

The City of Aurora Council met in a Special Session on Thursday, February 29, 2024 in the City Maintenance Shop.

Mayor Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Jones, David Schuttloffel, Jon Geise, Josh Kukrall and Nancy Price.

Others present: Justin Heim, Steve Watson, Dane Ekdom

Public Comments: None

M/S Geise, Kukrall to approve. Carried.

ISG presentation of the Draft Capital Improvement Plan by Steve Watson, Justin Heim and Dane Ekdom. Mr. Watson discussed the needs of Aurora based on discussion with different individuals in the community, including the council and staff. He mentions different type businesses that would be possible in Aurora. Justin Heim and Dane Ekdom talk about the projects listed in the CIPP and what they feel is priority. They looked at buildings, roads and infrastructure. Dane mentions the project list he emailed out to the council and asked for them to rank their most important projects on the list. He found that waste water and water was the two top projects. Watson explained that ISG has provided recommendation as to which projects should come first. He mentions other options for sewer and states that there are more options for funding for projects dealing with the sewer services. Craig Ulrich mentions that the CIP has been in the works for well over a year and asks that ISG provides the community a chance to give feedback and the final draft not be hurried in a month. Watson states that when towns look 5 years in advance and makes plans, that they are more likely to get better funding for projects and have better outcomes being proactive. Geise mentions the studies that have all ready been done for the infrastructure and projects that were completed and the projects that are already planned.

Watson presents a proposal to the Council which would make ISG the appointed engineers of Aurora. He states that towns should always have options and ISG can provide that. Schuttloffel asks ISG about the services they would provide when it comes to monitoring grant opportunities and other funding available to communities and also asks if ISG has been active in Pierre for different communities to help get funding. Watson states that they have been for few other communities which provided them with more funding opportunities through different programs. Andrew Underwood asks if you have a CIP if that will improve your chance in getting grant dollars. Watson says that with plans in place, there are more options for funding. Price asks ISG about funding they have been able to get other communities on sewer or water projects. Justin Heim states that they got an extra \$500,000 for Centerville's project awhile back. Schuttloffel mentions that ISG offices are a good distance from Aurora and he asks how their interaction with the City would be conducted with that distance. Watson says that ISG will adapt to the preferences of the client, whether that be phone calls or emails. There was continued discussion regarding the building plans for fire hall and City Community Center, water projects, sewer projects and roads. Dennis Rebelien with Banners was asked about the Water tower project and the funding from DANR. Dennis mentions that the State asked that the project be split into phases but after the current events with a structure fire and lack of water, he made many phone calls to see if there are other options to help Aurora get the project completed sooner. Schuttloffel feels that there has been a large communication break down within the council and things need to be more open. Watson asks the council for them to agree to a one year contract between the city and ISG for using them as an appointed engineer.

Motion by Price to table the proposal from ISG. Kukrall second the motion. Carried.

M/S Geise, Schuttloffel to adjourn. Carried.