

AITKIN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
AITKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

April 7, 2026

6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Gary Tibbitts, Council Members Chris Dotzler, Julie Miller

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Council Members Jason Henke, Justin Cartie

**ALSO PRESENT:** Street Supervisor Lon Nicko, Police Chief Colter Riedel, Fire Chief Brian Pisarek, City Clerk Samantha Sass, Mike Hills, Bob Cummings, Tami Jacobs

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- Removal: Conditional Employment Offer

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Chris Dotzler, 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 3/16/2026 (amended)
- Accounts Payable
  - City – Addition: 2 payments for AutoSmith
  - Liquor Store
- Special Event Permit; Senior Day in Aitkin 6/13/26
- 2026-2027 Aitkin Co. Municipal Maintenance Agreement
- Resolution No. 2026-04-07B Authorize App to Klobuchar & Smith FY27 CDS
- Special Event Permit; Aitkin Chamber Riverboat Days (7/31/26-8/1/26) \*(Road Closure Time Amendment)
- MOA Teamsters (Supervisory) Pay Scale Step Placement

A motion to approve the consent agenda as amended was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

- None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Tibbitts and City Administrator Thompson attended an event at APT which announced their expansion and opportunities for jobs in our area.
- Thank you to the Fire Department for their attendance at a recent funeral.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

- The new floor at the liquor store has been installed. It is a nice, fresh update to the store.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Insurance Renewal – Agent Bob Cummings**
  - The city's insurance agent, Bob Cummings, provided the council with information regarding the 2026-2027 insurance renewal and explained the LMC Insurance Liability Coverage Waiver Form. Cummings stated next year there would be some changes due to adding the new water tower and projects at the WWTF which will be covered this year through the League Builder's Risk coverage.

A motion to approve the LMC Insurance Liability Coverage Waiver Form as the member does not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04 was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Local Board of Equalization Powers/Duties Information (Decision to be made at the 4/20/2026 Mtg.)**
  - Information to be discussed at the April 20, 2026 Meeting. The Council has the option to continue as before and let Aitkin County act as the board of Equalization on behalf of the City for 3 years or permanently. Should the City choose to not renew the agreement with Aitkin County, at least 1 Council Member would be required to be trained prior to February 1, 2027.
- **Water Storage Improvements Pay Request No. 8**
  - Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$78,565.00 for the Water Storage Improvements.

A motion to approve Pay Request No. 8 was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **WWTF Pay Application No. 5**
  - Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$640,303.16 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

A motion to approve Pay Application No. 5 for WWTF was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Street Department Zero Turn Lawn Mower Purchase**

- The Street Department currently operates two zero-turn mowers. The 2014 John Deere 930M is in fair working condition and will be retained as a backup, while the 2006 John Deere 757 is in poor condition and no longer cost-effective to maintain. The 2006 John Deere 757 will be disposed of at a public sale. The 2026 budget has allocated \$16,000 for this purchase, to be funded from the 403 Park Capital Fund. The bagger attachment was not originally included in the budget and results in a cost above the approved amount. It is estimated that the sale of the 2006 John Deere 757 will help offset the approximately \$1,111.93 amount over the budget.

A motion to approve the purchase of the 60" ZMaster 4000 with bagger attachment from Dotzler Power Equipment in the amount of \$17,111.93 and authorize the disposal of Unit 2 (2006 John Deere 757) at public sale, with proceeds returned to the 403 Park Capital Fund was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Resolution No. 2026-04-07C Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance (711 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW)**

- A complaint was received last July for this property. Letters, inspections and fines have all been sent and assessed to the property. The property has not been cleaned up. This Resolution is the next step in order for the City to gain authority from a Judge to clean the property up.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-04-07C Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance (711 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW) was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Resolution No. 2026-04-07D Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance (517 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW)**

- A complaint was received last July for this property. Letters, inspections and fines have all been sent and assessed to the property. The property has not been cleaned up. This Resolution is the next step in order for the City to gain authority from a Judge to clean the property up.

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-04-07D Notice of Order to Abate Nuisance (517 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW) was made by Julie Miller, seconded by Chris Dotzler. The motion carried with all voting aye.

- **Street Department – Conditional Employment Offer**

- A conditional employment offer was intended to be presented at Council; however, City Administrator Thompson received a phone call from the candidate that was set to receive the conditional offer stating that they accepted another position in their field of study. The Personnel Committee has a meeting scheduled for April 13 to determine whether the job will be reposted or if another candidate will receive the offer.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

- None.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

- None.

**PLANNING & ZONING**

- None.

**PARK COMMITTEE**

- None.

**LIBRARY COMMITTEE**

- None.

**AIRPORT COMMISSION**

- Draft Minutes; 3/26/2026

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

- None.

**EDA**

- None.

**TREE BOARD**

- Draft Minutes; 3/24/2026 Mtg.

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

- Street Supervisor, Lon Nicko asked the Council that due to being short-staffed, he asks for the public's patience with department duties, such as street sweeping.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm was made by Chris Dotzler, seconded by Julie Miller. The motion carried with all voting aye.

X

Gary Tibbitts  
Mayor

X

Jennifer Thompson  
City Administrator