

**Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora City Hall**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**2 W. Pleasant**  
**Aurora, Missouri**  
**Tuesday, March 14 , 2023 - 5:30 P.M.**

3/14/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order, time noted 5:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Jason Lewis - Present

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - Present

Councilwoman Oplinger - Present

Councilwoman Pettit - Present

Vacant Council Seat

3. Interview For Open City Council Seat - Bill Baker

Mayor Lewis advised the Council of the need to enter into closed session. Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to go into closed session, time noted 5:30 p.m. Mayor Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed with roll call votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - yes, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - yes, Councilwoman Oplinger - yes, Councilwoman Pettit - yes.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to come out of closed session, time noted 5:39 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with roll call votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - yes, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - yes, Councilwoman Oplinger - yes, Councilwoman Pettit - yes.

Mayor Lewis welcomed Bill Baker to the podium to interview for the open City Council seat. Mayor Lewis thanked Mr. Baker for his interest and asked him to tell a little about himself. Mr. Baker advised that he moved to Aurora over 40 years ago and was the mayor of Urich, MO prior to moving to Aurora. Mr. Baker stated that he finds interest in the management of the City and if you find interest in something, he believes that you should serve. The interview continued with questions from City Council members.

Mayor Lewis advised Mr. Baker that two additional individuals would be interviewed for the open City Council seat on March 28, 2023 and the Council will make a decision at that time.

4. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

City Manager Jon Holmes led the group in prayer and Mayor Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

## 6. COUNCIL FORUM

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy advised that he attended the Recreation Center Decision Making Team meeting.

Councilwoman Pettit advised that she also attended the Decision Making Team meeting and stated that the last meeting was very gratifying. A lot of time has been spent on the design of the building and the group is holding true to the promise to provide something economical to the community.

Mayor Lewis advised that he met with Park Board President Deb Dillman for a summary of the Missouri Parks & Recreation Conference which was attended by City Staff and Park Board members.

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

7.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes February 28, 2023

7.II. March 2023 Appropriations

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

8.I. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3276 Amending Section 150.080 Airport Board Membership

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3276. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

8.II. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3279 Establishing Residential Trash Service Rates

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3279. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lewis made a motion to amend the agenda moving item 9.IX Resolution No. 2023-1908 Aurora Beautification Company - Community Partner Funding to be the first item considered. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

City Manager Holmes advised the resolution presented in this agenda reflects the funding recommendation made by the Council. This Resolution will finalize the decision and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement with Aurora Beautification Company.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-1908. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - abstain.

9.I. Discussion - PTO, Short-Term, Long-Term Disability, Sick Leave

City Manager Jon Holmes requested the Council amend the agenda to have this discussion later in the meeting as staff members are expected to be in attendance for this discussion and had not yet arrived. Mayor Lewis made a motion to move this discussion item to item number 9.IX of this agenda. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

See Minutes for Discussion - PTO, Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability, Sick Leave in section 9.IX of this document.

#### 9.II. Discussion - Sidewalk Cost Share Program

City Manager Holmes addressed the Council advising that Mayor Lewis had brought this topic to staff who have been working through research of a possible program outline. Mayor Lewis advised that the idea is intended to encourage homeowners to fix sidewalks in front of their residence. He stated that the program would help to educate citizens that sidewalk repair and maintenance is the citizen's responsibility. City Manager Holmes advised of the need to consider possible obstacles such as trees between sidewalks and curbs which create damage to sidewalks and removal and disposal of old sidewalks. Further discussion was held regarding leaving current City Code specifications for sidewalks in tact with a cost share program simply incentivizing sidewalk repair and replacement. Further discussion was held with direction from the Council for the City Manager to work with staff to determine the best approach and bring a proposal back to the Council regarding a possible program.

#### 9.III. Discussion - Community Development Department Remodel

Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with an explanation of the proposed expansion and remodel of the current Community Development Department within City Hall. As was discussed in the Council Retreat meeting with Department Heads in January of 2023, the Community Development Department is in need of additional space and an office within the Department to accommodate the Building Inspector whose office is currently in the basement. The proposed expansion and remodel would include an addition of an approximate 12' x 14' office extending to the South from the current office space which would provide an office for the Director with privacy capabilities. Repositioning of the current customer service window would create a space to be utilized as the Building Inspector's office and a hallway would be added to create a new entry point into the Department.

