

Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes
Aurora City Hall
City Council Chambers
2 W. Pleasant
Aurora, Missouri
Friday, June 5, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Doyle Ferguson - present
Chairman Pro Tem Stephen Wiles – not present
Councilman Larry David Marks - present
Councilwoman Dawn Oplinger – not present
Councilman Don McWade – present

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.I. Historical Society Concert

Also Present for discussion was the Chief of Police Richard Witthuhn, Fire Chief Robert Ward, Parks Superintendent Justin Janes, Planning and Zoning Director Carrie Howlett, City Manager Jon Holmes, and City Clerk Kimberly Breedlove. City Manager Holmes brought to attention the growing concerns City Department Heads had with the upcoming Historical Society Concert. City Manager Holmes presented information given to him by Tana Bradshaw with the Lawrence County Health Department regarding areas of concern due to recent COVID-19 restrictions.

Chief of Police Richard Witthuhn, presented information about the potential of high volume attendance and that he did not have the staff to cover this event the way it needs. The thought originally was there would be around fifteen hundred people in attendance and he believes that there is the potential to have three to four thousand people in attendance at this point. He also voiced concerns on the potential for protestors to be bussed in to smaller communities and his concern over staffing for that as well. The potential for what could go wrong was too great in his opinion.

Fire Chief Robert Ward also voiced his concerns on logistics and command staff related to overall management of the event by the Historical Society. Due to other

events being cancelled, the number of vendors has increased from what was originally expected. At this point, according to Sharon Groesbeck, there are only two volunteers and no command staff. It is Chief Ward's understanding that city employees would become the volunteer staff and the city would be paying overtime to employees. He also feels that it would leave the city short staffed on any calls that came in for the fire department and police department. The safety of staff and citizens are a growing concern.

After listening to all information presented, Councilman McWade made a motion to withdraw our invitation and permission to use city facilities and resources for the use of the concert presented by the Historical Society. Councilman Marks seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Marks, McWade
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
NOT PRESENT: Oplinger, Wiles

4. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:19 p.m. Councilman McWade seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Marks, McWade
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
NOT PRESENT: Oplinger, Wiles

APPROVED:

Doyle Ferguson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kimberly Breedlove, City Clerk