

**Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Aurora City Hall**  
**City Council Chambers**  
**2 W. Pleasant**  
**Aurora, Missouri**  
**Tuesday, June 9, 2020 – 6:30 p.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE:** Mayor Ferguson led the Council in prayer and the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Doyle Ferguson - present  
Chairman Pro Tem Jason Lewis - present  
Councilwoman Dawn Oplinger - present  
Councilman Don McWade – present  
Councilwoman Pettit - present

**4. 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.*

Shannon Walker addressed council regarding Light The Night. The Light The Night Fireworks Festival Committee has been in constant contact with the Lawrence County Health Department since March regarding the event. The decision was made to follow the recommendation of the Lawrence County Health Department and greatly downsize the event. All crafts, business vendors, food vendors, kids activities and many of the other fun activities that were originally planned have been cancelled. The Chamber of Commerce will encourage physically distancing and will have hand sanitizing stations. The Chamber will also be accepting donations as this will not be a money making event for them. Instead it will be a community celebration. Anyone wishing to watch the firework show and listen to the music can do that from their vehicles or they may sit in the park with their friends and family as they feel comfortable.

Bruce and Stephanie Heman addressed council requesting a public hearing regarding recommendations made by the Planning and Zoning Commission on June 2, 2020.

Ed Witte addressed council as a follow up to a previous public comment regarding the possibility of rewriting the city's regulations on sign placement and the repercussions for violating those regulations. Mr. Witte said he did have a conversation with City Manager Jon Homes about his concerns and questions. Mr. Witte asked if council had discussed this issue yet and Mayor Ferguson told him that they had not at this time. City Manager Holmes elaborated on his discussion with Mr. Witte. City Manager Holmes spoke of a possibility of adding it to a special event permit. City Manager Holmes agreed that it was a good idea to make sure that signs are cleaned up after the advertised event is over. Mr. Witte spoke of a few events he has planned in the future and will want signs to advertise said event. He asked if he would be able to obtain a special event permit that would allow for signs. If a committee is gathered to discuss this issue, Mr. Witte would like the opportunity to be on the committee.

## **5. COUNCIL FORUM**

*Council Forum provides an opportunity for Council Members to share information with the rest of the Council regarding communications with constituents, meetings attended, request items to be put on the agenda, make requests of staff, or direct questions to staff regarding issues that are not on the agenda.*

Councilwoman Oplinger and Councilman McWade were both in attendance at the Planning and Zoning meeting held on June 2, 2020. Councilwoman Pettit was also in attendance of the Planning and Zoning meeting but was there as a citizens due to not being sworn in yet.

Councilwoman Pettit requested information regarding the city's ordinances on signs and sign placement.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### *6.I. First Reading of Bill 2020-3191 – Statutory Updates*

Mayor Ferguson asked City Manager Holmes for some information and guidance regarding the updates that are being requested. City Manager Holmes directed questions to City Clerk Kimberly Breedlove. The city clerk explained that we are merely adopting state statutes that have been passed. City Manager Holmes explained further that this will allow us to be in compliance with the state. Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the first reading of Bill 2020-3191. Councilwoman Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

*6.II Special Event Application: Houn Dawg Days*

Planning and Zoning Director Carrie Howlett updated council on the request from the applicant to post pone the application for this event temporarily due COVID-19 concerns and waiting to see what the rules and regulations will be concerning this event. The applicant is still interested in having this event just requests that it be tabled at this time.

*6.III Special Event Application: Tail Gate Party*

Planning and Zoning Director Carrie Howlett addressed council regarding an application that Mr. Bob Myer has submitted. Mr. Myer would like to utilize Oak Park for a Ham Radio gathering on August 8, 2020. Mr. Myer believes it will be a relatively small event and is not requesting any city personnel assistance or police protection. Mr. Myer was in attendance at the meeting and all questions that council had were turned over to him. Councilwoman Pettit inquired on regulations for sales tax on any equipment or parts sold/purchased. City Manager Holmes said he did not know but would check in to it. Mr. Myer relayed that they had not previously had to charge sales tax. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis asked what time frame Mr. Myer would need the park. Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to approve the special event request regarding the usage of Oak Park for the Tail Gate Party. Chairman Pro Tem Lewis seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

