

Approved

MINUTES

**Regular Meeting – Aurora City Council
Monday, August 3, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Coffman convened the regular meeting of City Council at 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESIDING: Mayor Coffman
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnston, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Lawson, Marciano, Murillo
COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OFFICIALS PRESENT: City Manager Twombly, City Attorney Brotzman, City Clerk Ruger
COUNCIL MEMBERS ARRIVING AFTER ROLL CALL: None

City Clerk Ruger announced the proposed items for discussion at executive session.

CONSIDERATION TO RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Bergan, second by Berzins, to recess for executive session.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marciano, Murillo

Abstaining: None

1. RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2020 AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of City Council at 7:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL Stephen Ruger, City Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Murillo, Marciano

3. INVOCATION Barbara Dahl, City Clerk Analyst

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG (all standing)

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Coombs, second by Marciano, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 6, 2020, as amended.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marciano, Murillo

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Motion by Gruber, second by Bergan, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 20, 2020, as amended.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

6. CEREMONY

Recognition of City Clerk Steve Ruger

Mayor Coffman and City Council recognized and expressed appreciation to City Clerk Steve Ruger for his service to the City of Aurora. Mr. Ruger thanked City Council for their kind comments. He stated it had been a pleasure to work at the City of Aurora and that he would miss it.

7. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD (non-agenda related issues only)

Mayor Coffman asked if there were any objections to moving the public comment to the end of the meeting. He recognized six council members in opposition to the item.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, and City staff read and played voicemail public comments submitted to publiccomment@auroragov.org into the record up to the first three minutes and attached the comments to the minutes and also emailed them to Council.

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Johnston, to amend the agenda by moving item 10a to precede item 8a.

Mayor Coffman asked City Council if there were any objections and upon hearing none, noted the agenda was adopted as amended.

Motion by Johnston to adopt the amended agenda.

Mayor Coffman asked City Council if there were any objections and upon hearing none, noted the agenda was adopted as amended.

- ◆ a. Consideration of a Resolution to Suspend Certain Council Rules
Staff Source: Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, General Management/Isabelle Evans, Assistant City Attorney II

Motion by Coombs, second by Bergan, to approve item 8a.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

General Business

- a. Consideration to AWARD A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT to Liberty Industrial Group, Colorado Springs, Colorado in the amount of \$78,784.00 for the rehabilitation of one sodium hydroxide chemical storage tank.
Presenter: Elizabeth Carter, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water/David Lathers, Senior Asst City Attorney
- b. Consideration to AWARD A COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT to Calgon Carbon Corporation in the amount of \$312,984.00 for the purchase of granular activated

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carbon water treatment media for the Binney Water Purification Facility, Invitation for Bid B-4515.

Presenter: Bobby Oligo, Manager of Water Treatment, Aurora Water/David Lathers, Senior Asst City Attorney

- c. Consideration to AWARD A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT to HDR Engineering, Inc., Denver, Colorado in the amount of \$1,489,043.75 for Design-Build Procurement and Program Management Consulting Services for the I-70/Picadilly Interchange Project.

Presenter: Matthew Kozakowski, Transportation Project Delivery Manager/
Michelle Gardner, Senior Asst City Attorney

- d. Consideration to EXTEND A COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT with W.L. Contractors, Inc., Arvada, Colorado in the amount of \$1,697,552.00 for the 2020 Traffic Signal Construction Services Project, Project No. 19015.

Presenter: Carlie Campuzano, Traffic Manager, Public Works/David Lathers, Senior Asst City Attorney

Motion by Bergan, second by Gardner, to approve items 9a – 9d.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- e. Consideration to AWARD A COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT to Peak 360 Services, Inc, Aurora, Colorado in the amount of \$483,802.00 for the Spinney Caretaker House Number Two Project, Project No. 5782A.

Presenter: John Clark, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water/David Lathers, Senior Asst City Attorney

Motion by Coombs, second by Marcano, to approve item 9e.

Council Member Coombs requested staff provide a presentation for the benefit of the public.

Marshall Brown, Director, Aurora Water, did so.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

10. **RESOLUTIONS**

- ◆ a. **R2020-65** Consideration to APPROVE A RESOLUTION by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, to Amend certain Council Rules.
Presenter: Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, General Management/Nancy Rodgers, Deputy City Attorney
Sponsor: Council Member Gardner

Motion by Gardner, second by Hiltz, to approve item 10a.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston provided an overview of the item, noting the reason she requested the item precede item 8a was because it was a friendly amendment offered by Council Member Gardner to Council Member Hiltz's resolution that would accommodate family issues.

Mayor Coffman stated his understanding that the approval of item 10a would negate the hearing of item 8a.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston stated her intention was to make a motion to remove item 8a from the agenda should item 10a be approved.

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Council Member Gardner echoed Mayor Pro Tem Johnston's comments, noting he brought it forward to permanently codify changes dealing with medical and family issues that have come up in virtual meetings as a result of the pandemic.

Council Member Hiltz expressed appreciation to her fellow council members who brought the item forward. She stated she might have been the impetus for the change in policy but it did not apply to her only and she felt it was a good, family-friendly policy for the City going forward.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

Mayor Coffman asked City Council if there were any objections to the removal of item 8a from the agenda and upon hearing none, the item was removed.

11. PUBLIC HEARING WITH RELATED ORDINANCE

- ◆ a. **2020-26** Public Hearing and Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION for the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, approving the Service Plan for the King Ranch Metropolitan District Nos 1-5 and authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and the District.
Presenter: Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assist, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing on the item and upon hearing no comment, closed the public hearing.

Motion by Berzins, second by Johnston, to introduce item 11a.

Council Member Bergan stated her understanding the item would not change the ARI.

Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assistance, General Management, clarified they did agree to use the new model, noting the changes to the ARI were a little different in this instance because it involved a commercial district. She stated the ARI Mill Levy was not the one discussed at study session.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

12. PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT RELATED ORDINANCE

- ◆ a. **R2020-66** PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration to APPROVE A RESOLUTION by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, Approving the Sixth Amendment to the Amended Service Plan for the Sand Creek Metropolitan District.
Presenter: Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assist, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing on the item and upon hearing no comment, closed the public hearing.

Motion by Berzins, second by Gruber, to approve item 12a.

Council Member Bergan asked staff if the item allowed them to build out additional infrastructure.

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Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assistance, General Management, answered affirmatively.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

13. ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

- ◆ a. **2020-27** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado Adopting Section 2-234(a) of the City Code Pertaining to Prohibiting the Use of Chokeholds and Carotid Holds by Law Enforcement.
Presenter: Jason Batchelor, Deputy City Manager, General Management/Nancy Rodgers, Deputy City Attorney

Motion by Marcano, second by Lawson, to introduce item 13a.

Council Marcano expressed appreciation to Council Member Lawson and City staff for their efforts in this regard and gave a shout-out to Interim Chief Vanessa Wilson, Aurora Police, for moving quickly to put it into the department directives. He clarified for the public that this did not go against SB 217 but actually complemented it as it ensured that the directives put in place by the Chief remained in the manual permanently until a future Council chose to revisit it.

Council Member Bergan stated her support for the item and pointed out it was included in SB 217, which recently passed legislation and asked if Aurora Police would be required to adhere to the prohibition in state law without this ordinance. Mayor Coffman answered affirmatively. He pointed out if the Colorado General Assembly chose to overturn their legislation then the item would remain in place in Aurora as a Home Rule City. He noted it would also prevent a future police chief from changing the policy through another directive.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, read public comment submitted to publiccomment@auroragov.org into the record stating support for the item and attached the comment to the minutes and also emailed them to Council.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- ◆ b. **2020-28** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, amending Sections 122-26 and 122-30 of the City Code pertaining to Special Districts.
Presenter: Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assist, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Gruber to approve item 13b.

Mayor Coffman noted the item died for lack of a second.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston referenced the public testimony of those discussing the public process of getting outreach on metro districts particularly and requested staff add a public Town Hall meeting to update the public on the metro district changes and to garner public feedback.

Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assistance, General Management, agreed that was possible and noted the meeting would have to be scheduled a few weeks out to ensure that

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adequate notice was provided to the public. She pointed out staff has been in front of City Council several times and she wondered what else needed to be addressed.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston stated the information provided in study session was great and while people could go back and see what was stated in those sessions, she pointed out there were constituents who provided testimony about things she had not anticipated as a council member that required further information such as what was provided in the overview of changes at study session. She stated she would like to reach out to the E-470 neighbors and other metro districts to see if there were specific questions or concerns and noted there were things that were not in a council member's scope. She stated she wanted to bring those concerns forward prior to voting in favor of the item.

Mayor Coffman suggested the proper course of action procedurally would be to table the item.

Council Member Bergan stated her understanding that the item failed for lack of a second.

Mayor Coffman concurred.

- ◆ c. **2020-29** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, amending Section 2-851 of the City Code pertaining to the Creation and Composition of the Veteran's Affairs Commission.
Presenter: Claudine McDonald, Community Relations, General Management/David Lathers, Senior Asst City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Marcano, to introduce item 13c.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- ◆ d. **2020-30** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, amending the Service Plans for the Colorado International Center Metropolitan District Nos. 6-9 and amending the Intergovernmental Agreements for the Colorado International Center Metropolitan District Nos. 6-11 (***This item also appears on the August 3rd Study Session Agenda***) (***Due to this item being dual listed, the backup is included in item 2a of the Study Session Packet.***)
Presenter: Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assist, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Gruber, second by Berzins, to introduce item 13d.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

14. ORDINANCES FOR FINAL

- ◆ a. **2020-23** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, authorizing the Imposition of Capital Impact Fees on residential development in the City as approved by the Uniform Development Ordinance. (***Ordinance 2020-23 Introduced 9-1 (Berzins voting no) at the July 20, 2020 City Council meeting***)
Presenter: Terri Velasquez, Director of Finance, Finance/Hernandez Perez, Hans, Assistant City Attorney II Civil

Motion by Hiltz, second by Coombs, to approve item 14a.

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Voting Aye: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

Voting Nay: Berzins

15. **ANNEXATIONS**

- ◆ a. **R2020-67** Consideration to APPROVE A RESOLUTION by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, finding a petition for annexation of a certain parcel of land located in a portion of the North Half of Section 29, Township 4 South, Range 65 West of the sixth principal meridian, County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, to be in substantial compliance with section 31-12-107(1), C.R.S., and giving notice of a public hearing on the proposed annexation (CELO Annexation) 19.992 acres
Presenter: Laura Rickhoff, Development Project Manager, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Berzins, second by Marcano, to approve item 15a.

Council Member Coombs requested staff provide a brief summary of the item.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- ◆ b. **2020-31** Public Hearing and Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, zoning 7.97 acres of land, more or less, generally located at the Southwest Corner of Picadilly Road and Stephen D. Hogan Parkway, within the County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado, to Mixed-Use Corridor District and amending the zoning map accordingly (COLORADO CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP VILLAGE INITIAL ZONING)
Presenter: Brandon Cammarata, Senior Planner, Planning & Development Service/ Daniel Money, Senior Asst City Attorney

Motion by Bergan, second by Berzins, to approve item 15b.

Council Member Bergan asked staff if the item was compatible with the surrounding area.

Brandon Cammarata, Manager, Planning & Development Services, answered affirmatively.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- ◆ c. **2020-24** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, annexing a parcel of land located in the Northeast Quarter of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 66 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Arapahoe County, Colorado. (Colorado Christian Fellowship Annexation 9.2 acres)
Presenter: Jacob Cox, Senior Dev Project Manager, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Bergan, second by Marcano, to approve item 15c.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston stated she wanted the public to know that while she had concerns about annexations, she was voting in support of these particular ones because they were literally surrounded by the City of Aurora and would aid in future economic development.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

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- d. Consideration of an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT between the City of Aurora and Colorado Christian Fellowship for a certain parcel of land located in the northeast quarter of section 11, township 4 south, range 66 west of the sixth principal meridian, Arapahoe County, Colorado. (Colorado Christian Fellowship annexation 9.2 acres)

Presenter: Jacob Cox, Senior Dev Project Manager, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Bergan, second by Marcano, to approve item 15d.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

- ◆ e. **2020-25** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, finding and determining that certain real property located in an Unincorporated area of Arapahoe County is an enclave under applicable law; making certain other findings in accordance with the "Municipal Annexation Act of 1965"; and annexing certain parcels of land located in the East half of the East half of Section 8, Township 4 South, Range 65 West of the 6th principal meridian, County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado. (XCEL ADONEA) 25.651 ACRES.

Presenter: Jacob Cox, Senior Dev Project Manager, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I Civil

Motion by Bergan, second by Coombs, to approve item 15e.

Council Member Bergan stated the reason this particular parcel was being annexed was due to roadway work and to ensure the City had coordination with only one municipality rather than several which was oftentimes the case.

Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assistance, General Management, concurred.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

16. **RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL-UPS**

- ◆ a. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R2020-22 – Concerning the Continuation of the City Manager's Disaster Declaration.
Staff Source: Jim Twombly, City Manager
Presenters: Matt Chapman, Fire Battalion Chief/Nancy Rogers, Deputy City Attorney/Rachel Allen, Client Group Manager/ Isabelle Evans, Assistant City Attorney II

Motion by Bergan, second by Murillo, to approve item 16a.

Jim Twombly, City Manager, stated the item related to the continuation of the Disaster Declaration to allow staff to use Code Enforcement and Tax & Licensing staff to enforce mask requirements if and when necessary.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

Motion by Johnston, second by Hiltz, to call up the Planning & Zoning Commission approval of the GMT application.

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Council Member Murillo asked Mayor Pro Tem Johnston to speak to the reasons for the call-up request. Mayor Pro Tem Johnston did so, noting it was also good for the public to understand the purpose of the call-up. She stated this was an Oil & Gas application for the E-470 corridor and none of the landowners in the area participated in the hearing and there were other issues of concern as well such as this being an important area in the City. She stated she therefore wanted to provide a public hearing on the item so that more information could be provided to Council and to allow landowners to weigh in. She asked staff the timeline requirements for the item.

Daniel Brotzman, City Attorney, stated it would be called up at the first meeting after publication so he estimated it would take place in September.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston addressed the City Council and pointed out an affirmative vote on the item was not them weighing in on the approval but was instead providing an opportunity for more information to be provided and feedback garnered from the landowners on an important area of the City.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

17. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. Approval of the Appointment of _____ as the Chief of Police.
Presenters: Jim Twombly, City Manager/Dianna Giordano, Director of Human Resources/Nancy Rodgers, Deputy City Attorney

Mayor Coffman asked staff if the item required a motion at this point.

Jim Twombly, City Attorney, stated he would like to have the approval of the Mayor and City Council on the appointment of Vanessa Wilson for the next Police Chief for the City of Aurora. He noted the City charter required a majority of the council approve the City Manager's selection and he wanted to appoint Interim Chief Wilson because she has performed so well while being Interim Chief, particularly during these challenging times. He noted she has stated herself that there were some who have second guessed her decision-making and she has reflected on those decisions and has talked about improvements she could make. He pointed out she has also taken charge of the department from the standpoint that she has made difficult personnel decisions as well as changes by putting directives into place related to the Nate Meier and Elijah McClain incidences which would make the handling of those situations better in the future. He noted Council's approval of item 13a was basically an endorsement of those same changes Interim Chief Wilson put in months ago. He reminded Council that there was a very robust and community-oriented selection process on both the front and back ends. He discussed the intensive interview process of the four candidates and noted that while he received positive feedback on all four candidates, he requested City Council vote to approve the appointment of Vanessa Wilson as Chief of Police based on the way she handled herself throughout the process as Interim Chief and because of her history with the department.

Mayor Coffman stated his belief that Vanessa Wilson was the right choice to lead the Aurora Police Department. He stated in her time as Interim Chief of Police, she has demonstrated leadership through the tough decisions she made and strong actions taken. He pointed out she has a long history of community outreach and was committed to listening to the many voices of Aurora residents. He believed she understood it would take work and actions to rebuild the trust between Aurora officers and the community and he had every confidence this would be her highest priority. He noted his belief that the changes she has already implemented were only the beginning.

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Motion by Mayor Coffman, second by Gruber, to appoint Vanessa Wilson as the Chief of Police.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, read public comments related to the item submitted to publiccomment@auroragov.org into the record up to the first three minutes and attached the comments to the minutes and also emailed them to Council.

Council Member Lawson stated she would not vote in support of the motion because while she believed Chief Wilson was capable of doing the job, she supported a different candidate, Commander Dudley. She pointed out no one was perfect in their decision-making and that was why a change was necessary at this time. She stated the face she always saw in the community, even back in 2013 when she was campaigning, was Commander Dudley, noting he worked in different types of positions but was always an advocate for the community which gave him many qualifications. She stated she was not doubting Chief Wilson's qualifications but rather believed the things Commander Dudley brought forth in his interview were needed at this time and in this place. She discussed her struggles with the selection process and suggested the City charter be reviewed where the City Manager did not have the power to appoint the Chief of Police. She stated for the record that she supported Chief Wilson because the Council and Police Department needed to come together and bridge the community but noted nonetheless, Chief Wilson was just not her choice.

Council Member Bergan acknowledged it has been a long selection process. She pointed out all four candidates were professional and she respected all of them for applying to be Chief of Police particularly during these challenging times. She stated her support of Vanessa Wilson for Chief of Police as Chief Wilson has had to deal with very difficult times and difficult decision-making; some she has probably had to learn some lessons from. She pointed out Chief Wilson has shown that she truly cared about the City of Aurora and its residents and that she was willing to make changes to ensure Aurora police officers were accountable and that the City had exceptional police officers. She pointed out Chief Wilson inherited many incidences from the previous year that she dealt with therefore she had confidence in Chief Wilson's ability to lead the police. She stated her hope that the community would come together behind Chief Wilson to help her to do the best job she could do.

Council Member Berzins stated she liked Chief Wilson because she was a humble person who admitted it when she made a mistake and who apologized for it. She noted it took a big person to do so. She pointed out Chief Wilson had a good background and Council Member Berzins has seen her out in the community also. She noted she has had a trial by fire since becoming Interim Police Chief and in doing so, took charge and did a good job. She agreed no one was perfect but noted those she spoke with in the faith-based community and businesses who interviewed Chief Wilson were fine with her. She agreed the community needed to come together to stand behind Chief Wilson and the City. She congratulated Chief Wilson and stated she had a tough job ahead of her and that she was happy Chief Wilson was willing to take it on.

Mayor Coffman clarified it had been stated that one of the four finalists was from Baltimore which was not accurate, noting he was instead from Baltimore County which did not encompass the City of Baltimore.

Council Member Marcano expressed appreciation to staff and Mr. Twombly for their efforts in this regard particularly during a tense and challenging time in the City and in the nation's history. He stated he was heartened to hear City management express commitment to having Aurora lead the way in delivering a meaningful change that would build towards a more just and equitable city and that the City would see proactive cooperative work with regards to reallocating some existing resources towards mental health and homelessness and issues of that nature. He addressed a Ward IV speaker's comments, noting City Council

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was working on more than just the carotid hold legislation and further discussed the great deal of work he and other council members were putting in to bring forth meaningful change. He pointed out the decision lay ultimately with the City Manager and he stated his belief that Mr. Twombly has done his due diligence in that regard therefore he would support the appointment. He stated he looked forward to working with Mr. Twombly and the new Chief to make Aurora live up to the challenge of the moment.

Council Member Coombs echoed Council Member Marcano's comments and referred back to the speaker comments regarding the options provided were those who were well equipped to make the deep level structural changes required in policing in the City. She noted it was important to recognize that would be a community and City-wide process and that no one Chief would be able to do that or know what to do on their own. She expressed concerns that people would think that the single choice of Chief was the end when this was the beginning or perhaps the middle of making the necessary changes. She stated she would support Mr. Twombly's choice but with some reservations and expectations that the community and Council would work hard to make the necessary changes.

Council Member Murillo stated her agreement with some of the sentiments stated and spoke to her personal experience in interviewing the candidates. She stated there was not one clear choice in terms of qualifications and shared some of the things she liked about some of the candidates. She stated recruiting in this climate was a unique position to be in but the benefit was that Council got to hear some of the best practices from across the nation. She echoed the comment that no one person should have the sole power to be all of the things as doing so was an inherent distortion of power. She stated this was a more robust conversation and when it came to budget and otherwise, she noted she was looking forward to maintaining the integrity of the conversation with the Chief being a part of that systemic change. She stated having gone through so many appointee processes on Council and in her other job, she understood how difficult it was to create systemic change in an interim position. She stated she too would vote to support Mr. Twombly's decision with reservations. She stated people were putting their best foot forward for the job and she wanted to see how long that would last. She stated she was committed to continuing that accountability and she felt being able to work towards structural changes with somebody like Vanessa Wilson, who had knowledge and history of the City's specific police system, would hopefully move a little quicker. She stated she did not make the decision lightly and had to weigh the benefit of working with someone who has done some good work but who she also had hesitation around how specific incidences were handled and apologies aside, she wanted to see the ability to work collaboratively continue and make some systemic changes in Aurora.

