

**CITY OF AU GRES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 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, Au Gres Police Chief Charles Allen, Arenac County  
Commissioner Bobbie Burke, Sarah Dettloff

**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** (Heinrich) to approve June 3 6:30 PM special, June 3 6:45 PM special and June 3, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

**5). SET AGENDA**

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

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

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

Handed out stats sheet for the month of June. Summer is here and has been busy! Will be working the fireworks and Car Cruise weekend this month. Will move digital sign to S Main Street for this upcoming holiday weekend!

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

8.1 PK Quote

City Manager reached out to Road Commission/MDOT for list of contractors that does pavement striping. For this area, the only company is PK Contracting. Got a quote for \$1315 to do N Court Street and \$4115 to do in front of the school. City Manager approved the Court Street quote only and will reach out to Duane Martin to see if he is cheaper and will do the striping in front of AGS School on Court Street. City Manager wanted to inform Council that this will be done in case they get complaints with the recent paving of N Court Street but will take PK a couple weeks to get here and mark.

**9). NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Change August City Council Date

With the recent School Election being held at each jurisdiction on Tuesday, August 5; City Council will need to change their regular meeting date.

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve changing August City Council Meeting date to Tuesday, August 12, 2025 due to conflict with School Election at 7 PM; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.2 Appoint New City Attorney

City Manager has reached out several times to our current City Attorney Patrick Winter and still has not received a phone call or email back. The City has two important projects to finish up- the Industrial Park and the Eric Frey property. City Manager is suggesting releasing City Attorney and appointing Tim Freel as interim City Attorney until next City Council Organizational Meeting. Joe Warr suggested getting something in writing like a loose contract on hourly rate and represents City of Au Gres. City Manager stated that does not require a retainer and has several small municipalities that he represents. His current hourly rate is \$200 but does offer a discount to municipalities. Tim Freel's first suggestion would be a complete overall on our current zoning ordinance since it does not have an enforcement in place.

**MOTION** (Warr) to appoint Tim Freel as interim City Attorney due to lack of support from former City Attorney Patrick Winter; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.3 City Manager Evaluation- Closed Session

**MOTION** (Warr) to enter into closed session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss City Manager annual evaluation; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**MOTION** (Warr) to enter back into regular session at 7:52 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**10). CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Southcourt Housing: Working with MSHDA for final grant agreement
- Campground Expansion: Old fence was taken by Whittemore Speedway. Bilacic Trucking will be working in area near Main Street until Car Show is over.
- River easements: Keyno has been contacted to do survey. Also, City will be getting KinderPlatz Park (fence to be installed) and Southcourt sites that the city is purchasing for the MSHDA housing project surveyed as well.
- Disc golf course has 18 newer benches and picnic tables. JR cleaned up disc golf entrance. Dan & Nate are working on disc golf tee pads.
- Fireworks will be held on July 5 at dusk by water tower
- Birthday Berthday disc golf tournament will be July 19
- Fireworks Fundraiser golf outing will be July 12 @ Huron Breeze Golf Course
- Au Gres Cruisers Car Show weekend July 26-27
- Cardboard tote @ DPW Garage next to recycling dumpster. This is for flattened cardboard only and hope to elevate some of recycling bin cardboard. Arenac Opportunities takes all cardboard for free. This will be a PILOT program and looking to get County wide recycling. Just an FYI, Edge/Vantage Plastics takes all number 2 plastics for recycling as well for free.

**11). COMMENTS**

11.1 Citizens:

Bobbie Burke: Fairgrounds will be ready for the Arenac County Fair this year July 14-19, 2025

11.2 Mayor: Couple big events of Gravel Grinders and Summer Smash Fishing Tournament were held out of Au Gres last month. Great to see!

11.3 Council Members:

Barbour: Proud of this town!

Popovich: He is going to have to postpone going to County Commissioners Meetings on Tuesdays thru the summer. Very concerned of the Ambulance Service that the County has. Budget is over 1 million dollars and they also get paid from insurance companies and hospitals. There are 3 ambulances in Arenac County- Moffatt, Standish and Au Gres with 2 employees working each location 24/7.

Warr: Would like to move forward with additional employment discussed and get some of these projects done this summer. Offered to take cardboard tote back and forth to Standish when full.

Heinrich: Busy time of the year coming up for the city!

**11). PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**13). ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:23 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

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Jon Sanford, Mayor

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LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk