

Minutes
Aurora City Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 7pm
City Council Chambers, Aurora City Hall
21420 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Lambert, Finance Officer; Mark Gunter, Public Works Superintendent; Deputy Pete Walker; David James Robinson, City Attorney; Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder

STAFF ABSENT: NA

VISITORS PRESENT: Laurie Boyce, Carl and Tara McKnight, Joseph Schaefer, Julie Sixkiller, Aurora

1. CALL TO ORDER OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Brian Asher called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Brian Asher-Present
Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely-Present
Councilor John Berard-Present
Councilor Charles Roper-Present
Councilor Wendy Veliz-Present

3. AFFIRMATIONS

Councilor John Berard appreciated seeing people playing baseball and the park in use.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) City Council Minutes—May 14, 2024
- b) City Council Special Meeting Minutes—May 23, 2024
- c) Planning Commission Minutes—May 7, 2024
- d) Parks Committee Minutes—May 23, 2024
- e) Historic Review Board Minutes—April 23, 2024

Councilor Berard requested last names of the Park Committee members be included on the minutes, and the City Recorder will follow-up.

Councilor Berard moved to pass the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wendy Veliz and carried.

5. VISITORS

Carl McKnight raised the challenge of temporary food trucks that serve his customers on weekends, typically for a couple of hours on Friday and Saturday, and do not submit business license applications. McKnight seeks a way to simplify the application process for these self-contained food truck operators. There could be up to 15 different food truck vendors across the summer months. A single day license costs \$15, a two-day license costs \$20, and a seasonal (summer) license costs \$30. Annual licenses cost \$50. It was also noted that food trucks must have a health license through Marion County, which license

must be on file with the city per the McKnight's conditional use permit to allow for food truck operation on the property in question. Councilor Charles Roper suggested a digital business license application accessible via QR code and in the form of a survey that could capture the normal business license information – he will work on a digital form for this purpose. Food truck operators could scan the QR code and fill out the application in a couple of minutes.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Bleicherode, Germany Sister City Update

Mayor Asher noted some gifts from the Mayor of Bleicherode, particularly a coin, baseball cap with a can opener on the brim, and a bottle of Schnapps made in that city. Aurora is working on a medallion with the city's logo. Additionally, the city will include an Aurora binocular lady t-shirt. Asher understands the Aurora Historical Society originally sent a gift of chocolates from the local hazelnut business. The city is open to ideas on gifts. Donald Kunz will travel this summer to Bleicherode and present a plaque in the works with final lettering to city officials. A question was asked as to whether Aurora should do a plaque, indicating a sister city relationship with Bleicherode in English and German.

b) Aurora Emergency Preparedness Report and Budget Request

It was noted that the budget request would be made during the state revenue sharing portion or budget hearing of this meeting. It was clarified that the \$2500 line item in the city's budget is for city emergency equipment and what Aurora Emergency Preparedness would get is state revenue sharing funds asked for separately. It was noted that one of the conditions for AEP receiving the Marion County CERT trailer was that it be insured considering a question asked as to whether AEP could pull the CERT trailer behind a vehicle in the Aurora Colony Days parade. Staff will reach out to the city's insurance agent to see if it is possible to add AEP as an additional insured.

c) Airport Land Use Update - Noise Abatement Procedures; Low-Flight Complaints

Mayor Asher noted there will be a meeting Thursday at North Marion High School between 4 and 5pm where the Aviation Master Plan group will present posters with alternatives for the 20-year master plan. Asher also noted that the runway is not in compliance and mentioned several alternatives involving movement of Highway 551 35-foot westward or moving the runway closer to the hangars. Another alternative is to lengthen the runway by 479 feet (not 1,000 feet) with one extension going north, the other going south. Joseph Schaefer noted the alternatives are included in the June Council packet online and that the master plan has an expected completion by next summer. James Kirby gave a summary of drainage issues at the airport during a recent airport Planning Advisory Committee meeting, and a question was asked about access to a transcript of this meeting. Joseph Schaefer noted there are two TLM cases, one with a new application for the former church camp sitting at Marion County with no hearings scheduled yet, and on the original TLM case the Circuit Court dismissed Schaefer's case, now appealed to the Court of Appeals – expect an answer in about a year and a half.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Public Safety Report

Deputy Pete Walker noted he has been working with the City Recorder on parking issues. Utility boundaries are not clearly marked on Walnut and Filbert streets, and vehicles have been parked along these boundaries for years. There have been no complaints in a couple of weeks, so the situation appears to have been resolved. Oregon Department of Transportation sent out an update on the Aurora interchange but have yet to set a timeframe. Mayor Asher noted that construction materials are starting to amass near the project site. The city anticipates increased traffic during this project as a result of diversion to Highway 551 and resulting traffic pushed to Highway 99e. It was noted that speed tends to increase with the clear sunny weather, and Walker got 14 traffic citations last month with a target of 15-20. There were five stops today just for cell phones. Walker said he would like to see a speed reader sign at the south end of town. It was noted crosswalks once in place will give the city standing for additional equipment like speed reader signs.

b) Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Contract for Renewal

It was noted that the current contract was at \$239,803, with \$238,961 for last year, and \$214,631 for the previous year.

Motion by Councilor Berard to pass the Marion County Sheriff's Office contract, which motion was seconded by Councilor Rhoden-Feely, and the motion carried.

c) 2024 Proposed Building Permit Fee Schedule

The City Recorder provided an overview of the process involving state notification of an anticipated fee increase. Given that building permit fees have not increased in about a decade, it is time to start the process for that adjustment. It was noted that Administrative Assistant Tammy Grimes led out in updating the fee appendix material. There is a 45-day state-required posting period prior to proposed fee increases going to Council in August, to be accepted by resolution. It was noted that Council supports the fee increases.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Council Communication w Community

Councilor Roper noted the collection of contact info for those who want to provide it with a link to the form shared in the newsletter. There are up to 12 people so far signed up. Looking to get more people on the list so the city has this contact info for the newsletter and emergencies, among other reasons to reach out. The next step is to include an insert in the newsletter this month with a thought of making the sign-up option a part of the water application by default, so if water customers do not opt out they would automatically be included. The city would let customers know they would be on the email list, unless they opt out, and they would also have the option to unsubscribe. There is potential benefit with such a list, which staff could use to send out business license renewal reminders 30 days in advance. Contact information would be protected by password and two-factor authentication.

b) Economic Opportunities Analysis

A third and final meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was held today, made up

of economic development officials from state and local governments. The final EOA report is 95 percent complete and was distributed to TAC members. The Planning Commission will see that report in August and then go on to City Council for approval, pending any appeals. There will be hearings and notice to the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The next step is to write new comprehensive plan policies to implement the plan. The city will also formally adopt the buildable lands inventory. It was noted there are many interim steps before expanding the city's urban growth boundary (UGB).

c) Aurora Traffic and Traffic Speed

Speed Feedback Signs – Update by Carl Lund, Marion County Traffic Engineer
Carl Lund presented on the approach taken to measure speed with the use of speed feedback signs, including randomized messaging with even turning off the signs at times. This is all based on BF Skinner's research which suggested in this context a lasting effect of the signs versus other speed signs which lose their effect over time. The feedback is geared toward positive messaging with gratitude. Speed reports can be available about every six months. One suggestion for the speed sign offered by Councilor Veliz was Matthew McConaughey's "Alright, Alright, Alright."

9. HEARING

a) Budget Hearing to Adopt the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year City of Aurora Budget
Mayor Asher called to order the Hearing to discuss the 2024-2025 City of Aurora Budget at 8:23pm. Councilor Rhoden-Feely has a call in for the bond arbitrage calculator which may change the budget. Laurie Boyce presented a request for \$2500 for state revenue share funds to be used toward a generator and chain saw. A suggestion was provided by Councilor Rhoden-Feely that no more than 10 percent of these funds be used for administrative costs, which had Council consensus. The Hearing closed at 8:27pm.

10. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

a) Resolution 864, A Resolution Adopting the 2024-2025 Budget, Making Appropriations, Imposing the Tax and Categorizing the Tax

Motion by Councilor Rhoden-Feely to pass Resolution 864, seconded by Councilor Veliz, and the motion passed.

b) Resolution 865, A Resolution Declaring the City's Election to Receive State Revenues

Motion by Charles Roper to pass Resolution 865, which motion was seconded by Council Rhoden-Feely. The motion carried.

c) Resolution 866, A Resolution Authorizing Adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Aurora and Marion County for Law Enforcement Services

Motion by Councilor Rhoden-Feely to adopt Resolution 866, which motion was seconded by Councilor Berard. The motion carried.

- d) Ordinance 503, An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 3.04 and [Repealing/Amending] Ordinances Ord.240 § 1,2 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 1976; Ord. 426 § 3(A) (B) (C) (D) § 4, 2003; Ord. 400 §§ 1, 2, 2000 and Adopting the Model Rules of Public Contracting and Local Exceptions Therefrom within the City of Aurora [Second Reading]

Motion by Councilor Berard to adopt Ordinance 503. Councilor Rhoden-Feely offered an amendment deleting the optional language, a placeholder for suggested revisions anticipated at the May 14th meeting, which revisions Council did not make. The motion for Ordinance 503 as amended was seconded by Councilor Roper and passed.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Asher invited Joseph Schaefer to join Council in Executive Session. Following discussion, the Executive Session wrapped at 9:05pm.

12. REPORTS

- a) Finance Officer—It was noted that Mary Lambert’s report is in the packet.
- b) Public Works
Public Works Superintendent Mark Gunter noted some 50 percent drawings coming out tomorrow for the water reservoir. There are also 50 percent drawings for the water line going down Main Street and Bobs. All these projects should be bid by end of this year and be complete by end of 2026. Mid-July to August the well will be drilled off Cole Lane. Gunter is working on getting ready for Colony Days and will explore a place for parking horse trailers, whether at Georgie Cam’s place or next to City Hall. Surveying continues for each of the crosswalk projects.
- c) City Attorney –Nothing additional to report.
- d) City Recorder—Nothing additional to report.
- e) Business License Deposits—Nothing to note for this item.
- f) Traffic Safety Liaison—Nothing to add beyond discussion earlier in the meeting.
- g) Airport—Already addressed earlier in the meeting.
- h) Planning
Joseph Schaefer provided a synopsis of an 8-unit Aurora Apartments project before the Planning Commission recently, noting he did not participate due to a conflict of interest and that some neighbors were not happy with the project. There is a deadline for appeal [June 28] to City Council and, if not appealed, then the project would move forward the following month. Drawings for the project can be found in the Planning Commission packet from last month.
- i) Community Outreach
Mayor Asher noted this month’s food pickup at Legion Hall next week Wed., 4:30pm.

j) Community Preparedness

There was a question for Councilor Berard about bike helmets, if Aurora Emergency Preparedness could help give away the remaining helmets. Laurie Boyce will follow up with the city closer to Aurora Colony Days.

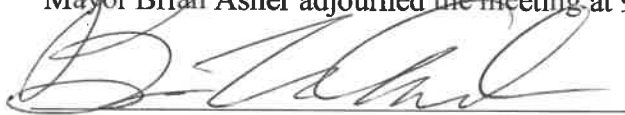
k) Parks Committee—nothing in addition to the report provided in the packet.

l) Mayor's Report

Mayor Asher thanked Mary Lambert for her work on city finances, particularly the bond, given all the preparation yielded an excellent bond rating. During the process, the city was well checked out as to its financial health. And the city now has cyber insurance to insulate the city from malicious attacks. It was also noted that Piper Sandler has done a great job.

13. ADJOURN

Mayor Brian Asher adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm.



Brian Asher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder