

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: Joe Warr

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Police Chief Charles Allen, Sarah Detloff, Greg Lynch, Brett Dixon, Roc Agrwal

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 as absent.

4). MINUTES

MOTION (Barbour) to approve July 7 regular and July 7 closed session meeting minutes as presented; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

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

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Charles Allen was present tonight and had stat sheet for the month of July passed out. Busy month with fireworks, Car Cruise and just increased traffic. Portable sign was sent in to be fixed beginning of July and still waiting for it to return.

John P: heard there was an accident at US-23/Main Street intersection. No injury, just property damage but bad visibility and could City press MDOT more. City Manager Dale sent in photos to MDOT requesting all the old signs about Harbor and River Access to be removed since they are illegible.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Fish Station- Commercial Fees

Dale reported that the City receives \$5200-5400 per year for fish station donations. This is barely breaking even with water bills, electricity, cleaning supplies, grinder blades, etc. Dale has ordered signed to be installed at fish station stating residential use only. Charter Fishing – Commercial Activity and is not allowed. Sign also states that funds paid by donations only not taxpayer dollars. Suggestion is to invite all commercial charter fisherman into meeting to discuss rates.

Barbour: talk to other areas on what they do. City Manager has tried with no luck. Other facilities are owned by DNR or private clubs. None of these areas feel like they have a commercial charter fishing problem. Other communities have freezers and work with dog food companies instead of dumping down city sewer. City now has additional expenses with fish being put down sewer with PFAS testing and additional cost of liquid alum.

Heinrich: Agrees with a monthly rate not seasonal since charter fishing pulls out of Au Gres and heads to west side of state for salmon fishing.

Dale will put up the new signs and hopefully charter companies will call and ask what is going on and we will be able to explain situation, get a list of charter names and idea of what a reasonable fee would look like. City Council wants to implement for the 2027 year.

MOTION (Barbour) to install signs at fish cleaning station now and implement a commercial fee for charter fishing to be determined for the 2027 year; support (Heinrich).

9.2 MML Annual Conference- Traverse City October 7-9, 2026

City Manager informed City Council that he would like to attend Annual Conference this year on Thursday and Friday October 8-9 with funding for harbors on the agenda. Very fitting for the City and with the river dredging slated for 2028 would like to go and make connections. If any City Council would like to attend, please let City Hall know.

9.3 MML Annual Meeting Voting Delegates

MOTION (Heinrich) to appoint Dale Wiltse as the City's designated voting delegate at this year's MML Annual Convention; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Southcourt: Houses are listed with Arenac Realty and have one offer, looking good for a sale.
- Campground Expansion: Phase I complete. Sites will be available for rent next week. Phase II working on bids and will consist of bathhouse, 2 cabins, concrete slabs, landscaping and signage. Hopefully Phase II project will start this fall with completion spring 2028.
- Election went great! Early voting is a waste of time and money.
- Met with Army Corps of Engineers of August 7. Possible river dredging in 2028. City will try and piggyback harbor dredging the same time. Spoiling is estimated to be 70,000 cubic yards and plan on using suction pump which will be cheaper but need larger area for spoiling's. City field that is rented out for farming next to soccer fields, would be the ideal spot. Farmer will not be able to rent that year. Heinrich inquired on the clean up that was suppose to happen this year at the boat access site/walkway to the lighthouse. City Manager explained money is there and contract was awarded to a company from Florida who is still planning on doing.
- Au Gres Cruisers Car Show was a hit with record cruise and show entries! Did not hear of any parking issues. Reached out to the farmer for possibly selling a portion of land for future parking lot across the street from the park and not interested.
- Republic Services Open House is Wednesday August 12 from 10-2 PM at their Pinconning landfill. Dale will be attending.
- Halloween in the Park scheduled for October 17, 2026.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Greg Lynch: Came to Au Gres Farm Market and was kicked out. Wants to see signed contract the City has. Wants an explanation on why he was kicked out or what rule he broke? City Manager informed Greg that there is no contract; the farm market group rents pavilion out like any other person for an event. It is not the City's farm market but an individual runs it. He has authority to kick whoever he wants out.

Roc Agrwal: He doesn't think many people know that fish station is not being funded by taxpayer money; maybe add that message to sign. Can residents "piggy-back" on the river dredging project as well? Dale explained that once the City is informed who was awarded the contract for the river dredging, it is then up to the City or homeowners to get ahold of contractor and see if he can do additional work. Sounds like Army Core of Engineers will do all

paperwork and bidding and does not need a permit to dredge center of river. The City and possibly homeowners will need a permit to dredge their sections. John Popovich talked to residents and was told that past contractor did do homeowner's dredging as well.

11.2 Mayor: Au Gres Car Show & Cruise was great and still setting records after 32 years!

11.3 Councilmembers:

Barbour: Cruise was great! Great to hear one house is selling!

Popovich: Impressed with the way things are going in town! Has been golfing this summer and has missed the Arenac County Commissioner's meetings.

Heinrich: Town has been busy with lots going on this summer!

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 7:57 p.m.; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk