment from Timmer Implement / Doosan Bobcat in the amount of \$11,071.09. This purchase will replace the outdate road grader, allow the department to complete gravel road and alley maintenance in-house, and remains within the approved 2026 budget allocation. Proceeds from the sale of the 1978 grader will be returned to the 402 Street Capital Fund.

A motion to approve the purchase of the Bobcat 84” Grader Attachment from Timmer Implement / Doosan Bobcat for \$11,071.09 and authorize the sale of the 1978 Fiatallis FG65 road grader at public auction with proceeds credited to the 402 Street Capital Fund was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Justin Cartie. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- WWTF Pay Application No. 4 - \$153,620.76
 - Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$153,620.76 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Pay Application No. 4 has been reviewed and approved by the City Engineer working on the project and Dave Cluff.

A motion to approve Pay Application No. 4 for WWTF was made by Justin Cartie, seconded by Jason Henke. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- Resolution No. 2026-03-02A Accepting Payment for the Sale of Timber on Tank Trail Property
 - The timber sale has been completed and payment for \$27,902.35 to be deposited into the 403 Park Capital Improvement Fund and used for reinvestment into the City of Aitkin's park system.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-03-02A Accepting Payment for the Sale of Timber on Tank Trail Property was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- Resolution No. 2026-03-02B Authorizing App to FY 2027 Community Project Funding (3rd St NW)
 - 3rd St NW & Utility Improvement Project has been identified as a necessary infrastructure improvement to address aging utilities, roadway conditions, drainage, and overall public safety. The application is due 3/6/2026.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-03-02B Authorizing App to FY 2027 Community Project Funding (3rd St NW) was made by Justin Cartie, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

PUBLIC WORKS

- None.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

- Annual Township Mtg. 3/4/2026

PLANNING & ZONING

- None.

PARK COMMITTEE

- May Park Meeting Rescheduled 5/14/2026

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

- None.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

- None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- None.

EDA

- None.

TREE BOARD

- Draft Minutes; 2/24/2026 Mtg.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

- Tami Jacobs informed the Council that there are 13 pre-leased agreements at the new apartment complex on Bunker Hill Dr.

A motion to close the open meeting at 6:13 pm was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Justin Cartie. The motion carried with all voting aye.

CLOSED MEETING

- The Council closed the public session pursuant to discuss Labor Negotiation Strategy; Minnesota Statute 13D.03 and excused all members of the public.

A motion to re-open the meeting at 6:20 pm was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Justin Cartie. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **AFSCME 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

A motion to approve the AFSCME 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Justin Cartie. The motion carried with all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm was made by Jason Henke, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

X

Gary Tibbitts
Mayor

X

Jennifer Thompson
City Administrator