

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*

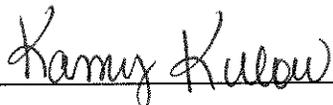
Councilman Blades - *Aye*

APPROVED



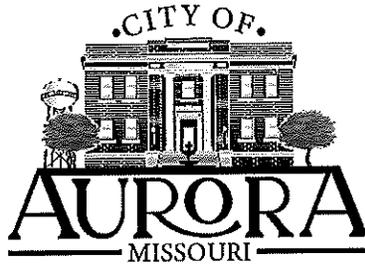
Tony Kennedy, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kamy Kulow, City Clerk

2 W. PLEASANT ST.
P.O. BOX 30
AURORA, MO 65605



PH: 417-678-5121
FAX: 417-678-6599
AURORA-CITYHALL.ORG

To: Mayor Kennedy & Aurora City Council
From: Carrie Howlett, City Manager
Re: City Manager Report
Date: 1/27/2026

Dept. Items

Police

- Body cams are installed and department training will be the first week of February.
- Daniel Gonzalez has been promoted to Lieutenant of Investigations and Training.

Fire

- Emergency Management: Planning briefing meetings prior to any forecasted storm/emergency events.
- Emergency Management: Working on pricing of new radios for all City vehicles/equipment for communication City wide across departments.
- Emergency Management: Emergency Action Plan - Stakeholder meeting held January 14th for tabletop exercises with other entities including utility companies, medical providers and county emergency management. Attendance was great with most entities represented. Responses and notes from tabletop exercise will be reviewed and draft plan will be updated accordingly.
- Our fire department responded to 1585 calls in 2025.
- Working to update and place new and upgraded first aid kits as well as stop the bleed kits in all City facilities.

Street

- Fences, gate and signage have been installed 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 completed last week.
- Winter storm response and snow removal have been the focus in recent days.

Cemetery

- Assisted Street Department with winter storm response and snow removal.

Parks

- Winter storm response and snow removal.
- Working through Park Board assessment list.

- New mulch has been placed in Oak Park.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the City and School District for use of athletic fields at White Park expires April 2026. Terms include two year extension if both parties agree.

Rec Center

- Recreation Center elevator went back into service Friday of last week.
- Youth Basketball games continue.
- Adult Basketball League sign ups complete. League is full with 6 teams registered.
- Winter Transformation Challenge begins this week.
- 780 active memberships.
- New Group Fitness Class starts this week.

Stormwater

- Nothing to report

Wastewater

- Winter storm response and snow removal. Staff provided extra monitoring of the plant and functions throughout the weekend. New infrared heaters in the filter building worked great this weekend.
- SRF Project continues but halted due to current weather conditions.
- AMCE preparing I&I project documents for submittal to DNR for approval.
- AMCE preparing lift station project documents for submittal to DNR for approval.
- Emergency Management: Two portable generators at Wastewater have been on the list for disposal. Staff have looked at those and have the motors running. Generator company coming to look at generator portion. These generators may be repairable. Additional generator at Fire Station 3 will be delivered to WW for the same assessment. (Possibly preparing RFP for regular generator maintenance City wide.)

Airport

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

Finance

- Working through final items with BS&A. Receiving additional training and support this week to address key issues.
- Disconnects cancelled for this week. Rescheduled for February 4th.

Municipal Court

- Nothing to report.

Community Development/Public Facilities

- City Hall Rehabilitation project continues. North steps have been poured. West steps have been removed. Brick work mostly complete. Stucco work will begin soon. Project timeline of completion in April.

Administration & Human Resources

- Nothing to report

Meetings and Events Attended/Held

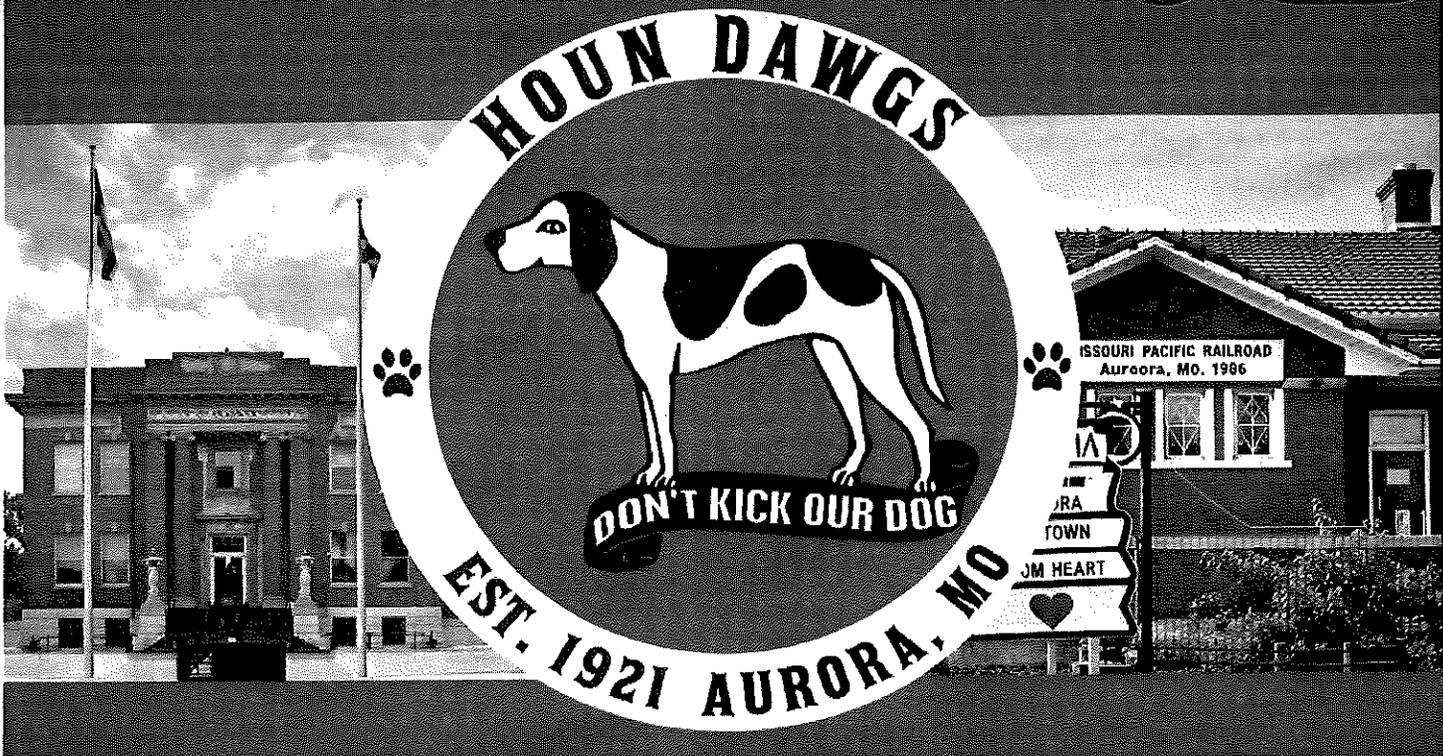
- EAP Stakeholder/Tabletop Meeting – 1/14/26
- Park Board Meeting – 1/15/26
- MCMA Winter Workshop (City Manager Attending) – 1/22/26
- Sheltering Hope Meeting – 1/26/26

Upcoming Meetings and Events Attending

- SMCOG Monthly Meeting – 1/28/26
- Chamber of Commerce Meeting – 1/28/26
- Barry/Lawrence County Economic Development Meeting – 1/30/26
- MU Extension Council Annual Meeting – 2/2/26
- City Hall Rehab OAC Meeting – 2/4/26



Save



Describe edits