

Minutes of the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee
City of Aurora, Colorado
May 15, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

The following were present:

Susan McClain, Committee Member, Chairwoman, Citizen
Josh Reddell, Committee, Member, Vice-Chairman, Citizen
Polly Page, Committee Member, Citizen
Brad Pierce, Committee Member, Citizen
Jim Rogers, Committee Member, Industry
Maxwell Blair, Committee Member, Industry
Marc Cooper, Committee Member, Surface Owner
Chad Polak, Committee Member, Surface Owner
Christine McKenney, City of Aurora, Assistant City Attorney
Mindy Parnes, City of Aurora, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services
Stephen Rodriguez, Local Government Designee, City of Aurora Planning and Development Services
Sarah Wieder, City of Aurora Planning and Development Services
Aurora Ogg, Citizen of Aurora
Kathy Denzer, Senior Regulatory Coordinator, ConocoPhillips
Ryan Frazier, Citizen of Aurora
Adam Johnson, Citizen of Aurora
Susan Chapel, City of Aurora Planning and Development Services

1. Chairwoman McClain called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. There was a quorum.
2. Chairwoman McClain introduced herself and asked those present to introduce themselves.
3. March 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes
A motion was made by Polly Page and seconded by Jim Rogers to approve the March 20, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Stephen Rodriguez gave an update on current Oil and Gas Permit applications:
No changes have occurred on any applications since the March 20, 2019 meeting. At the City Council Study Session on Monday, May 15, 2019, City Council will be considering two Operator Agreements with the potential adoption date of June 3, 2019.

Mr. Rodriguez indicated that he has received phone calls from new Oil and Gas Operators who have inquired about how to begin new applications within the City of Aurora. He has advised them to wait for the new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to be adopted and the current operator agreements to be signed.

Marc Cooper asked about new applications and if they will be processed once the operator agreements are in place. Mr. Rodriguez stated that there is not a moratorium in place but how to proceed once the agreements are in place will need to be worked out.

Jim Rogers asked what operators have submitted agreements for City Council review. Mr. Rodriguez answered Axis Exploration and ConocoPhillips. Maxwell Blair added that for it to move forward the Council will need to vote to move it to a formal meeting.

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Polly Page asked if there is a waiting period after the agreement is approved. Christine McKenney stated that the agreement will be approved by resolution.

Brad Pierce asked about the permit approval process at the state level and how many permits have been submitted under the objective criteria. Maxwell Blair stated that all of the applications are subject to the objective criteria because they are within a municipal boundary. A general discussion ensued.

Rulemakings, the intent of Senate Bill 181 and the impacts on the state and local municipalities were also discussed.

Jim Rogers asked why there is an Oil and Gas Advisory Committee since they are never involved in the decisions made regarding oil and gas within the City of Aurora. Brad Pierce suggested that the mayor and council be contacted and remind them that there is an advisory committee who is ready and able to offer input. A general discussion ensued.

5. Public Comment Period
None.

6. Proposed Updates to Bylaws
Josh Reddell reported that the Bylaws are not ready to be formally amended and before any suggested changes are brought before the Committee it may be necessary to redefine what the Charter states for the committee. He asked that the Bylaws be part of the formal July agenda. A general discussion ensued.

7. Update from Energy and Environment Symposium
Polly Page, Brad Pierce, and Stephen Rodriguez reported on the symposium.

8. Discuss Topic Ideas for Next Meeting.
Maxwell Blair suggested that an overview of Operator Agreements should be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.


Josh Reddell suggested that the Committee take time at every meeting to have substantive policy conversations and then send a summary to the City Council.

Jim Rogers noted that three Committee members terms expire in July.

Marc Cooper reported that he will be taking a sabbatical from June 7 to August 9, 2019 and will not be available for meetings during that time.

9. The meeting was formally adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved



Susan McClain, Chairwoman