

**CITY OF AU GRES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 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, Joyce Humerickhouse, George & Ruth Wissmiller

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 March 4, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented; support (Warr). Motion carried.

5). SET AGENDA

MOTION (Heinrich) to approve agenda as submitted; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

6). CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

7). AU GRES CITY POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Police Chief Chuck Allen was present tonight and had March stats sheet for City Council. Addressed the audience he spent quite a bit of time on N Main Street running traffic.

8. OLD BUSINESS: None

9). NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Resolutions- 1% administration fee and delinquency fees

MOTION (Warr) to approve 1% administration fee on the summer and winter 2025 tax collection; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

MOTION (Warr) to approve a 4% penalty on the summer 2025 taxes and a 3% penalty on the winter 2025 taxes; support (Barbour). Motion carried.

9.2 Earned Sick Leave Policy

New Michigan Earned Sick Time Act effective February 21, 2025 requires all employers to pay earned sick time to all employees part-time, full-time, salary, seasonal, etc. at a rate of every 30 hours worked= 1 hour paid time off.

MOTION (Warr) to adopt earned sick leave policy as required by the State and as submitted; support (Barbour). John Popovich opposed. Motion carried.

9.3 Set Budget Workshop Meeting Date

Consensus was budget workshop date set for Monday, April 28 at 5:30 p.m works for Council.

9.4 Adopt Amended Resolution- MSHDA Grant Application

City Manager explained that with final numbers on costs for the grant; City Council will need to amend resolution for City match to increase from 1 million to 1.2 million Dollars.

MOTION (Barbour) to adopt amended resolution for MI Neighborhood Grant Application for new city match up to \$1,200,000; support (Popovich). Motion carried.

10). CITY MANAGER REPORT

- State of Michigan has a bill introduced to allow chickens in all municipalities; will start working on creating an ordinance to allow chickens in the city. Ordinance can limit the quantity, location of hen house, no roosters, etc.
- Submitted ACF Grant for \$10,600 for a ballfield shed at new location.

- Submitted 2% Grant for a subsurface locator of \$8600 and for \$14,000 for chapel improvements, paint, arch repair and fencing.
- Lonesome Dove ribbon cutting is this Friday, April 4 at 3:30 PM.
- City Campground will be opening Friday, April 11. Park Manager Chris Ireland is back and City will hold next Park & Recreation Meeting on Tuesday, April 15.

11). COMMENTS

11.1 Citizens:

George Wissmiller: Is there any city ordinance on leaves? Neighbor next to him doesn't do anything with leaves. City Manager said there is no ordinance on leaves.

Joyce Humerickhouse: Brought letter in to Dale on her communication regarding the Au Gres State boat launch not on the map/advertising. Dale said best thing to do in regards to State launch is to contact our State Representative Mike Hoadley. He sits on DNR Committee and needs to be aware of issues with the City hands tied due to the launch located in Sims Township.

Ruth Wissmiller: Wants to know status of speed limit signs, fire hydrant repair and no wake signs. City Manager informed her speed limit signs will be installed by Arenac County Road Commission, fire hydrant repair parts are in and he will check with our DPW staff on scheduling and no wake signs will be ordered and a small fee city will charge to purchase them.

11.2 Mayor: Glad Au Gres dodged the ice storm over the weekend!

11.3 Council Members:

Barbour: Inquired what the school is putting up and where the money is coming from? City Manager informed her of the sports dome and that the school is asking for a bond millage increase to be voted on in the August 2025 election. Status of the car wash? City Manager knew there was a sale pending and owner passed away. Doesn't know how long that will take now to straighten out.

Joyce Humerickhouse: Was wondering if City could enforce zoning on empty buildings? Heard Family Dollar and Dollar Tree are supposed to be splitting. City Manager informed her that City can't govern what to do with a building as long as it adheres to zoning uses and not in blight or negligence.

Popovich: Has been attending Arenac County Board of Commissioners meetings. They are working on finalizing the fairground project/event center. County received a grant for Youth mentor program.

Warr: Inquired on recycling meeting? City Manager sits on County Recycling Board and they received a grant for several 1-day recycling drives. Working on county-wide recycling program; lots of opportunities locally with Arenac Opportunity taking cardboard and Vantage Plastics taking plastic.

Heinrich: Bowling alley building- can City condemn? City Manager said not in that bad of shape yet. Pat Bain & Paul Schlabach places both looking bad and wondering if anything can be done? City Manager said very difficult if not noxious weeds since blight is vague and hard to define. City Manager attended meeting with Au Gres Township on odor of Pure Green facility. The company was a no show and Township Board will be taking action but feels that the longevity of the company will not be there.

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

13). ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Warr) to adjourn meeting at 8:13 p.m.; support (Popovich). Motion carried.