

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Jon Sanford, Dan Heinrich, Jane Barbour, John Popovich, Joe Warr
ABSENT: None
ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Commissioner Bobbie Burke, City Assessor Brandon Murphy, Sarah Dettloff

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 (Heinrich) to approve December 3, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

City Manager received word from DeShano Development that due to the recent apartment fire to please remove them from the agenda. City Manager would like to add new agenda item 9.2 County Discussion.

MOTION (Warr) to approve agenda with addition and deletion; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Sarah Dettloff: Was wondering how the Au Gres Township meeting went with the marijuana smell issue? City Manager explained that representatives from the marijuana facility was present and they had scrubbers cleaned in December and charcoal filters installed. Noticed no change and smell still bad. They have 6 other locations and no issues with smell. Au Gres facility is now a continuous grow instead of seasonal so this might be a factor as well as odor escaping an old, poorly insulated building. Au Gres Township gave them 30 days to figure out where smell is coming from.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Chuck Allen was not present but had December stats sheet for City Council. No questions.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Social Media Policy

Social media policy attached and per our insurance company; is recommending adopting.

MOTION (Warr) to adopt social media policy as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.2 County Discussion

City Manager invited Arenac County Commissioner Bobbie Burke to meeting tonight to discuss two departments at the Arenac County Building. The first is the Arenac County Drain Commission Office: still waiting on a response from letter sent to them on December 12, 2024 on the Riverside Drive Drain and some issues. The second is the Arenac County Housing Department. Does County employ LeeAnn Fischer and what are her role/duties? Was suppose to be applying for and administering the MSHDA grant on behalf of the City for a fee. Applications opened October 1 and hasn't yet applied and now just informing City too busy to do. Very disappointed with these County Offices and how things have not been handled and would like some answers.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Thank you to our first responders for the quick action at Riverside Manor Apartments fire. Also thank you to Amanda Goodson and the Closet Exchange and the community for rallying around the victims!
- Christmas festivities were all a success- parade, tree lighting and Olde Fashion Christmas.
- Arenac Community Funds Trivia Night set for February 15, 2025- get your teams signed up!

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Brandon Murphy: Working on finalizing 2025 taxable values with assessment change notices going out end of February. Everyone's taxable values will be going up this year 3.1% instead of the maximum 5%. Informed City Council still doing 20% field work every year and discovering buildings, etc. that have been missed; re-cooping these taxable valves for the City.

11.2 Mayor:

Wanted to pass on condolences to Joe Warr and family for his recent passing of his wife Maragaret Warr. City appreciates her contribution she gave to City while serving on Parks & Recreation Board. Christmas traditions the City held again this year were amazing! Apartment fire was tragic but nice to see community coming together and heart-warming to see!

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: Enjoyed Christmas season; town and all festivities were great!

Warr: Thanked Council and staff for the card and donation on behalf of his wife.

Popovich: Ditto on another successful Christmas season!

Barbour: Town looked beautiful!

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Barbour) to adjourn meeting at 7:59 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk