

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Jon Sanford, Dan Heinrich, Jane Barbour, Joe Warr, John Popovich, Joe Warr

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Drain Commissioner Larry Davis, Dave Vallier from Spicer Group, Blake Creane from APM, Au Gres-Sims Superintendent Chris Ming

1). CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jon Sanford called meeting to order at 7:02 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 (Popovich) to approve September 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Warr) to set agenda with addition of 8.1 Riverside Drive Drain Project/Arenac County Drain Commissioner Larry Davis; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Ming: Wanted to announce that school bus stops will change on US-23 and M-65 roads only to yellow light and traffic not having to stop in both directions. This is consistent with the other area school districts and only allows kids to be picked up on the right side of the road while the bus is on the full shoulder of the road. For all other roads, it will remain red light with traffic stopping in both directions.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Report totals for the month of September 2023 was passed out; Police Chief Chuck Allen was absent.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Riverside Drive Project/Larry Davis

Arenac County Drain Commissioner Larry Davis along with Dave Vallier from Spicer Engineering were present tonight to continue discussion on the Riverside Drive Drain project. The Drain Office explained that there is a City pipe that runs along the road in this section of houses in question (Don Walton area). The County did not touch this pipe since it is City infrastructure but put in 2 outlets on both sides of this pipe. It is up to the individual property owners to get rid of their own water by tying into this City pipe. The city pipe drains down to the 2 outlets that then connects to County drain and out to the river. Since the project did not include this section of pipe, suggestion would be to tv it out and see if pipe is working properly and a viable option or if it needs to be replaced.

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Blake Creane- Advanced Pest Management Year End Re-Cap

Blake Creane was present tonight to report the 2023 season. Overall, they had 44 total calls for the season, treated 76 standing water sites, 394 catch basins and driven 282 miles. They finished spraying for the season a little later this year on September 21 due to the nice weather. They will be surveying standing water sites this fall field testing a new mapping software which will be implemented and show up on their tablets where they have gone or what areas were missed. City Council thanked Blake for attending and overall have been happy with APM services.

9.2 Consumer Energy Franchise Renewal (Gas)

Consumers Energy gas franchise renewal is up April 2024. Attached is new proposed franchise agreement along with a copy of the existing one. City Council just approved the electric franchise agreement back in 2020 and this is for 30 years again.

MOTION (Warr) adopt Consumer Energy Franchise Renewal for gas for a period of 30 years from April 2024-April 2054; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

Regular City Council Meeting

9.3 Northland VISA Credit Card

City will be applying to Northland Credit Union for a city credit card to be used by all departments due to the increasing online shopping or the convenience of not having to set up vendor accounts for one-time purchases. Northland Credit Union needs minutes showing who is authorized users and to allow City Manager and/or City Clerk to set up account. Suggestion would be to keep all authorized users as department heads and/or full-time employees.

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve City Manager Dale Wiltse and/or City Clerk LaVonne Pritchard to set up city credit card with Northland Area Credit Union and to have authorize users be: Dale Wiltse, LaVonne Pritchard, Heath Christie, Randy Dittenbir, Chris Ireland, Charles Allen and Linda Kauffman; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.4 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal

City Manager attached the proposed property insurance renewal for the City for one year. Rates went up due to the value of all buildings going up along with Police liability changes. City Manager did negotiate the price some (started out with a 22% increase) and the best Decker Agency could do was an increase of 15%. Checked with surrounding cities and their insurance renewal is also up 10-22%. Last year paid \$19,272 and this year a total of \$22,440 is owing.

MOTION (Warr) to approve property and liability insurance renewal with Decker Agency for one year from 11/1/23-10/31/2024; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Park expansion- Met with Freeman, Russo, Riggs for preliminary design and cost estimates. Sparks Grant to be announced this week.
- Lonesome Dove Motel- hoping to be open in 4-6 months. Waiting on Health Department and installation of equipment. They still do not have a liquor license.
- Post Office- call from developer regarding Ennes property. No news on City's presentation.
- City has no jurisdiction on the school and received a miss dig that they are installing solar panels around track area.
- Halloween in the Park is scheduled for October 21, 2023.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Wondering if any word on pavilion improvements? Dale will get ahold of Morton Builders and see if still on schedule to begin end of October.

11.3 Council Members:

Warr: Nice to see the lamp posts are being decorated!

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve August financial statements as submitted; support (Warr). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:55 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk