

**CITY OF AU GRES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 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, Au Gres Police Chief Charles Allen, Laura Storey, Karen Wiltse

**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 June 4 special, June 4 special, June 4 closed session and June 4, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**5). SET AGENDA**

City Manager would like to add to agenda 9.2 Housing Survey.

**6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Laura Storey was present tonight to give updated on ballfields. Darrin Wilson doing drawings and specifications and expected to have next week. Working on 5013(c) application so the group can apply for grant funds. City Manager would like to attend Township meetings with the ballfield group and approach them together in partnering with a joint grant application for the ballfields. Get the township meeting schedules from Sims, Whitney, Au Gres and Turner Townships for their August meeting; next 2% grant due September 2024. City of Au Gres can do the paperwork and apply for the grant and partner with the other townships.

Karen Wiltse was present tonight to ask if City Council and/or Planning Commission look into re-zoning US-23 corridor to a mixed use. Right now, it is zoned commercial and businesses are having difficulty selling; including herself with the old Wiltse Real Estate office. If zoned mixed use and with the housing shortage, she feels these properties would then sell. City currently has residential housing mixed in this commercial district. Karen Wiltse brought in paperwork from the City of Omer where they just changed their zoning. Re-zoning would need to go in front of Planning Commission to start the process. City Manager can put on the July Planning Commission agenda but had conversation with Karen that she can apply for special land use permit right now to allow for this type of mixed use.

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

Handed out stats sheet for the month of June. Fireworks went well and no complaints.

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

8.1 City Manager Evaluation

**MOTION** (Warr) to go into closed session at 7:35 p.m. to further discuss City Manager Evaluation; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**MOTION** (Warr) to return to regular City Council meeting at 7:57 p.m.; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

**9). NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 MDOT Contract Renewal 2024-2029

**MOTION** (Warr) to approve MDOT Contract from 10/1/2024-9/30/2029 with corrections; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.2 Housing Survey

EMCOG is doing a housing survey for Arenac County right now. If the City could piggy-back off this survey and do a rider for a cost of around \$3000. This survey would show the need for housing and what type of housing in the City and is needed for any type of grant funding.

**MOTION** (Warr) to allow City of Au Gres to spend up to \$3500 for housing feasibility study; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**10). CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Ballfields: Hope we keep getting updates from the group on their progress!
- VFW banners: Two-year program is done and banners are still in good shape. City Manager is thinking if they want to renew, only charge \$50 for an additional year. Once banners get bad, will need to charge the \$200 again. City will send letter out to all banners that are up and see if they want to renew or if they want their banner back.
- Memorial Day Parade & Fireworks events were both great! Fireworks committee collected around \$1200 towards the 2025 fireworks display!
- Museum Program this Thursday, July 11 at 7 PM at the Arenac County Historical Society on "The Life & Times of John & Edward Sims:
- Golf Outing Saturday, July 13 @ Huron Breeze Golf Course for fundraiser for fireworks
- Car Cruise will be held on July 28-July 29, 2024 at City Park Pavilion

**11). COMMENTS**

11.1 Citizens: None

11.2 Mayor: Noticed sunshades are up at Riverside Park. Thanked Dan for being liaison on the ballfield committee. Wanted to know what the situation is with City on social media? City Manager explained we are still status quo; waiting to see how Chamber of Commerce makes out in the switch.

11.3 Council Members:

Heinrich: Fireworks were great! Tons on people up and using the boat launch over the weekend! JR deserves a pat on the back for prepping area for the fireworks! City should check with JR and see if he could plow US-23 sidewalks this winter.

Barbour: None

Warr: None

**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 May financial statements as submitted; support (Warr). Motion carried.

**13). ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** (Barbour) to adjourn meeting at 8:35 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

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Jon Sanford, Mayor

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LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk