

Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes

Aurora Recreation Center

Conference Event Room

126 W Hadley Street

Aurora, Missouri

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 - 6 P.M.

3/10/2026 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

6 PM

2. PRAYER AND PLEDGE

Prayer led by Manager Howlett.

Pledge led by Mayor Kennedy.

3. ROLL CALL

Mayor Tony Kennedy - Present

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis - Present

Councilwoman Oplinger - Present

Councilwoman Pettit - Present

Councilman Blades - Present

Quorum is satisfied.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. COUNCIL FORUM

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis inquired about a street cut update. Manager Howlett informed the Council that Jason has been driving around doing assessments and will continue to work with Crystal to compare lists of visible street cuts with street cut permits.

Councilwoman Pettit attended the Chamber Banquet. She missed the recent Planning and Zoning meeting. She attended an Aurora Beautification Company meeting last week. Councilwoman Pettit inquired about funding and/or grants for lighting to be placed at the entrance and drive into the recreation center. Manager Howlett informed them that herself and staff are looking at different funding opportunities.

Mayor Kennedy did not attend any meetings.

Councilwoman Oplinger attended the Chamber Banquet.

Councilman Blades did not attend any meetings.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes February 24, 2026

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held February 24, 2026. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Pettit. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

6.II. February - March 2026 Appropriations

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve the March 2026 appropriations. Motion seconded by Councilman Blades. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.I. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2026-3367 Adopting Ordinance Statutory Updates

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to accept Ordinance 2026-3367. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Oplinger. Motion passed with all members voting the following:

KENNEDY - AYE

LEWIS - AYE

OPLINGER - AYE

PETTIT - AYE

BLADES - AYE

7.II. First Reading Of Ordinance No. 2026-3368 Procurement Policy Revisions

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-3368. Motion seconded by Chairman Pro Tem Lewis. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

7.III. Second Reading Of Ordinance No. 2026-3368 Procurement Policy Revisions

Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-3368. Motion seconded by Chairman Pro Tem Lewis. Motion passed with all members voting the following:

KENNEDY - AYE

LEWIS - AYE

OPLINGER - AYE

PETTIT - AYE

BLADES - AYE

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.I. Resolution No. 2026-2082 Board Of Zoning Adjustment Appointment I. Medlin

Israel Medlin is currently on the Board of Zoning Adjustment, therefore this is a reappointment. Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to accept the reappointment of Israel Medlin on the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Motion

seconded by Councilwoman Oplinger. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

8.II. Resolution No. 2026-2083 Community Partnership Funding Policy

Manager Howlett addressed the Council regarding the Community Partnership Funding Policy. Manager Howlett has spoke with City Attorney Holly Dodge. The Council can adopt this as a policy today without making further decisions. When funds are merited or awarded, then the Council must adopt it as an ordinance. The Constitution prevents using money unless it is considered a public service.

Councilwoman Pettit had concerns over some areas of the Policy being duplicated. She also had concerns over the deadline and when the awards would be given. Manager Howlett addressed the concerns and stated that awards would be given in alignment with what council prefers, while keeping in line with the rules and regulations to finish in the fiscal year. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis has hesitations over the public service and Community partnership. He is aware there are pros and cons both. He has concerns with time involved from Manager Howlett and staff, as well as spending of funds needing policed and monitored. Council would need to gather more knowledge before becoming comfortable with spending the public dollars, while not feeling too intrusive. Manager Howlett informed the Council that money has been allocated for this but nothing has been spent yet. General consensus over supporting the Aurora Downtown Project. Manager Howlett emphasized that money would not be spent without it coming back to Council for approval. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis would like to make sure historically that the money that was handed out did indeed go to where it should have. In essence, he wanting to audit ourselves as the City. Money that has been given to Aurora Downtown Project and similar projects all must be spent the way it was intended. Councilman Blades would like to ensure all money stays local. Councilwoman Pettit would like letters sent to all people that were involved in the community partnership funding in 2024 and ask to verify where that allocated money was spent. Councilman Blades would like a detailed financial statement over the 2024 allotment funds and more details on the Main Street project.

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-2083. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Pettit. Motion failed with members voting the following:

KENNEDY - NAY

LEWIS - NAY

OPLINGER - AYE

PETTIT - NAY

BLADES - NAY

8.III. Special Event Application - Sunset On 66

Applicants, Cassandra Zimmerman and Jonna Pendergrass, are present at the meeting. Special event request is for a 2 day event at the drive-in theater. Car show will be on Saturday and then all attendees will have the option to stay overnight after the movie with camping type options available. On Sunday, registered vehicles will line up and follow an organized route to be led out of Aurora. The route will be leaving the drive-in on Church street, turning right (west) and then at the Elliott light they will turn right and follow that directly out of town. Manager Howlett advised that Church Street and Elliott Street both are state highways and any activity would need to be cleared through MoDOT. The permission that the City would be granting would only involve the actual property within the city limits, being 1601 E Church Street, with the large expected attendance.

Cassandra Zimmerman spoke to the Council and did inform then that her organization has an emergency evacuation plan in place as well as overflow parking and security measures. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis added that he would like to see an emergency action plan in place. Shannon Walker, Chamber director, was present and did inform the Council that this event is on the same weekend as Light the Night, but perhaps they can benefit each other. Manager Howlett informed the applicants that Fire Chief, Greg Hurd, is present at the meeting and would be able to meet with the applicants to create an emergency action plan.

Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve the special event, Sunset on 66, pending an approved emergency action plan approved by the Fire Chief by the end of April. Motion seconded by Councilwoman

Pettit. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

8.IV. Special Event Application - Kadence Harris Scholarship Car Show

Manager Howlett addressed the Council regarding the special event, Kadence Harris Scholarship Car Show. Applicant is not present at the meeting. This is a repeat request that has been before Council for the last several years. Applicant is asking for Fire Department presence, live music, possibly a marching band, auction, food, and crafts. Manager Howlett advised that in previous years, although not requested by the applicant, City Staff did enforce road closures to partially surround Oak Park. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis would also like to see a safety review added particularly if a marching band will be participating in the event. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis made a motion to approve the special event, Kadence Harris Scholarship Car Show, pending approved safety plan with road closures by the end of April. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Oplinger. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

9. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

City Manager Report included in agenda.

10. CLOSED SESSION 1-3-13

Mayor Kennedy made a motion to enter into Closed session, time noted 7:06 PM. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Pettit. Motion passed with all members voting the following:

KENNEDY - AYE

LEWIS - AYE

OPLINGER - AYE

PETTIT - AYE

BLADES - AYE

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to go out of Closed session at 8:17 PM. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Pettit. Motion passed with all members voting the following:

KENNEDY - AYE

LEWIS - AYE

OPLINGER - AYE

PETTIT - AYE

BLADES - AYE

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn, time noted 8:17 PM. Motion seconded by Chairman Pro Tem Lewis. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

APPROVED

Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kamy Kulow, City Clerk