

# Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes

Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers

2 W. Pleasant St. Aurora, Missouri 65605

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 - 6 P.M.

1/13/2026 - 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 - Present*

*Councilman Blades - Absent*

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

*Lisa Boyer with the Aurora Downtown Project addressed the Council with the upcoming Special Event - Chocolate Stroll. It will take place on Friday, February 6, 2026, from 10 am - 6 pm. Tickets are now on sale, two tickets for \$40.00. There will be twelve businesses participating, and they will all have different chocolates, drinks, candy, etc. Some businesses also donated for a chance to win a Pamper You basket. There will be two Pamper You baskets to win. Businesses are doing well this time of year, which is normally slow.*

*Aiden Fillyaw addressed the Council with his newest flag design. He said that he had the help of multiple artists and community members. Councilwoman Oplinger told Aiden that we would discuss it at the next Council meeting and let him know.*

5. COUNCIL FORUM

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis had nothing to report.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger attended the Hospital Board meeting and stated that the OB Department was featured in the US News and World Report for an excellence award.*

*Councilwoman Pettit attended the Planning and Zoning meeting last week and had a rezone of 4-5 parcels of land. The summary of all of it is that they go back and make sure the change is acceptable for the business and the residents around it. Solid Waste meeting as well. Some house bills in the Senate are about increasing the tipping fee at the landfills. \$64k to distribute from district grants to help clean up tire waste sites, which requires a minimum of 100 tires to qualify. This is statewide, and they are only picking three sites to choose from. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Councilwoman Pettit know.*

*Mayor Kennedy attended the Planning and Zoning meeting, and the Park Board meeting will be this Thursday, January 15, 2026.*

6. CONSENT AGENDA

*Councilwoman Pettit 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 - Aye*

*Councilman Blades - Absent*

6.I. Approval Of Minutes - City Council Regular Session Minutes December 23, 2025

*See Consent Agenda*

6.II. December 2025 - January 2026 Appropriations

*See Consent Agenda*

7. OLD BUSINESS

*None*

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.I. Resolution No. 2026-2074 Bad Boy Mower Cemetery Purchase

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council with the Bad Boy Mower purchase for the cemetery. Mrs. Howlett stated that this is a 2026 budgeted item. Cemetery Sexton Brad Blankenship addressed the Council about the mowers and stated that they have had great luck with the Bad Boy brand. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis asked if services were included in the bid, and Mr. Blankenship told him no. If they need parts to fix anything, they go to Sutherland's to get the parts and fix it, but they haven't had to fix any of their Bad Boy mowers yet.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Approve Resolution No. 2026-2074, Bad Boy Mower purchase Cemetery Purchase. 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 - *Absent*

### 8.II. Special Event Application - Aurora Downtown Farmers Market

*City Manager Carrie Howlett addressed the Council and stated that it will be a repeat of last year with just a few minor changes. Staff have no concerns. Recommendation is approval. Lisa Boyer with the Aurora Downtown Project addressed the Council, stating that last year they wanted 20 vendors and received 47 applications. Most vendors sold out. Looking for more veggie farmers this year. Same place as last year, in the Chamber of Commerce parking lot. Will have more live entertainment this year and will be doing an Art Walk two times this year during the Farmer's Market.*

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to Approve the Special Event Application - Aurora Downtown Farmers Market. 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 - *Absent*

## 9. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

*The City Manager's report is attached.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lewis stated that he loves the new layout of appropriations. Thank you to Jessica Jenkins*

10. CLOSED SESSION 1-3-13

*Mayor Kennedy made a motion to move into Closed Session at 6:22 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 - Absent

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to move out of Closed Session at 8:29 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 - Absent

11. ADJOURNMENT

*Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 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 - Absent

APPROVED



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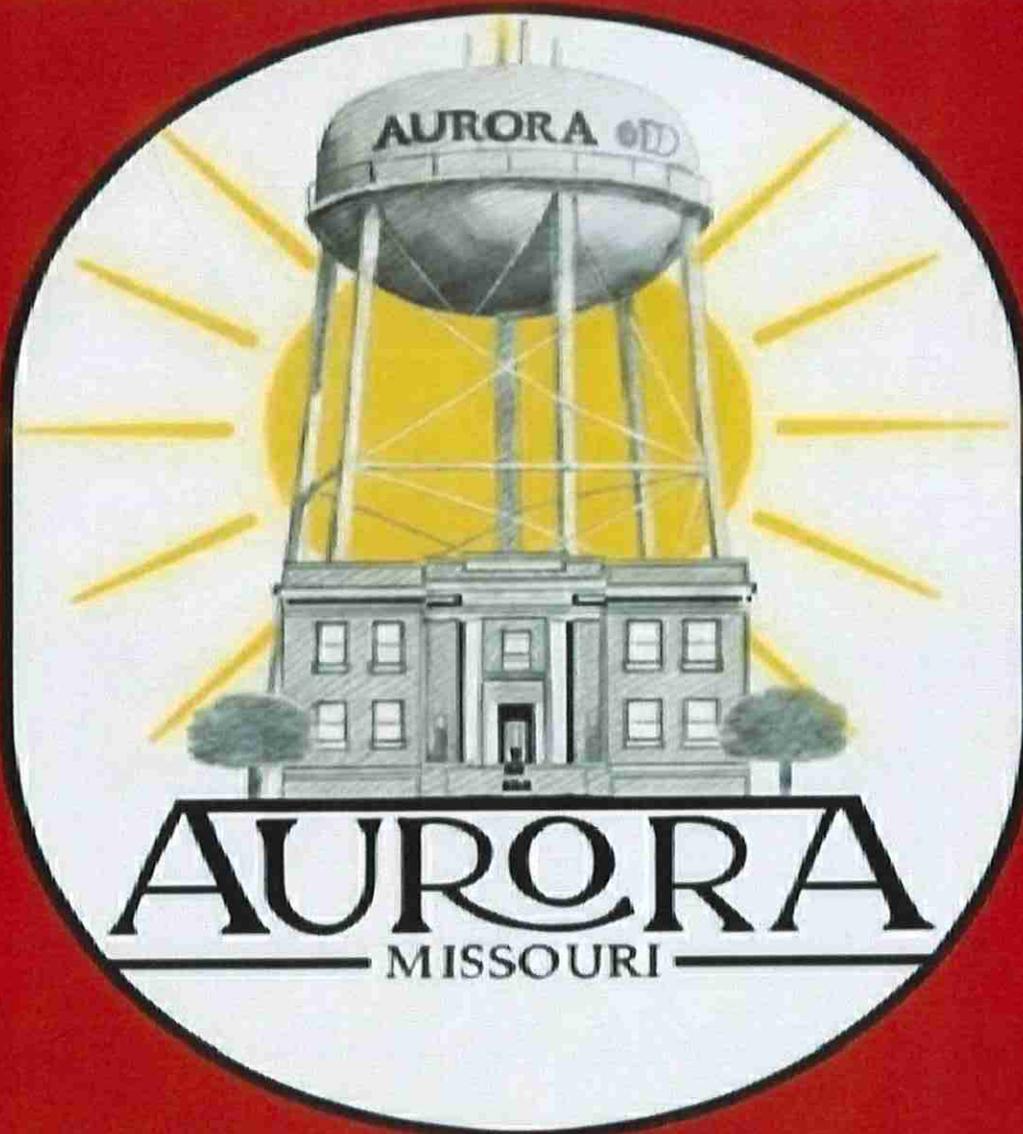
Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:



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Kamy Kulow, City Clerk



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**To:** Mayor Kennedy & Aurora City Council  
**From:** Carrie Howlett, City Manager  
**Re:** City Manager Report  
**Date:** 1/13/2026

### Dept. Items

#### Police

- Body cams have been delivered. Upcoming installation and training from Axon being scheduled.
- Radio communication failure mostly resolved. 2 portable & 1 mobile left to reprogram on Wednesday.

#### Fire

- Emergency Action Plan – Plan in final draft stages. Stakeholder meeting scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup> for tabletop exercises with other entities including utility companies, medical providers and county emergency management.

#### Street

- Christmas decorations have been taken down and stored for the year.
- Working on fence and gate install at the new brush site. Will be open to the public the first Monday of each month from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Brush pickup will begin on January 20<sup>th</sup> instead of the 19<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.
- Roger Thurman retired after 13 years of service to the City. The Foreman position was opened internally and Brian Murray has been promoted to Foreman.

#### Cemetery

- New computer arrived and installed. Laptop was purchased for use within Cemetery plot and ownership identification.

#### Parks

- Continuing playground equipment inspections and repairs.
- Working through Park Board assessment list.

#### Rec Center

- Youth Basketball games have begun. 26 teams with 19 sponsors.
- Adult Basketball has been announced; Registrations open through February 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Winter Transformation Challenge, sponsored by Mercy, will begin January 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration is now open.
- 752 active memberships.
- New Group Fitness Class starts January 26<sup>th</sup>. Mondays and Thursdays at 12:15 p.m.

### **Stormwater**

- Nothing to report

### **Wastewater**

- SRF Project continues steadily. The 3<sup>rd</sup> solids tank is under construction. Meeting held yesterday with Liberty Utilities and Joplin Industrial regarding needed Liberty upgrades to electrical on site.
- Line cleaning ongoing.
- I&I report due 1/19/26. Preparing for submittal.

### **Airport**

- Initial design documents being submitted to MoDOT for both 2026 projects.

### **Finance**

- BS&A software is fully live.
- Disconnects 1/29/26

### **Municipal Court**

- Nothing to report.

### **Community Development/Public Facilities**

- City Hall Rehabilitation project continues. New lighting around the City Hall lawn has been installed. Repairing underground circuit for bollard lights on West side of employee parking lot. North steps have been demolished and concrete pour will be complete by next week. Initial brick repair mostly complete. Completing washing of all sides of building prior to sealing.

### **Administration & Human Resources**

- Total compensation sheets have been sent out from Admin office.

### **Meetings and Events Attended/Held**

- EAP Meeting – 1/2/26
- Planning & Zoning Meeting – 1/6/26
- City Hall Renovation OAC Meeting – 1/7/26
- EAP Meeting – 1/8/26
- Airport Board Meeting – 1/8/26
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### **Upcoming Meetings and Events Attending**

- EAP Stakeholder/Tabletop Meeting – 1/14/26
- Park Board Meeting – 1/15/26
- City Offices Closed – MLK Day – 1/19/26
- MCMA Winter Workshop (City Manager Attending) – 1/22/26
- Sheltering Hope Meeting – 1/26/26
- ADP Organization Committee Meeting – 1/26/26