

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 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 Chuck Allen, Arenac County Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Sean Mattia, Tom Nixon, Greg Easterle, Joyce Humerickhouse, Allison Wiltse, Sarah Dettloff, Justin Nixon, Becky Murphy, Bill Borushko, Derek Porritt

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 April 1 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Barbour).

Motion carried.

MOTION (Warr) to approve April 28 special meeting minutes as presented; support (Heinrich).

Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Warr) to approve agenda with addition of AGS School Bond discussion as the first item under new business 9.1 and shifting the rest of the items down one; support (Heinrich).

Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

Derek Porritt: asked on status of Au Gres Township Meeting with Pure Green marijuana facilities? City Manager answered that Company never showed up at meeting and Township is taking steps to resolve.

Joyce Humerickhouse: Status on fire hydrant? City Manager said Bilacic Trucking called in a miss dig and will be fixing in next couple of weeks. Status of no wake signs? City Manager has signs ordered.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Chuck Allen was present tonight and had April stats sheet for City Council. Has been writing more tickets. Will be getting speed sign back out and first spot will be North Main Street.

John Popovich: attended County meeting and received complaints on running the red light in town. Hard to sit at light and not be visible but when he does monitor it, seems like everyone makes an effort to stop and no one runs the light. Sean Mattia suggested to try rumble strips but City Manager explained that US-23 is MDOT Highway and hard to get anything done locally along the highway.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Au Gres-Sims School Proposal Discussion

Tom Nixon spoke on behalf of the attendees on his opposition for the School Bond Proposal with the lack of information and the high cost to maintain. Asked for transparency from the school and a business plan and received nothing. Asking City Council for a letter or resolution in opposition of this project to present to the School and to start momentum for other Townships to do the same.

City Manager Dale Wiltse said he feels his job as City Manager along with City Council is to do what is best for our residents. Feels this is project had no research and no plan to back it and with school enrollment dropping, thinks this is a poor decision for our residents to be paying for the next 20 years. Checked on legality of City taking a side on a bond proposal and yes, the City can do.

MOTION (Warr) to pass a resolution of opposition for the AGS School Bond proposal as currently submitted; support (Barbour). Motion carried. Tom Nixon thanked City Council and all members in attendance for coming out tonight in support of these efforts.

9.2 Arenac County Foreclosure List

MOTION (Warr) to approve waiving our claims to all parcels that were foreclosed in the 2025 year; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.3 Yeo & Yeo Audit Engagement Letter

MOTION (Warr) to approve Yeo & Yeo Audit Engagement Letter for the 2024/25 fiscal year; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9.4 Resolution- Decertification of portion of Allen Court Road

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve resolution decertifying portion of Allen Court Road off the MDOT local street map at a length of 243 feet; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.5 Au Gres Township Water Contract

MOTION (Warr) to approve new water contract with Au Gres Township thru January 15, 2045; having it expire same time as our water contract with Saginaw Midland and raising rates to one and three-quarters more than City current rate (175%) pending approval of Au Gres Township; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.6 Huron 544 LLC Letter

City Manager reached out to our City Attorney on what legal action we can do on the Huron 544 LLC parcel (Eric Frey, property owner). He obtained a building permit with no site plan approval or zoning approval. Currently, Arenac County Building Department has a cease order on the property along with EGLE requiring clean up of asbestos. City Attorney prepared a Court injunction to property owner for which the court system will then determine outcome.

MOTION (Heinrich) to proceed with court injunction on building at 544 Huron Rad; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Southcourt Housing Update: City is still working on grant application. We are 1 in 3 vying for the last \$400,000 left in this disbursement. All 3 applicants have to finish their grant application. City needs a Phase I Environmental Study done. Soonest they can get one done is May 16, 2025. If City turns in paperwork too late, there is another round of money that will open back up in the Fall 2025 and City will be at the top of the list for it. City is proceeding with Phase I study.
- Campground expansion update: still on track with construction not beginning until after Car Show Weekend. Waiting on State to disburse the \$400,000 grant the city received towards this project.
- No wake signs have been ordered and City will be selling at a reduced cost.
- Arenac Community Fund Golf Outing will be held Saturday, May 16 at Huron Breeze Golf Course.
- Memorial Day Parade is Sunday, May 25 at 1 PM.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Derek: Great to see City apply for grants! Township does not apply for any grants. City Council did mention that grants are a lot of work and Township positions are usually part-time.

11.2 Mayor: Great to see large attendance!

11.3 Council Members:

Barbour: Glad to see something it getting done on the School Bond millage.

Popovich: Attended County Park & Recreation Meeting with Dale and it was a very informative meeting to help work together to promote all of the Parks in Arenac County- Au Gres City Campground, Pt Au Gres Park, and Oasis Lake Park.

Warr: Make sure to put no wake signs on the City easements along the river. City Manager did inform Council that he reached out to Keyno about marking City easements. Might want to look at same court injunction process on the old bowling alley building; pretty bad shape. Follow up on concrete dumping in ditch; City Manager reached out to contractor and cement company and both blamed each other. Will not happen again and offered to clean it up. Thanked everyone for coming out!

Heinrich: Glad to see people in attendance even if it was about School bond millage. Tom Nixon currently has venmo app set up to help buy yard signs on the proposal. Greg Easterle, Sims Township Supervisor in attendance tonight and will report back to Sims Township Board.

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:12 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk