

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 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, Arenac County Treasurer Dennis Stawowy, Sherlyn Burkhardt, Chelsie Bashaw, Julie Schnettler, City Assessor Brandon Murphy, Joyce Hummerickhouse

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 May 7 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

MOTION (Warr) to approve May 9, 2024 special meeting minutes as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

City Mayor would like to add to agenda item 9.6 Annual City Manager evaluation.

MOTION (Popovich) to set agenda with addition; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Chris Ming: Present tonight to pass out information that coming up on August primary ballot is the non-homestead millage renewal increasing back up to the full 18 mills school operating. Very important for school budget to operate at full 18 mills of non-homestead school tax.

Dennis Stawowy: Present tonight to let City Council that he will be stepping down from the County Treasurer position after 24 years. He still wants to be involved in Arenac County but not a full-time job and will be running for the vacant seat on the Road Commission with Dr. Ronald Schwab choosing not to run. Asking for Council support on the August primary ballot.

Sherlyn Burkhardt: Present tonight to let City Council know that she will be running for the Arenac County Treasurer seat. She has worked the last 3 years for Dennis and a total of 26 years for Arenac County in different departments. Asking for Council support on the August primary ballot.

Joyce Hummerickhouse: Would like to see some heat put on DNR or Army Core of Engineers to clean up break wall site at the mouth of the river. Mayor Jon Sanford explained that this property is in Sims Township and State Representative Mike Hoadley spearheaded a clean up effort and was told to stop since liability and that the Army Corp of Engineers will be putting it in their budget for clean up next year. Also wanted to address Farm Market moving to Monday. She is not happy with the move along with vendors and customers. City Manager explained that he talked to vendors that were upset with the day change and no one wanted to take the market over. This group, the Northeast Michigan Regional Farm Market Association was willing to take over Farm Market along with running Tawas and Oscoda's market. Held their first market in Au Gres on Monday, June 3 and June is always slow with no produce yet, but the group will take back to the board to see if they can change to Friday. City did commit to this group running Farm Market this year and up to this group to decide which day.

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Handed out stats sheet for the month of May. Started to get busy and summer season is in full swing! Blight clean up efforts was a great success and still areas that need work to be done and will be working with those individuals.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Truck Bids

City Manager received new bids for a 1 ton dually pick up truck. Most competitive bid was through Richardson Ford. City Manager will confirm with staff all the small details are correct with motor, snowplow package etc. before ordering but this truck purchase has been in budget for the last 3 years with a budget amount of \$125,000. It will come in a lot cheaper than this with the city selling our 2000 Chevy dump truck along with our 2012 Ford F-250 with utility box.

MOTION (Warr) to approve purchase of new pick-up truck with snowplow package and service body up to budget amount of \$125,000; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Budget Adjustments 2023/24 year

MOTION (Warr) to approve budget adjustments as presented for the 2023/24 year; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.2 Yeo & Yeo Engagement Letter

MOTION (Warr) to approve audit engagement letter with Yeo & Yeo for the 2023/24 year; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.3 Adopt City Millage Rates for 2024 year

MOTION (Heinrich) to adopt Millage Rates as presented on L-4029 for the 2024 tax year; support (Warr). Motion carried.

9.4 Close out Northland Credit Union Library Account

MOTION (Warr) to close out library account at Northland Credit Union and merge with other City library accounts at Horizon Bank; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.5 Ballfields

City Manager explained that city has in budget for the 2024/25 year \$100,000 to spend on the ballfield move. Au Gres Baseball and Soccer will be forming one Youth Sports Program and this group will then be in charge of this project. This group will design, build and maintain this facility. Group will need to obtain approved purchase orders/receipts for ballfields improvements and the city will pay bills up to \$100,000. The ball group has a 501 3(C) status already and just needs to merge into this new group to apply for grant funds. Suggestion was to obtain letters of support from surrounding townships and submit for the fall 2% grant for ballfields and other expenses. Can start building ballfields now and apply for next stage of building like fencing, dug outs, bleachers, etc. which is not so imperative to hosting ball games. Julie Schnettler is looking into seeing if can use Omer fields next year if this project is not complete. City Manager passed message on to Julie that Moffatt Township is closing down their ballfields and this group is more that welcome to take backstops, fencing, or dugouts from the fields. Dale assessed the fields and said fencing/backstop would be worth it to get a group of volunteers to go over and pull fencing, etc.

Warr: Would like to see the City do a letter of support and give to this group so they can take around to other Townships or use to apply for grant funds showing that we are committed to this project.

MOTION (Warr) to write a letter of support for the ballfield re-location to the Au Gres Baseball/Soccer Youth Association to show the City's financial commitment of \$100,000 towards this project; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9.6 Closed Session- City Manager Evaluation

MOTION (Warr) to enter into closed session to discuss City Manager Annual Performance Evaluation; support (Popovich) at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried. All guests asked to leave at this time.

MOTION (Heinrich) to resume regular session at 8:40 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Library help: Two positions are open. June 14 is Linda's last day. Open house/thank you will be held Friday, June 14 from 3-5 PM. Linda is retiring after 44 years as Librarian.
- Blight Campaign: Program worked great and ended up using 3 dumpsters.
- Park Expansion: still waiting on Mike Russo for final design/layout
- 2% Grant: City received \$34,000 for back up pump for lift stations. City collaborated with City of Standish and this will be used mutually as needed.
- Taste of Au Gres will be held Wednesday June 5 (4:30-6:30 PM) along with 1st concert of the season starting at 6:30 PM
- 3 Walleye tournaments will be held in Au Gres during the month of June starting with the MWT this weekend
- June 21 is Consumer Energy Fun Day at Splash Pad Pavilion
- June 21 is informational session with June 22 as Frog Bit pull at Riverside Park

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Our Town Au Gres will be broadcasted on WKJC from 8-10 AM tomorrow and held at Ali's Restaurant. Glad to see progress on the ballfields. Memorial Day Parade was great turn out and Terry Jones donated the 10x19 flag to the Fire Department for events.

11.3 Council Members:

Barbour: Glad to hear issues are over and ballfield project is starting. Veteran banners look great!

Warr: Likes everything going on in the city! Would like to see City property more secure with cameras. Thinks City was taken advantage of blight program but glad to see it was a success! Would like to see a better community calendar of events for Au Gres!

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Heinrich) to adjourn meeting at 9:18 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk