

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

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Police Chief Matthew Klosowski-Lorenz, Arenac County Board of Commissioners Bobbie Burke & Lisa Salgat, City Assessor Brandon Murphy, Arenac County Drain Commissioner Larry Davis and Assistant Kaylin Czymbor

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 January 3, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve agenda adding agenda item 9.2 March Meeting Date change; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Mayor Sanford wanted to give a shout out to Matt for the nice article written in the Michigan Municipal League Review magazine. Police Chief Matt Klosowski-Lorenz had nothing to report, very slow and quiet.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Riverside Drain Loan

Preliminary engineering work done by Spicer Engineering with all easements obtained and Riverside Drain District doubling in size. City will finance project to be paid back within special assessment district and estimating around \$193,900. Bids will go out in March and due back in April. Depending on bid, proposing 7-10 year pay off at 5.5% interest with Drain Office collecting all money from taxes and Drain office paying an annual installment to City. Drain office still needs to hold a day of review after awarding bids for property owners to see their assessment and give them the option of paying off their assessment up front. Drain Office would like \$75,000 up front to purchase pumps and valves with a lead time on materials so when project is awarded, they can proceed.

Warr: Wanted to know if entire district is in the City; Larry responded that there are two property owners in Sims Township.

Larry Davis: Next project that needs to start discussion is the Au Gres River; thinking of setting up an Inter-County Drain District since all property owners along the River should pay to maintain it with upstream sand/silt being washed down. City Manager waiting for a response from Army Corps of Engineers but was told now that the City owns the Riverside Park, they no longer have to dredge the river. A plan needs to be in place on who is responsible for maintaining and who is to bear that cost.

MOTION (Warr) to approve resolution to authorize purchase of Riverside Darin notes; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.2 March Meeting Date Change

City Mayor Jon Sanford will be gone March 1-11, 2023 if Council wants to change date.

MOTION (Warr) to change regular March City Council meeting to Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7 PM; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Au Gres River Drain District: discussed earlier and waiting for response from Army Corps of Engineers on options.
- Ennes Building: waiting on Consumer Energy to disconnect utilities; scheduled for mid-February.
- Au Gres Township water contract: trying to find location for water meter; corner of Santiago Road & US-23 is very busy with utilities.
- Spark Grant: Applied for Campground Expansion project; waiting for announcement if selected
- Veteran Banners: Help get word out on this program. Forms are due March 15, 2023
- Arenac Community Fund Trivia Night: Would like to see City put together a team with the City being a recipient of so many grants from this group. Date is February 18 in Standish at the Community Center Building.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Burke: Would like veteran banner form and wanted to know if photo of 2 people would be acceptable? Arenac County is setting up Veteran Service Officer and office along with a board with the recent passage of the Veterans Millage. If anyone interested, please apply and help get word out. Deb Stephens is retiring after 39 years as 911 dispatcher.

Brandon Murphy: Assessment change notices will be mailed out to property owners end of February showing what there tentative 2023 values will be. Wanted to give Council a heads up that all property values will be going up again based on rate of inflation and recent sales due to the market.

11.2 Mayor: State Representative will be holding office hours Friday in Standish at 10 AM.

11.3 Council Members

Warr: Nothing
Heinrich: Short winter so far.
Barbour: Guys doing a great job on plowing her road.
Popovich: Nothing

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 December financial statements as submitted; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Barbour) to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m.; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk