

# Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes

**Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers**

**2 W. Pleasant St. Aurora, Missouri 65605**

**Tuesday, December 23, 2025 - 6 P.M.**

12/23/2025 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

*City Manager Carrie Howlett led the Council in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.*

3. ROLL CALL

*Mayor Kennedy - Present*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Present*

*Councilwoman Oplinger - Present*

*Councilwoman Pettit - Present*

*Councilman Blades - Present*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

*Patti Kittrell addressed the Council with concern of people standing at the corner of Hwy 60 and Elliott begging for money. She says it is a distraction and very dangerous. The other day, a guy begging for money was walking in between cars and up to their windows. Would like to see a statute to prevent this from happening.*

5. COUNCIL FORUM

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis had nothing to report.*

*Councilman Blades attended the Aurora Chamber Christmas Parade.*

*Councilwoman Pettit attended the Aurora Chamber Christmas Parade and the SxS Parade.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger attended Breakfast with Santa, Aurora Chamber Christmas Parade and the SxS Parade. Would like to give a huge shout out to Harley Stice and his bravery going into the house fire and saving two kids.*

*Mayor Kennedy attended the Park Board meeting and the Park Board did some park assessments.*

## 6. CONSENT AGENDA

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

### 6.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes December 9, 2025

*See Consent Agenda*

### 6.II. December 2025 Appropriations

*See Consent Agenda*

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### 7.I. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2025-3362 Plan Review Cost Recovery

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-3362 Plan Review Cost Recovery. Councilman Blades seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

### 7.II. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2025-3364 Lot Line Adjustment DeLand

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to Approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-3364 Lot Line Adjustment DeLand. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

7.III. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2025-3365 Rezone Request 321 E Locust St.

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to Approve the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-3365 Rezone Request 321 E Locust St. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Resolution No. 2026-2068 School Resource Officer Agreement Extension

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council to let them know that the current School Resource Officer Agreement will expire on December 31, 2025. Mrs. Howlett and Mr. Yocum agreed to extend the current contract until the Aurora R-8 School Districts Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and redo the new contract at that time.*

*Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2026-2068 School Resource Officer Agreement Extension. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.II. Resolution No. 2025-2069 Compensation Study

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council about the Compensation Study that was presented to them at the budget meeting. This agreement was to lock in the price before the beginning of the new year.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis feels like this is more of a market analysis and not a complete compensation study that deals with wage compensation. Would like for this to go out to bid with at least two more proposals to see if we can get a better rate and more of a compensation study and not what seems to be a market analysis. Councilwoman Pettit stated we need to follow our procurement policy.*

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to postpone Resolution No. 2025-2069 Compensation Study indefinitely. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with voted documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.III. Resolution No. 2025-2070 Trash Rate Increase 2026

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with the proposed Trash Rate Increase for 2026. Mrs. Howlett and Mr. Doty did a 12-month trailing average from September to September and not just go off one month. As this was previously discussed in the last City Council meeting. The average came to 5.05% increase bringing it to \$15.58 pre poly cart per month, from the previous \$14.95.*

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2025-2070 Trash Rate Increase 2026. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.IV. Resolution No. 2025-2071 Axon Enterprise Body Camera PD

*Police Chief Wes Coatney addressed the Council regarding the Axon Body Cameras. This is a sole source provider since Axon is the biggest supplier and the City of Aurora is already a customer of theirs, with the tasers. We already have the cloud based storage. If we went with another provider, we would have to have additional software, which would raise the cost as well. This contract is a five year contract and in two years, body cameras will be replaced with new cameras. It also comes with a maintenance contract. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis asked if we have a policy where people can have access to these videos. Chief Coatney stated that Yes, we have a policy. It is available per a Sunshine Request with the exception of sensitive videos. City Attorney stated that per State Statute RSMo Section 610-100 there are some body camera exception. Prosecutors will have a login so they can view the videos.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2025-2071 Axon Enterprise Body Camera PD. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.V. Resolution No. 2025-2072 Aurora City Hall Restoration Change Order No. 1

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with a Change Order for the Aurora City Hall Restoration. Mrs. Howlett let the Council know that this change order came from finding out that all 3 sets of stairs on the exterior of the building are hollow. Even though the City Manager can execute change orders within 15% of the total budget, it would make it over budget, so therefore she wanted the Council's approval for this change order. This will include the downspouts, concrete bumpers and all three stairs on the exterior of the building. It was originally a \$62,000 increase but just today, it was been dropped down to around \$57,000.00, making the project \$52,000.00 over budget. Mayor Kennedy asked if there was a contingency in the project and Mrs. Howlett stated no. Councilwoman Pettit requested an amount if we put a heating element in the stairs to keep them clear of ice and the additional amount for all three sides were around \$60,100.00. However, the heating element would be built into the concrete so if they went out, you would have to replace all the stairs. Not feasible at this time. Will look for something different.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2025-2072 Aurora City Hall Restoration Change Order No. 1. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

#### 8.VI. Resolution No. 2025-2073 FY2025 Budget Amendment

*City Manager Carrie Howlett went over the Budget Amendment with the City Council. Mrs. Howlett also attached a justification page to explain the changes and costs. Primarily on the revenue and expense side since the bond revenue was never included. The auditor suggested that it be included. Mrs. Howlett did state that she didn't have to transfer any money across funds this year.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2025-2073 FY2025 Budget Amendment. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

#### 8.VII. Discussion - Wage Compression Ideas

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with Wage Compression Ideas since it was asked from the Council to bring it back before the new year. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis went over his wage compression ideas with the Council with tiered wage increases for the lower paid to help minimize wage compression. Councilwoman Oplinger and Councilwoman Pettit would rather wait for the Wage Study before we move forward with any raises to make sure we are in line with where we are supposed to be. Mayor Kennedy would like to know what the original budgeted amount of the requested 4% increase across the board and compare it to Chairman Pro Tems tiered increases to see the difference. Mr. Kennedy is in favor of Mr. Lewis's idea but also would like to wait for the wage study.*

#### 9. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

*The City Manager report is attached.*

#### 10. CLOSED SESSION 1-3-13

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move into Closed Session at 6:53 p.m. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. The motion passed with Roll Call votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move out of Closed Session at 7:39 p.m. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. The motion passed with Roll Call votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

11. ADJOURNMENT

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Adjourn at 7:39 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis seconded the motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

APPROVED

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Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kamy Kulow, City Clerk