

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Dale Wiltse, Roc Agrwal, Jamie Rivette from Yeo & Yeo, Mike Tressler from Advanced Pest Management, AGS Superintendent Chris Ming (entered 7:23 pm)

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 (Popovich) to approve September 1, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Warr). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

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

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Charles Allen was not present tonight and had stat sheet for the month of September passed out. City Manager noted that you won't see as much police presence through year end due to Chuck limited on amount of money he can make drawing social security.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Yeo & Yeo Audit Presentation- Jamie Rivette

Jamie was present tonight to go over City's audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. City received unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance. General Fund revenues totaled \$630,771 and 52% of the revenue comes from taxes. Other sources of revenue are from State revenue sharing, trash collection, grants, etc. General Fund expenses total \$628,715 and largest expense category is other functions at 31% which make up insurance, retirement, sick, vacation, etc. City was able to net +2056 to equal just over \$1 million dollars in fund balance.

Sewer fund revenue for the year was \$338,374 and expenses were \$336,718 with depreciation. Sewer and water rates were increased July 1, 2025. Sewer fund balance is \$969,000.

Water fund revenue for the year was \$428,699 and expenses were \$331,081 with depreciation. Water fund balance is \$1,268,000.

With the market this year, this has helped the City's Pension and OPEB funding become 100% vested. The city will try and maintain this status but it will weigh heavily on the market. Overall, City is in good financial shape. City Council thanked Jamie for coming and audit presentation.

9.2 Advanced Pest Management Year End Presentation

Mike Tressler from APM was present tonight to go over year end presentation. New this year was drone coverage along the Midshipman Drive area (wetlands/cattails) which helped immensely! Total of 40 nuisance calls for the year and over 200 miles sprayed. All mosquitos were tested and no west Nile along with other diseases were discovered. Hoping to expand drone coverage for next year. City Council thanked Mike for coming and the presentation.

9.3 Health Insurance Renewal

Dale received our new annual price quote from Valley United Insurance for the same BCN health insurance coverage at a yearly increase of \$9,300. There were 6 other options for health insurance for City Council to compare and/or save money. Joe Warr felt that we have an awesome staff and we need to offer a good health insurance plan to retain employees. Feels City can afford this increase and recommends to stay with same coverage.

MOTION (Warr) to approve same BCN health insurance coverage for the next year starting 12/1/2026; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

9.4 Opt Out Resolution

MOTION (Warr) to approve resolution to exempt City from requirement of PA152 for the 2027 calendar year; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.5 River Dredging Spoils Site

City Manager presented to Council a request from US Army Corp of Engineers to approve spoiling area for the anticipated river dredging project in 2028. With this approval, they can then start the process of Phase I study along with soil samples. The proposed spot is the farm field next to the current spoiling site. They need a larger area since they will be hydraulic dredging and will have approximately 70,000 cubic yards. The city owns the farm field and leases it out to Troy Williamson; anticipating farm field will be in-operable first year and the second year will be farmable again.

MOTION (Warr) to approve spoiling site of the City owned portion of farm field for hydraulic dredging of the Au Gres River in 2028; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

9.6 Award Water Tower Maintenance Bid

City did a re-bid on the water tower maintenance items due to inconsistencies in the numbers last time. City received two bids this time. Per advice of Nelson Tank, it is recommended to approve low bidder.

MOTION (Barbour) to approve bid on water tower maintenance items in the amount of \$43,100 to L & T Painting; support (Warr). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Southcourt- City will be closing on house on October 12. Jane Barbour questioned lack of for sale signs on the homes.
- USACE Breakwall vegetation removal- will be here in the next 1-2 weeks to start.
- Applied for SCIT Grant of \$46,065 for BS & A financial software upgrade to the cloud version; no longer supporting old system and forcing everyone to switch over.
- Thanked DPW staff for facilities tour; one suggestion would be to have open house at the different facilities.
- Will be attending State of the Bay conference in Bay City tomorrow (10/7) and the MML Conference Thursday/Friday October 8-9. Looking to secure funding for harbor slips to be dredged same time as river dredging.
- Dale will be on vacation October 21-29, 2029
- Homecoming Week was great with awesome floats and a nice parade! Great to finish the week off with a win at the homecoming football game with such a young team!
- 250 Banners are down; banners to be donated or offered to members of other boards.
- Halloween in the Park scheduled for October 17; park including the new section is full for this event!

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

Chris Ming: Re-iterated it was a great homecoming week! Wanted to inform City Council of the School sinking fund millage request on the November 3 ballot. They are asking for a 1.18 mill for 10 years. It is not a bond debt and is subject to headlee rollbacks. Sinking fund is more like "pay-as-you-go" and the school will do projects in critical order as money comes in. On the list of projects is roof replacement, new buses, security cameras, interior door locking system, etc. If approved, will start collecting on the winter 2026 taxes. If the school district did shut down, collection for this sinking fund would stop. All information is on school's website.

11.2 Mayor:

Congrats on the win during the homecoming game! City facility tour was great! Sad to hear about LaVern Dittenber passing away. Dale Wiltse did comment that LaVern had over 50 years of serving on various boards for the city including City Council, Planning Commission and TIFA board. Mike Hoadley is preparing a proclamation from the State. Consensus would be do something around town in memory of LaVern; maybe a plaque or stone in honor of him and place at City Hall.

11.3 Councilmembers:

Barbour: Sorry she missed the tour, have lots of things going on at home!

Popovich: Enjoyed the tour and glad to hear that our water plant can't be hacked with our old analog system.

Warr: Tour was great and sorry he had to leave early and miss the sewer plant. LaVern will be missed in the community.

Heinrich: Looking forward to Halloween in the Park, has camping reservations for the first time! City Park will close for the season this Sunday, October 11.

11). PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

12). APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION (Warr) to approve August financial statements as submitted; support (Heinrich). Motion carried.

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Popovich) to adjourn meeting at 8:32 p.m.; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

Jon Sanford, Mayor

LaVonne Pritchard, City Clerk