Council Member Hiltz stated she would also vote in favor of Mr. Twombly's decision. She stated there were a few things to consider going forward, noting it was very difficult for many of those on Council because Commander Dudley was also immensely qualified for this role. She noted the City would be remiss if they did not thank him for his service to the City. She stated the two choices offered a little bit of a different perspective on things and moving forward, time would tell if the City could get to where the Council wanted it to be. She discussed the upcoming changes through the Public Safety Committee that related to internal structures and she felt Chief Wilson would sit down and have those conversations. She respected the City Manager's choice but also had a lot of hesitation around specific instances. She stated Chief Wilson was put into a position of Interim Chief where she inherited a mess that allowed for those hesitations. She expressed appreciation to Commander Dudley and all those who took the time to apply and interview with the City. She stated they had a lot of work to do and noted her plan to put in a request for a meeting to get started.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson stated she too would vote in favor of Mr. Twombly's appointment of Chief Wilson. She emphasized the City charter allowed the City Manager to make the appointment and the Council would support the appointment. She expressed appreciation

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to all of the applicants for their efforts and particularly to Commander Dudley for his service to Aurora. She expressed appreciation to Chief Wilson noting she was a change agent for a lot of reforms Mayor Pro Tem Johnston brought forward even before she was in the Interim Chief position. She agreed no one was perfect but noted that was what Aurora needed. She stated Chief Wilson was accessible and open to changes.

Mayor Coffman stated he too found it difficult to decide between Commander Dudley and Interim Chief Wilson and he felt it was important for the public to know the City had two extraordinary internal choices within the department.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Marcano, Murillo

Voting Nay: Lawson

18. **REPORTS**

a. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Coffman stated he continued to work closely with Governor Polis on establishing a COVID testing center in Aurora and noted it was determined that the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) would be signing the contract and not Aurora. He stated they planned to also reach out to both Adams and Arapahoe counties to join in the effort. He stated he continued to work with local businesses in terms of their abilities to host small conventions.

b. Reports by Council

Mayor Pro Tem Johnston announced the Rules Committee meeting and a special meeting on the animal ordinance would both be held on Monday, August 10, 2020. She encouraged everyone to check the City website for updates on community meetings.

Council Member Berzins announced the Ward III meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. on WebEx, where a budget manager would speak to current finances and the 2020 budget. She invited the Aurora Sentinel writers to listen to the end of the meeting with residents about working with protestors to keep citizens and police safe because she did not believe they did so.

Council Member Bergan discussed the success of the recent Ward VI virtual Town Hall meeting where Chris Muller, Water Resources/Design Engineer, South Metro Water Supply Authority and Marshall Brown, Director, Aurora Water, provided presentations.

Council Member Gruber discussed the Air Force's recent selection of the City of Aurora as a potential site for the US Space Command and provided an update on the process.

Council Member Murillo announced the Ward I Town Hall meeting was scheduled online for Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook Live and WebEx. She stated these meetings would continue to be virtual for the foreseeable future until something changed substantially because she was not comfortable convening her constituents at this time. She addressed the Ward I registered neighborhood organizations who have not been able to meet and offered her help should they need it in that regard. She referred to her recent appointment to the RTD Accountability Committee and stated she would have more information that she would share when the committee met on Monday, August 10, 2020.

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Council Member Lawson discussed the success of the recent joint At-Large Town Hall meeting with Council Member Hiltz. She referenced the recent incident between Aurora police and a family and noted that, while Chief Wilson did apologize and that was appreciated, the City had to do better. She stated the Use of Force was discussed at the recent Public Safety meeting and the statistics were alarming. She stated the children involved in the incident would be damaged for a long time as would their trust in the police. She stated racial bias and Use of Force had to stop particularly towards people of color. She apologized to the family involved noting the video was very disturbing and reiterated something had to be done.

Council Member Marcano announced the next Ward IV Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via WebEx and Facebook Live, where the topic of discussion would be homelessness and housing in Aurora and an update on Oil & Gas rules would be provided. He echoed Council Member Lawson's comments that the recent police incident was unacceptable and he applauded Chief Wilson for moving quickly to discuss and reimagine the policies around those types of stops. He reiterated more needed to be done.

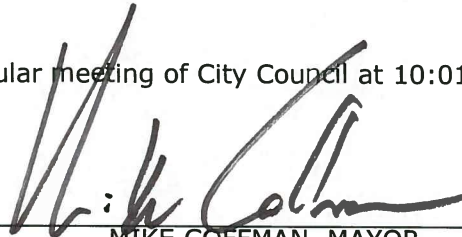
Council Member Coombs announced the next Ward V Town Hall meeting would be online and was scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2020. She stated she too anticipated the Ward V meetings would continue to be held online at least through the end of the year. She echoed Council Members Lawson and Marcano's comments that the incident was unacceptable and Aurora had to do better. She stated her hope that Chief Wilson was up to the task.

19. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, and City staff read public comments submitted to publiccomment@auroragov.org into the record up to the first three minutes and attached the comments to the minutes and also emailed them to Council.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council at 10:01 p.m.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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