

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Arenac County Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Au Gres Police Chief Charles Allen, Matthew Dewyer, Greg & Wendy Adamczyk, Julie Hazeltine, Sheree Wiltse, Bob Britt, AGS Superintendent Chris Ming

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 2 regular and April 2, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

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

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Matthew Dewyer: Read a statement in regards to a heated conversation with City Manager and himself and the inappropriate behavior that was displayed by our City Manager.

Sheree Wiltse: Hearing some concern on ballfield move and wanted to publicly announce that the Park & Recreation Board has been meeting and discussing for over a year and trying to make best decision for City. Meetings are always open to public and welcome to attend and voice concerns.

Wendy Adamczyk: Live on Burt Street and consider themselves "snowbirds" and came back to find their neighborhood not the same. Neighbor closed in boat hoist and blocked their view of river; City Manager has been in contact with property owner and they have until May 15 to tear down. Air Bnb's on both sides of her house; City working on passing an ordinance to regulate.

Bob Britt: Very disappointed with City Manager and confrontation with Matt and the behavior displayed at his daughter's business (Becky Britt-Dewyer doctor office). Does City Council have a position on this type of behavior displayed to show up at a place of business after hours? This issue needs to be addressed. Dan Heinrich answered and said "No" since this is the first time this has come up. Popovich said the topic will be addressed but there is a law on ethics, etc and not addressed tonight.

Julie Hazeltine: Wanted to introduce herself and looking for support as she is running on the August 6 ballot for Arenac County Treasurer. Her background includes 27 years at State Farm Insurance along with serving as Sterling Village Treasurer in the past. Her husband James Hazeltine is foreman at the Arenac County Road Commission and is Village President.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Will be getting speed sign back up for the holiday weekend. Dumpsters are in and hoping people will take advantage of the free dumpsters and do some spring cleaning to get rid of blight around town. Dumpsters will be available May 8-22 at the DPW garage.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Arenac County Foreclosure List

Arenac County Treasurer sent a list of foreclosed property that will be coming up for tax sale this year. City always has first right to these properties before going out for auction. The list includes 4 boat slips at Harbortown, 1 commercial and 1 residential lot. City has no interest and recommend approving waiver of claim.

MOTION (Warr) to pass waiver of claim for the 2024 foreclosed parcels; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.2 Republic Trash Contract Extension

City Manager just wanted to inform City Council that Republic wants to extend their contract for trash collection instead of going out for bid. Trash contract expires December 31, 2024. City Manager waiting on proposed price from Republic and waiting to hear back from surrounding townships on what they are currently paying for GFL. Will keep City Council posted.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Blight Campaign: May 8-22. Republic donated 2 dumpsters. There is County wide recycling event for items like tires, TVs, electronics but fees involved. City Manager would like to see city residents to take part in County event and not fill up our dumpster with these items. He will be out of town this weekend but suggest maybe have a trailer over there and haul over to County recycling program on Saturday, May 18. Doesn't mind if City has to pay for these items. Joe Warr would be willing to work with Dale on coordinating this.
- DPW Truck: Changed truck size from 550 to a 1-ton truck with smaller plow; out for re-bids.
- Park Expansion: Waiting on Mike Russo for final design/layout which should be done by the end of the week. From here, we can then put the project out for bids.
- Pavilion Repairs: Looks great and everything is done except doors. Doors are supposed to arrive May 17.
- Consumer Energy PYTOTM: City did not receive grant but would like to thank Kathleeen Freeman & Barb Richardson for all their work on the project. City came in 5th out 88 applicants. With the grant presentation, City did receive lots of recognition and feedback.
- Wanted to thank Teresa Spies for the recent donation of 28 picnic tables to the city.
- KinderPlatz/Chapel Project: Received \$10,000 grant from Maser Foundation and will go towards new windows, flooring, electrical updates and fencing.
- Riverside Park: Sunshades have been ordered for the splash paid and this is paid for by the Arenac Community Fund Grant received.
- Digital Speed sign at school- working on installing and this is paid for by the 2% Saganing Tribal Grant.
- Ballfields: What is the direction the city goes from here? Options are to build, not build or let ball/soccer youth organization handle? Discussion followed but consensus was that we need ballfields and the next Park & Rec Meeting is May 21.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Great to see pavilion improvements! Thanked Dale and Chuck for the blight initiative! Breakwall clean up is this Saturday, May 11. Would like to see scope of work and who owns or responsible for to sign off on project. Thanked Sheree Wiltse for spearheading again the Memorial Day Parade this year Sunday, May 26. Would like to get convertibles in parades and veterans to ride in them and be honored. If anyone knows of veterans, please get the work out and invite them to participate.

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: Pavilion looks nice. Next event is School Field Day and Taste of Au Gres event hosted by ACE Group.

Warr: Pavilion looks nice! Surprised that a nation-wide contractor was so difficult to deal with. Hopes that citizens will take advantage of the blight dumpsters and get yards cleaned up. He is in support of moving ballfields to soccer field location but feels it is not right for City residents to pay for the financial burden alone. City is the hub of the community and it needs ballfields. If we all could communicate and work together and share financial burden.

Popovich: In support of the ballfield move and need to have communication take place. Would like to continue working on migrant housing ordinance. Wondering if in the plans on putting sidewalks on both sides of S Main Street? This project has not been listed in the plans and current sidewalk is only on one side of S Main Street, then crossing over by Sleepy Oaks and continuing the sidewalk/bike path to the boat launch.

Barbour: she is all for the ballfields and scoreboard. This was first thing she brought up when she got on City Council and would like to make a donation. Sheree Wiltse is collecting donations for a scoreboard in memory of Rick Spies. Wolverine Pride Association has donated \$2000 towards it as well.

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Heinrich) to adjourn meeting at 8:27 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk