

**CITY OF AU GRES  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025  
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Jon Sanford, Dan Heinrich, Jane Barbour, John Popovich  
ABSENT: Joe Warr  
ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, John & Leslie McKenzie, Don Chesney, Mark Haftner, Tim Freel

**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 Joe Warr absent.

**4). MINUTES**

**MOTION** (Barbour) to approve July 1 regular and July 1 closed session meeting minutes as presented; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

**5). SET AGENDA**

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

**6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

John McKenzie: Asked City to write a letter to County Building Department on the Houghtaling building structure on Ken Drive. Thinks his permit will need to be renewed in September- no way this building will pass inspection.

Hafner: What is City doing about this new build on Ken Drive? Afraid it might drop all values around the neighborhood.

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

Stat sheet for the month of July was included in council packets. Police Chief Charles Allen was not present tonight. John Popovich inquired about golf cart permits; noticed lots of golf carts without a permit. Can leave a note for Chuck to stop a few and inquire.

**8. OLD BUSINESS: None**

**9). NEW BUSINESS**

9.1 Introductions to new City Attorney Tim Freel

New City Attorney Tim Freel was present tonight to introduce himself to City staff and Council. Represents lots of other municipalities and from Tawas area. His first suggestion would be to pass a Municipal Civil Infraction Ordinance ASAP. City does not have one and hard for City to proceed without nothing in place. Eric Frey legal issue the only thing City can do is abatement (civil court) or criminal infraction.

9.2 MML Designation of Voting Delegates

MML Annual Convention this year is September 17-19, 2025 in Grand Rapids. City Council only needs to do the designation of voting delegates if someone is attending this meeting. Consensus was no City Council or City Manager was attending conference so no action needed.

**10). CITY MANAGER REPORT**

- Southcourt- waiting on MSHDA final grant agreement to give green light to proceed. Manufactured home company has a spot slotted for end of September to build. Property purchase on these 4 lots and title insurance should be done this month still.
- Campground Expansion- Bilacic cannot start until September due to lack of employees
- River easement surveys- Keyno working on them and has completed two.
- New Webpage- City & Campground webpage in the works with a company called Weblocal.
- Ballfield move- lost volunteer base; don't know where to go from here to finish.
- New Dawn Senior Living- almost done and finalizing lease. Will begin taking applications September 2. Will be having an open house tentatively scheduled for August 23.
- Car Show- huge event as always and great to see!

- Venetian Night- small turnout but making plans for 2026
- Community Center- now that election is over, wondering if City should look into Community Center. John Popovich brought up idea and it was great to see this group come together for a purpose. Don't want to raise property taxes but have a center for playing cards, education programs, pickleball, etc. Jon Sanford explained a new grant program out there for putting in small outdoor exercise areas and their goal they would like to see is one in every County. Maybe combine these two projects together.

**11). COMMENTS**

**11.1 Citizens:**

Hafner: Willow tree overhanging road and on private property- if City could get ahold of property owner.

Chesney: Him & Jim Wulff trimmed willow tree years ago but getting too old for that. Tree is obstructing ambulance service, trash, etc. What can City do to make Ken Drive a city street and maintain? Wouldn't mind paying special assessment.

**11.2 Mayor:** All summer community events were great!

**11.3 Council Members:**

Heinrich: Car show was great! Gone camping and missed Venetian Boat Parade.

Popovich: Venetian Boat Parade noticed a lot of homeowners participated in it by sitting outside and watching it or having bonfire.

Barbour: Lots of cars for Car Show! Did not have a chance to see Parade of Boats.

**11). PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

**12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**13). ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** (Heinrich) to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

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Jon Sanford, Mayor

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LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk