

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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, Police Chief Charles Allen, Doug Marsh from Arenac Independent, Jim Hatch, Nicholas Hodgkinson, Sarah Dettloff, Eileen Walsh, Kathleen McCartney

1). CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jon Sanford called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2). PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3). ROLL CALL

Roll call noted all present.

4). MINUTES

MOTION (Barbour) to approve October 7, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Warr). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Warr) to set agenda as presented; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Detloff: Does City have drop box for Toys for Tots? Check with local banks and Sunrise Market, they had drop boxes in the past.

Dale Wiltse: If want to get involved in community, there is a meeting Wednesday, November 5 at 5:30 PM for anyone who wants to participate in the Christmas festivities around town; looking for volunteers.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Charles Allen was present at meeting tonight and handed out stat sheet for the month of October. Halloween in the Park event had 2 small incidents and trick-or-treating around town was down this year. Will be working Christmas Parade on December 6.

Barbour: Any word on Northport gas station? Chuck said new owner is a friend of his but noticed new tanks and cement work done and now nothing. Probably will start up again Spring 2026.

8. OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Re-Zoning Request- Moore Builders

Nick Moore withdrew his re-zoning application to the City. With application withdrawn, no further discussion and just need a motion to close agenda item out.

MOTION (Warr) to deny re-zoning request for parcel code #200-028-000-020-00 from R-2 to "C" Commercial zoning; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Resolution: Riverfront Park Expansion Grant Match Agreement

Resolution needs to be passed and project agreement signed. This project consists of an additional two cabins, 28 concrete campsites, restroom building, landscaping and signage. DNRTF Grant is for \$400,000 with City commitment of \$200,000.

MOTION (Warr) to approve resolution for executing 2024 MNRTF Development Grant Project Agreement for the Au Gres Riverfront Campground with a commitment from the city of \$200,000; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.2 Resolution Charitable Gaming License- Arenac County Celebration Fund

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve resolution for charitable gaming license to the Arenac County Celebration Fund to hold a one-time Las Vegas night in the City; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.3 TIFA Commercial Property Improvement Grant

TIFA Board has been working on a grant program for business owners to apply. This is set for a maximum grant of \$10,000 with a 1:1 match. Applications will be accepted now through March 31, 2026. A committee of City Manager, Mayor, 1 City Council member of John Popovich, 1 Planning Commission of Tom Nixon and 1 TIFA Board member of Dan Tolliver has been formed to process applications. TIFA Board will then approve applicants as suggested by committee at April meeting with deadline of city's fiscal year June 30 annually for project completion. Grant is only towards permanent

affixtures of building and/or grounds. If business owner is successful in obtaining grant, needs to wait three (3) years to re-apply.

MOTION (Warr) to approve TIFA Commercial Property Improvement Grant Program as submitted; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9.4 Kathleen McCartney Letter

Kathleen McCartney was present tonight to discuss letter she sent in to City in regards to a request to live stream City Council meetings on a social platform like facebook or youtube. She feels this is extremely important to increase awareness and transparency and allow for all those who are busy or out of town to participate. There is an isolation in the community and with the technology out there, why not? Jon Sanford explained the School Board looking into similar request and can piggy back off them what they come up with. City Manager will look into microphones and hoping to see something by first of year.

9.5 Closed Session: Park & Recreation Supervisor Position

MOTION (Warr) to enter into closed session at 7:42 pm to discuss park and recreation supervisor position; support (Barbour). Motion carried. Audience was asked to leave building.

MOTION (Warr) to close out of closed session and enter back into regular meeting at 8:10 pm; support (Barbour). Motion carried. Audience was called back in to meeting

MOTION (Barbour) to approve a \$5000 bonus to City Park Manager for the 2025 park season; support (Warr). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- City received a \$250,000 MDOT street grant for paving of Michigan Avenue, Albert, Water and Saginaw Street. Will be working with SSI on this project.
- Southcourt houses are scheduled for delivery end of November; foundation work should be starting shortly in preparation for arrival.
- Park Expansion project should be moving forward with materials coming in this month
- Post Office relocation in the former McDonald's building is still moving along and lease agreement has been made
- Halloween in the Park event- another great year!
- Ballfields- moved utility building and work being done by John McKenzie and Dan Heinrich.
- Chamber nuts are in and available for \$25 per can.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Jim Hatch: Just signed up to be a residence of Au Gres. Moved from Massachusetts and had a small manufacturing IT business. Need to get young people in our community and need to get fiber cable available for growth!

Nick Hodgkinson: Newer property owner and first meeting he could attend. Looking to buy some commercial property in Au Gres. Would love to see a skating rink and swimming pool put in.

11.2 Mayor: Halloween in the Park was great to see! 11th year doing it, great job! Christmas Parade coming up December 6.

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: Concession/utility building moved at ballfields and working with John McKenzie on getting window and door installed. Still need electricity hooked up.

Warr: Scheduled to pick up trees Monday, November 24. Get with Sheree Wiltse to sign up to decorate a tree.

Popovich: Nothing

Barbour: Hoping to sponsor a family for Christmas again this year.

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION (Barbour) to approve September financial statements as submitted; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:29 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.