

# **Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes**

**Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers**

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

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026 - 5:30 P.M.**

2/24/2026 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m.*

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Kennedy - *Present*

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - *Present*

Councilwoman Oplinger - *Present*

Councilwoman Pettit - *Present*

Councilman Blades - *Present*

3. CLOSED SESSION 1-3-13

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move into Closed Session at 5:27 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 - *Aye*

Councilman Blades - *Aye*

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move out of Closed Session at 5:59 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 Kennedy - Aye

Councilwoman Oplinger - Aye

Councilwoman Pettit - Aye

Councilman Blades - Aye

#### 4. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

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

#### 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

*Aiden Fillyaw addressed the Council, asking where the flag information would be posted. He hasn't seen it yet. Mayor Kennedy responded and told Aiden that it hasn't been posted yet, and when it is posted, it will be on the City of Aurora Facebook page and the City of Aurora website.*

#### 6. COUNCIL FORUM

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis had nothing to report.*

*Councilman Blades had nothing to report.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger had nothing to report.*

*Councilwoman Pettit had nothing to report.*

*Mayor Kennedy attended the Lawrence County Emergency Services Board meeting and the Park Board meeting. They have scheduled a White Park work day for April 18, 2026, starting at 9:00 a.m. Will have a Facebook post about signing up with a QR code soon.*

#### 7. CONSENT AGENDA

*Councilwoman Oplinger 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

##### 7.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes February 10, 2026

*See Consent Agenda*

##### 7.II. February 2026 Appropriations

*See Consent Agenda*

8. OLD BUSINESS

*None*

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.I. Public Schools Week Proclamation

*Mayor Kennedy read and presented the Public Schools Week Proclamation to some of the Aurora R-8 School District staff.*

9.II. Discussion - Community Partner Funding

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council and provided them with a document of her ideas for community partner funding. She stated that \$25,000 was budgeted in the 2026 budget. \$10,000 going to the Aurora Downtown Project, \$10,000 for the Downtown Facade grant program, and \$5,000 to be split up among other groups that apply. Wants to know how the Council would like to prioritize. Mayor Kennedy likes the categories and which category they would fall into when they do their application. Councilwoman Pettit feels it would be hard to stick to a tiered model, but likes the application process. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis has concerns about how to track it and is concerned with the follow-up. City Manager Howlett stated that it would be part of the process, such as grant funding processes, and that it would be required. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis is also concerned about digging into reserves to fund this, and at what point do we not go further with this program? If we keep this program going, we will start the application process around the first of the year and have them report back by the end of the year. The Council would like City Manager Howlett to put together a policy, sample application, and scoring matrix and bring them back to the Council for further discussion.*

9.III. Ordinance No. 2026-3367 Adopting Ordinance Statutory Update

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-3367, Adopting Ordinance Statutory Update. 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*

9.IV. Ordinance No. 2026-3368 Procurement Policy Revisions

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with revisions to the Procurement Policy as requested to bring back by the Council. As it states now, the City Manager can approve up to 15% of a change order on a project, and due to the size and scale of previous and current projects, City Manager Howlett felt that was too much for a City Manager to approve without the Council's approval. The proposed revision is to keep the 15%, but nothing over \$50,000, or if the project is overbudget, it can be approved without coming to the city council for approval first. Mayor Kennedy would like to see a contingency put in every single project moving forward. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis feels like this is complicated and should omit the tiers. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis's only concern is whether it changes the scope of the work or is overbudget.*

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to postpone Ordinance No. 2026-3368 Procurement Policy revisions to the next meeting with a more simplified revision. 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

#### 9.V. Special Event Application - Aurora Downtown Cleanup

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with a special event application - Aurora Downtown Cleanup. This is an annual cleanup event with no changes from last year. This is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9 am - 12 pm. They plan to meet on the North side of City Hall. No concerns from city staff.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve the Special Event Application - Aurora Downtown Cleanup. 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

Councilman Blades - Aye

#### 10. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

*The City Manager's report is attached.*

*Councilwoman Pettit asked about the FEMA funding resolution. City Manager Howlett stated that it was pulled from this agenda due to a budget amendment needing to be done along with this resolution.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis asked if the Park gazebos could be reserved online with our new software, BS&A. City Manager Howlett stated that it hasn't been changed in our code yet, so they cannot be reserved online at this time. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis also stated concern over the gravel piles in the Crosby Park parking lot. Belongs to Miller Pipeline, and it has been there a long time. Also asked if there were any updates regarding the street cuts he asked about in the last meeting. City Manager Howlett stated that no updates as of now, but will reach back out.*

*Mayor Kennedy doesn't mind them using city property as long as it is out of the way of the public.*

11. ADJOURNMENT

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. 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

APPROVED

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Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kamy Kulow, City Clerk