

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Jon Sanford, Jane Barbour, Joe Warr, John Popovich, Joe Warr
ABSENT: Dan Heinrich
ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Board of Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Rick Freeman

1). CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jon Sanford called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2). PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor led City Council and audience into the Pledge of Allegiance.

3). ROLL CALL

Roll call noted all members present.

4). MINUTES

MOTION (Warr) to approve December 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Popovich) to set agenda as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Charles Allen was absent tonight but had in agenda packet December statistics.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Industrial Park Property Sale

ATD would like to purchase 2 lots in the Industrial Park directly behind there shop and the former Bessinger Pickle location (which they just purchased). These 2 lots have 3 holes of the disc golf course located on them. Current plans include road access in the back of their shops instead of going out on Court Street and won't disturb disc golf course. City received a quote of \$14,875 from ATD to build 7 gates to be installed on the outside of the proposed garage-style doors planned in the park pavilion remodel. City Manager announced that John Rollins is also interested in one of these lots to build a large pole barn to store his equipment. City would need to hold public hearing prior to selling.

MOTION (Barbour) to agree to sell the 3 lots in the Industrial Park for \$15,000 each; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

8.2 City Court

Popovich: Did some research on this subject and Michigan State Constitution back in the 1960's revised to change to County Court System; forbidden for Cities to have a court system so the idea is done deal.

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Adopt Park & Recreation Master Plan 2024-2028

Rick Freeman was present tonight to answer any questions City Council might have. Parks & Recreation Commission meet earlier tonight to hold public hearing and finalize Recreation Master Plan. Deadline is February 1, 2024 to upload to MI Grants so City can then apply for any new grants coming out.

MOTION (Popovich) to approve resolution adopting Park & Recreation Master Plan for 2024-2028 years as recommended by Parks & Recreation Commission; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.2 MDOT Annual Resolution 2024 year

MOTION (Warr) to approve MDOT Annual Resolution for the 2024 year; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.3 Credit Card Application- Mercantile Bank

MOTION (Barbour) to approve obtaining a business credit card with a \$5000 limit from Mercantile Bank with Dale Wiltse, LaVonne Pritchard, Heath Christie, Randy Dittenbir, Chris Ireland, Charles Allen and Linda Kauffman as authorized users; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.4 AT & T Equipment Upgrades

MOTION (Popovich) to approve AT & T equipment upgrades as presented on City water tower after structural calculations were done by Fullerton Engineering; support (Warr). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Kirk Olson letter attached in council packets. All units of government are in agreement that the Bike Path Project is a great idea, just need time to work out right-of-way/easements and financing. Suggestion would be to apply for 2% grant for feasibility study and go from there.
- City Park expansion- project moving forward and City applied for \$100,000 MDARD Grant (30% match) and will show this project done in phases to make grant application more appealing.
- City Park Pavilion repairs- scheduled to start February 2024
- Post Office- no news
- Passing of Rick Spies last week; will be deeply missed and was a prominent business owner

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Sad to see Rick Spies passing; great community support at the memorial service. Wanted to thank Park & Recreation Commission on all the work they put into updating Recreation Master Plan. Wanted to thank city staff on a fast response time and implementing a contingency plan with the lift station pump failure at Detroit Street or it could have been bad!

11.3 Council Members:

Popovich: Toured Bopp-Busch facility and was very impressed on their operation!

Warr: Glad to see Master Recreation Plan adopted and moving forward!

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

MOTION (Warr) to approve payment of bills as submitted; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION (Warr) to approve November financial statements as submitted; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Barbour) to adjourn meeting at 8:28 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk