

**AURORA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Aurora City Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Pro Tem Wiles called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE AND PRAYER:** Chairman Pro Tem Wiles led the council in the pledge and prayer

**III. ROLL CALL:** *Mayor Doyle Ferguson - Absent*  
*Chairman Pro Tem Stephen Wiles*  
*Councilman David Larry Marks*  
*Councilwoman Dawn Oplinger*  
*Councilman Don McWade*

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to approve the Minutes from the regular session held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Wiles seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for January/February 2020**

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to approve the appropriations for January/February 2020 as submitted. Councilman McWade seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*A citizen desiring to speak on an item not on the agenda may do so at this time. Each citizen is limited to three minutes and the Council will not take action or discuss items at this time. Discussion should be limited to matters of City business and public comment is not permitted in regard to personnel matters or on pending legal matters. Items introduced under "Public Comment" may become agenda items at a later date.*

None

**VII. COUNCIL FORUM**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

## "Improving the quality of life for Aurora"

A. *Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2020-3186 - Motion to approve an Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri amending the City of Aurora Code of Ordinances to establish a meeting time of 6:00 p.m. for Regular Council Meetings.*

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to approve the Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2020-3186. Chairman Pro Tem Wiles seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. *Presentation – Silo Farms, LLC – David Geisler*

David Geisler of Silo Farms, LLC addressed the Council with a presentation outlining his project of vertical farming to take place in the currently vacant MFA silos. Plans for the project include production of mushrooms, vegetables and alternative protein. Production of such will be based on a concept of gravity driven, helix based design. The mushrooms will be grown in a soybean hull and sawdust mixture therefore there will be no odor or waste issues to the area. The facility will place a limited burden on utilities in the area and will employ approximately five people initially with growth in employment numbers as the project and production expands.

B. *Resolution No. 2020-1727 – Motion to approve a Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing the City Manager to file an application with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Revolving Fund (SRF) program for loans and funding under the Missouri Clean Water Law (Chapter 644, RSMo.)*

Wastewater Superintendent Orvil Maples addressed the Council advising this will be a loan from DNR and the funding will be used to replace, nearly twenty year old, filters at the treatment plant. The new filters will handle twice as much water. The project will increase sludge holding capacity and will bring great improvement to the wastewater facility.

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-1727. Chairman Pro Tem Wiles seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

C. *First Reading Bill No. 2020-3187 – Motion to approve an Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri accepting and approving a request from Silo Farms, LLC and MFA Inc. for a lot split involving 303 W Olive Street.*

Planning & Zoning Director Carrie Howlett addressed the Council advising this request comes as recommendation for approval from the Planning & Zoning Commission. The lot split would separate land currently owned by MFA Inc. and is the property involving the project presented tonight by David Geisler of Silo Farms, LLC. MFA Inc. intends to

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lease/sell said property to Silo Farms, LLC for the vertical farming facility. Official survey has been provided dictating the lot split and is acceptable within City Code.

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to approve Bill No. 2020-3187. Councilman McWade seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

*D. First Reading of Bill No. 2020-3188 – Motion to approve an ordinance of the City of Aurora amending the City of Aurora, City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 400, Zoning Regulations, Section 400.410 Special Use Permit, Sub-Section A.*

Planning & Zoning Director Carrie Howlett addressed the Council advising the current City Code for this section limits a request for a Special Use Permit to certain zoning districts within the City. After careful review it is recommended that this be amended to allow such a request in any zoning district within the City.

Chairman Pro Tem Wiles moved to approve Bill No. 2020-3188. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

*E. Discussion – Consent Agenda*

Planning & Zoning Director Carrie Howlett addressed the Council stating that a Consent Agenda would allow non-controversial, routine items to be grouped into a single agenda item. Examples of Consent Agenda items are approval of minutes, appropriations and financial reports, etc. A Consent Agenda expedites the agenda creation process and helps to ensure well organized and efficient meetings. Ms. Howlett further advised that members would continue to have an opportunity to review said agenda items prior to the meeting. Should a Council Member have questions regarding a Consent Agenda item or choose to vote against said item, that Council Member can request said item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to the general body of the Agenda for discussion and voting. Questions regarding Consent Agenda items can also be asked prior to the meeting as long as said questions are directed to all Council Members in an effort to stay in regulation with the Missouri Sunshine Law.

All Council Members present voiced approval of using a Consent Agenda in the future.

### **X. REPORTS**

*A. Board Liaison Report*

Councilwoman Oplinger stated that she will be attending an Airport Board meeting the following day, Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

*B. City Manager Report*

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None

***XII. ADJOURNMENT***

Councilwoman Oplinger moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Councilman McWade seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Wiles, Marks, Oplinger, McWade

NAYES: 0

**APPROVED:**



Doyle/Ferguson, Mayor (02/25/2020)

**ATTEST:**



Carrie Howlett, Deputy City Clerk (2/25/2020)