

Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes

Aurora City Hall

City Council Chambers

2 W. Pleasant

Aurora, Missouri

Tuesday, April 25 , 2022 - 6 P.M.

4/25/2023 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

City Manager, Jon Holmes led the Council in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Lewis - Present

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - Present

Councilwoman Oplinger - Present

Councilwoman Pettit- Present

Councilman Blades - Present

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

James Ash addressed Council for a second time with reasons why he feels a marijuana consumption spot would be beneficial for the City of Aurora. It has been shown that consumption spots decrease the amount of second hand smoke. Having a place where people can go would help keep marijuana off of the streets and away from children.

5. COUNCIL FORUM

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy attended the Joint Session Recreation Center Decision Making Session and The Dog Park Grand Opening. Councilwoman Pettit attended the Joint Session Recreation Decision Making Session, Park Board Meeting and The Dog Park Grand Opening. Councilwoman Oplinger attended the Light the Night meeting, the Joint Session Recreation Center Decision Making Session, GRO meeting and the Dog Park Grand Opening. Councilman Blades attended the Joint Session Recreation Center Decision Making Session. Mayor Lewis attended the Joint Session Recreation Decision Making Session and the Dog Park Grand Opening.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Lewis - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

6.I. Approval Of Minutes- City Council Special Session Minutes April 11, 2023

See Consent Agenda

6.II. Approval Of Minutes-City Council Regular Session Minutes April 11, 2023

See Consent Agenda

6.III. Approval Of Minutes-Joint Work Session City Council And Aurora Recreation Center Decision Committee Minutes- April 12, 2023

See Consent Agenda

6.IV. April 2023 Appropriations

See Consent Agenda

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.I. Presentation And Discussion Of The FY 2022 Annual Audit By Marshall Decker Of Decker & DeGood, PC

Marshall Decker of Decker & DeGood, CPA addressed Council with a review of the City of Aurora 2022 Annual Audit. Mr. Decker explained the City's operating revenues, expenses, cash flow, and reconciliation of revenues and expenditures. Mr. Decker says that the City is in good shape on all accounts.

7.II. Discussion-Budgeted City Hall Repair Items

City Manager, Jon Holmes addressed Council with several areas within City Hall that are in need of repair. The 2022-2023 budget allowed for \$65,000 to fix the building. Some areas of concern are the Handicap ramp and bars not being ADA compliant, structural damage to building and stairs and cornices around the building having grout missing and falling out. City Hall is a 105 year old building and the engineers that Mr. Holmes has had conversations' with say that it is impossible to make a proposal on a structure that they have no idea what lies underneath. Mr. Holmes would like to change direction and utilize the \$65,000 to put out an RFQ to Architectural Firms for guidance on the repairs of historic buildings.

7.III. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3285 Setting Service Fees For Cemeteries

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the First reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3285 Setting Service Fees for Cemeteries. Mayor Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

Mayor Lewis - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.IV. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3286 Setting Plot Sales Fee For Cemetery

City Manager, Jon Holmes addressed Council regarding Plot Sales Fees for the cemetery. The current rates were set in 2002. Jon Holmes and Brad Blankenship did some analysis and found that other cemeteries were charging higher rates. The City of Aurora needs to remain in line with surrounding community cemeteries but also remain affordable. A Deed Recording fee of \$25 will be assessed on all Cemetery lots for the recording of

the Deed with the office of the Lawrence County Recorder of Deeds. Service fees will also be reviewed on a regular basis.

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve the First reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3286 Setting Plot Sales Fees for Cemeteries. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.V. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2023-3287 Cost Share Program For Sidewalk Repair

City Manager, Jon Holmes addressed Council regarding the City creating a program for the benefit of the citizens that encourages repair and construction of sidewalks within the municipal boundaries of the City of Aurora. Adding Section 535.480 "Sidewalk Repair and Construction Cost Share Program" will enable citizens to know what their responsibilities are, as well as the responsibilities of the City of Aurora in regards to sidewalk repairs.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-3287 Cost Share Program for Sidewalk Repair. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.VI. 2023 Asphalt Milling And Paving Bid

Jason Jordan, Public Works Superintendent addressed Council with the outcome of the Asphalt Bidding. Blevins Asphalt was the best and lowest bid. Jason explained to Council that the end date was changed by a month so that the paving would be complete before school goes back into session.

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-1921 2023 Asphalt Milling and Paving. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.VII. Resolution No. 2023-1923 Airport Design Services T-Hanger

Jon Holmes, City Manager addressed Council regarding approval to sign an Agreement increasing the amount of funds the City of Aurora received from MoDOT for the design and construction of the T-Hanger at the Aurora Municipal Airport. The funding in the original agreement was not sufficient to cover the costs associated with the construction of the T-Hanger. Ian Wright, an Engineer with Lochner addressed Council regarding the amendment of the original grant. MoDOT is amending the grant to add in the Federal share needed. Mr. Holmes and Mr. Wright will be working together on several grants, Care ,CRRSA and ARPA grants to try and recoup \$75,000. Larry Wagner addressed Council regarding the construction stage. Procurement stage started on February 27, 2023, which lasts approximately 180 days. Construction is set to begin with a mid June start date, with completion of the T-hanger being mid November to early December.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-1923 Airport Design Services. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.VIII. Resolution No. 2023-1927 Lawrence County Extension Council Appointment

Carrie Howlett, Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager addressed Council regarding the Lawrence County Extension Council Appointment. Historically, this appointment is usually the City Manager. This is an area that Carrie is very passionate about and would love the opportunity to bring the County and City together by being appointed to the Lawrence County Extension Council.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-1927 Lawrence County Extension Council Appointment. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.IX. Special Event Light The Night Fireworks Festival

Shannon Walker with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council requesting a special event permit for Light the Night on June 17th, 2023 at Baldwin Park. There will be food trucks, entertainment, kids activities and other small vendors. One change to the event this year is that there may be small carnival rides added to the event.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve the special event permit for Light the Night. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.X. Special Event 39th Annual Aurora Auto Fest

Shannon Walker with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce addressed Council requesting a special event permit for The 39th Annual Aurora Auto Fest on October 7, 2023 at Oak Park. There will be cars, trucks and motorcycles as well as a chili cook off, various food vendors, other small vendors and entertainment.

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve the special event permit for The 39th Annual Aurora Auto Fest. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.XI. Special Event Layla's Birthday Party

Carrie Howlett, Community Development Director and Assistant City Manager addressed Council requesting a special event permit for Layla's Birthday Party on April 29, 2023 at Oak Park. There will be approximately 20 in attendance. The only concern brought before Council was that they are requesting a donkey be present for the kids to pet. Chapter 605 of Aurora City Code states that animals are allowed to be present at events but requires a \$500,000 insurance policy. Carrie will talk with Ashley Courtney, the applicant for the special event and let her know that Council made the decision that City Code must be followed and that the \$500,000 insurance policy would need to be in place in order for the donkey to be at the party.

Mayor Lewis made a motion to approve the special event permit for Layla's Birthday Party. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

8. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

City Manager and Economic Development Reports attached.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn; time noted 7:13p.m. Mayor Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

Mayor Lewis - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Kennedy - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

APPROVED

Jason Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kamy Kulow, City Clerk