*6.IV Reinstatement of Linda Barton To The Planning and Zoning Commission*

Planning and Zoning Director, Carrie Howlett, advised council that this was a general reinstatement of an expiring term. The Planning and Zoning Board voted her through unanimously at their meeting last week. Carrie is requesting approval from the council to keep her on the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilwoman Pettit thanked Linda Barton for her previous service on the board and then made a motion to approve the reinstatement of Linda Barton to the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilman McWade seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

#### *6.V Come and Dine Funding Request*

City Manager Jon Holmes addressed council with a request to consider funding for the Come and Dine Program. City Manager Holmes let council know that he has spoken with City Attorney Ken Reynolds and this is an accepted use of city funds. Mr. Holmes also advised council that if they would like to donate more than the original \$2,000.00 requested that he was sure he would be able to find it in the budget. Mr. Holmes had requested that Ms. Barbara Wommack attend the council meeting so that she could further explain what the Come and Dine Program did and the importance of it in the community. Ms. Wommack spoke of the history of the program and its growth over the years. She spoke of the costs associated with providing this service to the community and the difficulty she would have this year due to the prices of meat and other food typically served. She spoke of the families that benefit from this program through the meals provided and the effect it has on everyone involved. This year will be a little different due to recent events regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. All meals will be delivery or pickup only and the number of volunteers allowed in the kitchen will be significantly less than previous years. Mayor Ferguson asked council for their thoughts on funding for this program. Mayor Ferguson feels this is a greatly needed cause in our community and believes the questions is not whether to help or not but to what extent the council will help. Councilwoman Oplinger asked City Manager Holmes if it was possible to raise the amount requested from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00. City Manager Holmes responded to that question with a yes. He believes he can make that work. Mayor Ferguson commented that he believed the council does not typically use all of the amount budgeted for their use. City Manager Holmes agreed that there would be funds available in the council's budget. Councilwoman Pettit made a motion to donate \$5,000.00 to the Come and Dine Program. Mayor Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

#### *6.VI Approval To Dispose of Surplus Furniture Via GovDeals Auction*

Planning and Planning Director, Carrie Howlett, addressed council regarding the Public Facilities side of her department. All items presented to the council are currently located in the basement of the City Hall and the majority of the items come from departments located within City Hall. The items presented to council consists of 11 desks with some chairs and end table pieces. The pieces are highly out dated and with the new furniture we were blessed with, there is no need for them here and nowhere really to store them. She would like to move them on to someone who could use them. City Manager Holmes

addressed council with a reminder that the new furniture for City Hall was done with funds/credits through Midwest Public Risk. These credits were provided due to repetitive motion injuries and to help mitigate the possibility for that. No city funds were used in the purchase of the new furniture. Mayor Ferguson made a motion to approve the disposal of surplus furniture via GovDeals Auction. Councilwoman Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

## **7. STAFF REPORT/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS**

### *7.I. Board Liaison Report*

Nothing at this time.

### *7.II. City Manager Report*

City Manager Holmes discussed 2020 budget expenditures and revenues, seasonal operations, staff issues, items pertaining to each department. He advised council that the Heman's would like to appeal the decision made by the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding their rezone request. He advised council that it would be on the agenda at the next council meeting. He also advised council that he was working on gathering candidates for the Board of Zoning Adjustment as he believes there may be need of it in the future and if the council had someone they would like to see appointed to please let him know.

Full report attached.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Ferguson asked if there was anything further that needed to be discussed. There was nothing at this time. Councilwoman Oplinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Mayor Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ferguson, Oplinger, McWade, Lewis, Pettit

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

**To:** Mayor Ferguson & Aurora City Council  
**From:** Jon Holmes, City Manager, City of Aurora  
**Re:** City Manager Report  
**Date:** 06/09/2020

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**Report Items:**

**Financial Conditions:**

**2020 Budget Expenditures**

Nothing new to report at this time

**2020 Revenues**

1. City Sales Tax – Up \$15,654 YTD 2020 compared to YTD 2019
2. Use Tax – Up \$7,532 YTD 2020 compared to YTD 2019
3. Transportation Sales Tax – Up \$7,822 YTD 2020 compared to YTD 2019
4. Stormwater/Local Parks Sales Tax – Up \$7,748 YTD 2020 compared to YTD 2019
5. Capital Improvement Sales Tax (Police Facility) – Up \$7,822 YTD 2020 compared to YTD 2019

These revenue numbers represent a full month of our community under the Stay-at-Home orders. As I have said before, these numbers are encouraging. We will watch another month to see the outcome of another month, and as I have said before, I am cautiously optimistic.

**Seasonal Operations:**

Currently, we are taking a very conservative approach to many of the normal seasonal City operations:

- o City Pool
  - **06/09/2020 UPDATE: Current COVID19 restrictions are in place until June 14<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching to see if the Governors office extends restrictions or ends them.**
  - **Pool Staff received training and guidance on sanitation and decontamination protocols for pool staff and snack bar staff.**
  - **Pool admittance has been very busy**

**Operational Issues**

Nothing new to report at this time

**Staff Issues**

1. We have had one staff that has been placed on administrative paid COVID19 leave for self-quarantine in accordance with the Federal CARE Act.

## Discussion, Questions or Concerns?

### Dept. Items

- **Police**
  - Nothing to report
  
- **Fire**
  - Chief Ward discussed CARE Act. Funding that the County received and made a preliminary request for some of those funds in order to reimburse the City for some expenditures that the City has made to address COVID19 issues
  - Busy with Light the Night Planning to work with the Chamber regarding the changes to the event and changing where the firing of fireworks will take place
  
- **Street & Cemetery**
  - Street Paving projects are completed. We have one soft spot in Lincoln street that needs to be repaired.
  - Mosquito Control spraying has begun
  - Brush and Limb pickup begins next Monday
  - Cemetery – Pickup down at this time for repairs
  
- **Park**
  - All Park amenities will be reopened this weekend
  
- **Stormwater**
  - Flooding continue to be a problem in several areas – I am working with our engineers to begin developing plans to address the problem areas as soon as funds become available
  
- **Wastewater**
  - Pump replacement on sand filter
  
- **Admin. & Finance**
  - Laptops for Council - Update: Original order has been cancelled and a new order has been made. Original ordered laptops ceased production.
  - Councilwoman Pettit and Councilman Lewis are attending the Missouri Municipal League New Elected Official Training Conference in Columbia
  - **Human Resources Notes:**
    - 1 Dispatch Position open
    - 2 Police Officer Positions open

- Employee BBQ will take place Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am at the Fire Station. Employee Families welcome. Council assistance with grilling and serving always appreciated!
- **Municipal Court Items:**
  - Municipal Court resumed June 2<sup>nd</sup> with virtual court (online court) by the direction of the MO Court System – this will continue
- **Finance Items:**
  - We are looking into timekeeping modules for our management software for better/easier calculation & tracking of employee's time.
  - Sales Tax Renewal – The renewal of the sales tax is a great thing for our community.
  - Reminder of listed Council Priorities:
    - Stormwater Projects
    - Deferred Maintenance Items:
      - Needed City Hall Repairs and Historic Preservation
    - Blight Abatement – City Wide
    - Street Repair/Rehabilitation -City Wide
  - New Community Amenities
    - Community/Event Center
    - Downtown Revitalization, Downtown Infrastructure, Historic Preservation Improvements
    - Walking Trails
    - Swimming Pool - Splashpad
    - Park Projects
- **Economic Development**
  - I am currently working with 3 potential developers regarding possible 4 different large developments in our community. They may be requesting using various State economic development programs for their developments. These will require Council approval, and will be coming before the City Council for discussions and consideration in the next few months.
- **Planning & Code Enforcement**
  - Code Enforcement items increasing
  - GIS Mapping – We have been moving forward with updating our mapping for the City. P&Z and the Police and Fire Dept. will be using this system.
  - Planning and Zoning Meeting – July 7<sup>th</sup>
    - Liberty Development



- Heman's have appealed the Planning and Zoning Commissions decision regarding their rezoning request. That will be coming before the Council at the next meeting.
- Board of Zoning Adjustment – The City may have need of this body in the future. At this time we do not have one, I am working on a list of possible candidates for this board. If the Council has someone that they would like to be considered for this board, please let me know. All nominations for this board come before the City Council for approval.

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

- SW Solid Waste District Meeting – June 23<sup>rd</sup>


**Upcoming Meetings and Events Attending:**

- None

**Follow-Up Items/Misc. Items**

- AFB Discussion – Planning on bringing them in to discuss issues with the Council as soon as scheduling permits
- Non-traditional Domestic Animals (chickens, pigs, et. al)

**APPROVED:**

  
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Doyle Ferguson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kimberly Breedlove, City Clerk