

**CITY OF AU GRES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, Police Chief Charles Allen, Arenac County Board of Commissioner Bobbie Burke

**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** (Barbour) to approve October 3, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Warr). Motion carried.

**5). SET AGENDA**

**MOTION** (Heinrich) to set agenda as submitted; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None

**7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

Chuck Allen was present tonight and handed out October 2023 stats report. Enforcing zoning ordinance violations is working good out and couple ideas him and Dale are throwing around for next year.

**8. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**9). NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Wage Agreement 12/1/23-11/30/2024 Closed Session

**MOTION** (Barbour) to enter into executive session at 7:10 PM to discuss employee's wages; support (Warr). Motion carried.

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve 3-year wage agreement for all hourly staff from 12/1/23-11/30/2026 with the 1<sup>st</sup> year as a 4% flat increase as attached and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a 3% increase; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9.2 End of Year Evaluation/Bonus- Park Manager Chris Ireland

**MOTION** (Heinrich) to approve a \$3000 performance bonus on the 2023 camping season to Park Manager Chris Ireland along with a salary increase of \$50/week from April 1-October 31; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**MOTION** (Warr) to return to regular session City Council meeting at 7:40 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried. Invited all guests back in.

9.3 Blue Care Network Insurance Renewal

**MOTION** (Heinrich) to approve new health insurance rates with Blue Care Network for the period of 12/1/23-11/30/2024 with an increase of 9.01%; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.4 Opt Out PA 152 Resolution

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve opt out resolution for PA 152 for the 2024 year; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**10). CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Park expansion- City did not receive MI Spark Grant. Moving forward with the project while looking for other funding possibilities.
- Post Office- no news
- Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting will be held Saturday, December 2 starting at 6:15 PM

- Au Gres Township resident would like City's support in applying for grant funds to do a bike path from Au Gres Township (Green Drive) and ending at Court Street/Midshipman Drive. Did some leg work on permission and rights-of-way and already has permission from CN Farms to put bike path around the perimeter of their property and then out to Midshipman Drive/Court Street. City Council and City Manager agreed to support this project at this time.
- ATD wants to purchase lot from the City that is adjoining to Bessinger Pickle to make a driveway access in the back connecting Bessinger Pickle to ATD building. They recently purchased Bessinger Pickle and part of the lot they are interested in has a section of the disc golf course located on it. City would be willing to work with them since it is great to see company expanding and options include them purchasing the lot and giving City easement for disc golf course section or get a survey done and split lot and have them pay the bill. City Manager will talk more with them on options and move forward since Council was in agreement to the property purchase.
- HIP was an awesome event!
- Good luck to all the hunters and Happy Thanksgiving!

**11). COMMENTS**

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween in the Park was a huge success! Couple of other events coming up in December is the Christmas Parade/Tree Lighting and Businessman's Party. Cherry/Fannie/W Saginaw Street paving along with patch job around town was recently completed and looks great! City Park Pavilion improvements scheduled to begin after December 1, 2023.

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: HIP was a great event and 1<sup>st</sup> time he attended. Looking forward to Christmas season.

Warr: Picking up Christmas Trees Saturday, November 18 with Bill and trees will be ready to decorate the week of Thanksgiving again as usual.

Barbour: HIP was great and grandkid won a bike! Can't wait for Christmas season.

Popovich: Wondering if anyone else received a survey on electric cars? Glad to see they are collecting research on this topic.

**11). PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**13). ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** (Heinrich) to adjourn meeting at 8:24 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

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Jon Sanford, Mayor

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LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk