

Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes

Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers

2 W. Pleasant St. Aurora, Missouri 65605

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 - 6 P.M.

1/27/2026 - 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 - Absent

Councilman Blades - Present

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Christopher Wilson signed up for public comment but left before it was his time to speak.

5. COUNCIL FORUM

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis attended the 911 Emergency Services board meeting.

Councilman Blades attended the Airport Board meeting and thanked all of the staff who worked all weekend to get our streets cleaned off.

Councilwoman Oplinger attended the 911 Emergency Services Board meeting as well, and echoes Josh's comment on the staff who cleaned our city streets.

Mayor Kennedy attended the Park Board meeting, 911 Emergency Services Board meeting, and appreciated all the staff who cleaned our streets and worked in this snowstorm.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 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 - Absent

Councilman Blades - Aye

6.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes January 13, 2026

See Consent Agenda

6.II. January 2026 Appropriations

See Consent Agenda

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.I. Discussion - City Flag

Mayor Kennedy thought there were several renditions of the flag. Not a fan of the final design and would like input from a wider variety of people, and set a monetary amount for the design of the flag. Consider including a flag designer to help with this design. Loves that Aiden came up with this idea.

Councilwoman Oplinger suggested we do a flag a year. There were several renditions, but this final rendition is the one that Aiden had a few artists help him with. The City of Aurora used to have a flag many years ago. Another citizen designed a flag as well, which is attached.

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis suggested we open it to the public and have them submit their own ideas as well.

Councilman Blades stated that Springfield had the public vote on the new flag. That we should get community input on this.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Certificates Of Commendation

Fire Chief Greg Hurd addressed the Council on the fire event that happened on December 20, 2025, where a house was on fire, and two children were trapped inside the home. Captain Harley Stice went into the house, located the children, and rescued them one by one, handing them to Firefighter Ty Novack. Ty then carried the children to their mother and the ambulance on scene to be assessed. Firefighters Caleb Blystone and Emillie Jones assisted in the rescue and got the fire contained and put out. Their quick response and bravery led to a successful rescue and protection of life.

Mayor Kennedy read each commendation and presented them to Harley Stice, Ty Novack, Caleb Blystone, and Emillie Jones. Presented with deep gratitude and respect.

8.II. Resolution No. 2026-2075 Airfield Asphalt Pavement Agreement

City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council regarding Resolution No. 2026-2075 Airfield Asphalt Pavement Agreement. This is a budgeted item for 2026 and is the first step to get everything kicked off for this project to help get funding at the state and federal levels. This is the agreement, as Lochner has been previously selected as the City of Aurora's consultant for all of the airport services. This is a MoDOT requirement that outlines the cost of the design services for this budgeted project.

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-2075 Airfield Asphalt Pavement Agreement. 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 - Absent

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.III. Resolution No. 2026-2076 Airport Runway Lighting Agreement

City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council regarding Resolution No. 2026-2076 Airport Runway Lighting Agreement. This is a budgeted item for 2026 and is the first step to get everything kicked off for this project to help get funding at the state and federal levels. This is the agreement, as Lochner has been previously selected as the City of Aurora's consultant for all of the airport services. This is a MoDOT requirement that outlines the cost of the design services for this budgeted project.

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-2076 Airfield Asphalt Pavement Agreement. 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 - Absent

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.IV. Resolution No. 2026-2078 Polaris Ranger Cemetery Purchase

City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council about Resolution No. 2026-2078 Polaris Ranger Cemetery Purchase. Mrs Howlett stated that this was a budgeted item in the 2026 budget. Cemetery Sexton Brad Blankenship addressed the Council, explaining the difference between the three items presented. This purchase will be used for staff when they weed-eat and weed-kill. The 2020 Crew 4 seater already has the racking system they need to carry the weed-eaters and weed-kill, and costs around \$1700 if purchased separately. This Polaris also only has 620 miles on it. It does not come with a warranty, but it is big enough that you could hook up a blade to plow snow through the cemetery. The 2025 model does NOT come with the racking system and is not powerful enough to plow snow, and the Honda doesn't make a rack for the weed-eaters. Therefore, his recommendation is the 2020 Polaris with the racking system.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-2078 Polaris Ranger Cemetery Purchase. 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 - Absent

Councilman Blades - Aye

8.V. Resolution No. 2026-2079 Aurora Personnel Policy Revision

City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with Resolution No. 2026-2079 Personnel Policy Revision. Mrs. Howlett stated that this was discussed in the budget work session and has been worked into the current 2026 budget. Wastewater Superintendent Lance Eley addressed the Council on the need for this adjustment. This is to incentivize employees to be on call, which is every third week. They have to be on call as soon as they clock out on Thursday through until Monday morning. They have to be within two hours to be able to respond to a call. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis asked if Lance checked the surrounding cities or how he came up with this incentive. Mr. Eley stated that he didn't look up surrounding communities but looked up utilities to see what they did, since they are considered a utility.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-2079 Aurora Personnel Policy Revision. Councilman Blades seconded that motion. The motion passed with votes documented as follows:

Mayor Kennedy - Aye

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Absent

Councilman Blades - Aye

9. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

The City Manager's report is attached.

10. CLOSED SESSION 1-3-13

Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move into Closed Session at 6:34 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis 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 - *Absent*

Councilman Blades - *Aye*

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to move out of Closed Session at 7:47 p.m. Councilman Blades 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 - *Absent*

Councilman Blades - *Aye*

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 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 - *Absent*

Councilman Blades - *Aye*

APPROVED

Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kamy Kulow, City Clerk