Director Howlett advised that four contractors had been consulted for informal quotes in order to gain knowledge of possible cost in order to present the information to Council for direction. Two quotes were received in the amount of \$19,000 and \$19,638.40.

City Council was in support of the expansion and remodel as proposed and directed staff to move forward with a formal bid process as outlined in the City's Procurement Policy.

#### 9.IV. Police Department Year End Review

Police Chief Wes Coatney addressed the Council with a slideshow presentation outlining a year-end review of the Police Department. The presentation included explanations of new patches, changes to patrol vehicle appearance, uniform changes, an additional School Resource Officer and improved community engagement.

Chief Coatney further presented crime data from the Missouri Incident Based Reporting System (MIBRS) which is maintained by the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Full presentation attached.

#### 9.V. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3280 Adopting Statutory Ordinance Updates

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-3280. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

#### 9.VI. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3280 Adopting Statutory Ordinance Update

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3280. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

#### 9.VII. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3281 Adding Section 520.130 Installation And Maintenance Of Key Lock Box

Fire Chief Greg Hurd addressed the Council advising that a lock box is a small amount of money to invest and allows entry by the Fire Department into a building without damage to the building. The lock boxes currently cost \$56 each.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3281. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

9.VIII. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3283 Adding Section 520.150 5 Inch Storz Fire Department Connections

Fire Chief Hurd addressed the Council advising that the 5 inch Storz connection allows proper hook-up for the Fire Department. It supports sprinkler systems during fire operation and provides a quicker connection.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3283.

Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

9.IX. Resolution No. 2023-1908 Aurora Beautification Company - Community Partner Funding

Agenda amended to move this item to first in consideration. See "New Business" section above for documentation of vote.

Original Agenda item 9.1 Discussion - PTO, Short-Term Disability, Long-Term Disability, Sick Leave amended to replace this agenda item.

The possibility of a change to Personal Time Off (PTO), City paid Short-Term Disability and City paid Long-term Disability was a discussion point at the City Council Retreat held in January of 2023.

City Manager Holmes addressed the Council advising that the purpose for this discussion on tonight's agenda is to explain the details involved with considering a change to PTO, offering City paid Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability coverage to employees and current concerns with Sick Leave. City Manager Holmes requests direction from the Council on how to move forward regarding this discussion.

City Manager Holmes addressed sick leave usage concerns indicating that the number of employees who present as chronic users of sick leave usage is minimal and he believes can continue to be managed internally. He presented an image on the screen and on paper reflecting all areas of personnel topics that could be affected by implementing such a policy change.

Council members did not indicate direction to Staff to continue proposal of a change to the Sick Leave and Vacation Leave policy currently in place.

9.X. Special Event Application - Lovin' On Our Town

Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council regarding the Special Event Permit Application.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve Special Event Application - Lovin' On Our Town. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

9.XI. Special Event Application - Stompin Out Hunger

Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the council regarding the Special Event Permit Application.

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve Special Event Application - Stompin Out Hunger.

Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

10. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

City Manager's Report and Economic Development Reports attached.

City Manager Holmes addressed the Council with his City Manager's Report and indicated that the annual audit has been finished. He further stated that discussion had taken place previously regarding a bid process for the City's audit services and provider. Mr. Holmes asked the Council if they would like staff to move forward with that bid process. City Council members unanimously directed to proceed with that bid process.

#### 11. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Lewis made a motion to move into Closed Session, time noted 7:32 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with roll call vote documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to move out of Closed Session, time noted 8:10 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with roll call vote documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

#### 12. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn, time noted 8:10 p.m. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows: Mayor Lewis - aye, Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - aye, Councilwoman Oplinger - aye, Councilwoman Pettit - aye.

APPROVED

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Jason Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kamy Kulow, City Clerk