

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, January 11, 2021

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2021 AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of City Council at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL** – Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk

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

Roger Sherman and Andrew Larsen, interpreter, provided call-in instructions for the benefit of the public.

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Coffman called for a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives to and those who suffer with COVID.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (all standing)

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.a. November 16, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Marcano, second by Gruber, to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2020, as presented.

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

5.b. December 7, 2020 Minutes

Motion by Gruber, second by Marcano, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 7, 2020, as amended.

Council Member Marcano issued a statement of clarification based on advice from staff related to the Mayor Pro Tem votes. He stated Council was told at the meeting they could abstain from the vote but were later told they could not, therefore, he stated his intent was to vote in favor of Council Member Murillo and opposed to the remaining candidates. He noted the clarification did not change the votes but he wanted the statement clarified in the minutes regardless.

Council Member Coombs concurred. She clarified her intent was a no vote where it was listed as abstentions.

Council Member Murillo also clarified the intention for her votes.

- ◆ *The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.*

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

6. **PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES**

6.a. Martin Luther King Proclamation

Mayor Coffman read the proclamation declaring the week of January 10 – 18, 2021 as the 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Week in the City of Aurora.

6.b. Amazing Auroran Award

Mayor Coffman recognized Ivan H. Taylor as an Amazing Auroran for his many musical contributions to the Aurora Buckley Air Force Base and Rocky Mountain Veteran Affairs Association.

6.c. Swearing-in of Judges

Judge Shawn Day, Chief Presiding Judge, introduced Don Toussaint, District Court Judge, who administered the oaths of office.

Mayor Coffman and City Council congratulated the judges and thanked them for their service to Aurora.

7. **PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

(non-agenda related issues only)

8. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Coombs, second by Bergan, to approve the agenda with items 13a and 13b postponed until the January 25, 2021 Council meeting and item 13d moved to Public Hearing with Related Ordinance.

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

8.a. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R2020-24 - to Suspend Certain Council Rules Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Dan Brotzman, City Attorney

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

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

9. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

This portion of the agenda is a meeting management tool to allow the City Council to handle several routine items with one action. Any member of the Council may request an item to be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. Any item removed will be considered immediately following the adoption of the remainder of the Consent Calendar

9.a. CCWCD Intergovernmental Agreement for Well Augmentation

Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director of Water Resources / Stephanie Neitzel, Assistant City Attorney

9.b. Consideration to AWARD THE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE CONSTRUCTION WORK PACKAGE CONTRACT to Saunders Construction, Inc., Englewood, Colorado in the amount of \$34,200,074.00 for the Southeast Recreation Center (SERC) project; Project No.: 5727A.

Waiver of Reconsideration

John Perkins, Senior Project Manager / Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

9.c. Consideration to AWARD AN OPENLY SOLICITED contract to Saunders Construction, Englewood, Colorado in the amount of \$94,076,155 for Work Package 3 of the Southeast Aurora Maintenance (SEAM) Facility Project. R-5661A

Elly Watson, Manager Of Business Services, Public Works / David Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

9.d. Crestone Water Supply Agreement

Sarah Young, D/D Planning and Engineering, Aurora Water / Christine McKenney, Client Group Manager

Motion by Coombs, second by Gruber, to approve items 9a – 9d.

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

10. **RESOLUTIONS**

10.a. Snow Plowing Operations (Blackstone Community)

R2021-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND THE HIGH PLAINS METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND PLOWING OPERATIONS (BLACKSTONE COMMUNITY)

Tom A. McMinimee, PE / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Bergan, to approve item 10a.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan stated this was a pilot program that would be reevaluated next year and that would be required to abide by all of the City inspections.

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

10.b. Porteos Business Improvement District Appointment of Directors

R2021-02 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPOINTING FIVE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PORTEOS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Cesarina Dancy, Project Manager / Hans Hernandez, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Berzins, second by Gruber, to approve item 10b.

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

10.c. Create and Install Public Art at The Green Valley Ranch Neighborhood Park

R2021-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH THE TEAM OF MAY + WATKINS DESIGN OF NEW YORK TO CREATE AND INSTALL PUBLIC ART AT THE GREEN VALLEY RANCH NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Roberta Bloom, Public Art Coordinator/Tim Joyce Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Johnston, to approve item 10c.

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

Roberta Bloom, Public Art Coordinator, did so.

Council Member Coombs expressed appreciation to Ms. Bloom and all those who worked on the item because she felt it was a very exciting piece and she was happy to see it move forward.

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

10.d. Second Amendment to the Surface Use Agreement and three related easements.

R2021-05 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO SURFACE USE AGREEMENT AND THREE RELATED EASEMENTS

Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Aurora Water / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Coombs, second by Marcano, to approve item 10d.

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

Alexandra Davis, Deputy Director of Water Resources, Aurora Water, did so.

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

Roger Sherman provided call-in instructions for the benefit of the public.

Mayor Coffman called for a five-minute break.

11. **PUBLIC HEARING WITH RELATED ORDINANCE**

13d. AMENDING THE UDO TO REMOVE "GENERAL AVIATION" AS A DESCRIPTOR OF AIRPORTS

2020-04 FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 2.6.2.C.2.A OF THE UDO, PERTAINING TO THE 60 LDN SUBAREA, REMOVING "GENERAL AVIATION" AS A DESCRIPTOR OF AIRPORTS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT REGULATIONS WITHIN NOISE CONTOURS OF AIRPORTS IN AND NEAR THE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES OF AURORA

Karen Hancock, Senior Planner II/Daniel Money, Senior Assistant City Attorney

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

Motion by Gruber, second by Marcano, to approve item 13d.

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

Council Member Johnston was unable to vote due to technical issues.

12. **PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT RELATED ORDINANCE**

None

13. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

13.a. Information Sharing between the City and Federal Immigration Authorities

2021- 01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ADDING SECTIONS 102-3, 103-5, 102-6, 2-687 AND AMENDING SECTION 2-680 PERTAINING TO RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS ON CITY FUNDS, RESOURCES, AND INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN THE CITY AND FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AND PROVIDING FOR SAFE SPACES IN THE CITY LIMITS.

Sponsor: Council Member Crystal Murillo and Council Member Alison Coombs
Ricardo Gambetta-Alverado, Intergovernmental Rltns Mgr / Hans Hernandez, Assistant
City Attorney

Sponsors moved this item forward from Study Session.

13.b. Immigrant Legal Defense Fund Ordinance

2021-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA,
COLORADO, ADDING DIVISION 5 TO ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY
CODE PERTAINING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IMMIGRANT LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Sponsor: Council Member Crystal Murillo and Council Member Alison Coombs
Ricardo Gambetta-Alverado, Intergovernmental Rltns Mgr / Hans Hernandez Assistant City
Attorney

Sponsors moved this item forward from Study Session.

13.c. Residency Requirements for Aurora Boards and Commissions

2020-03 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA,
COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 2-769 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO
RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS APPOINTED TO BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES OR AUTHORITIES

Sponsor: Council Member Alison Coombs
Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Dave Lathers, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Coombs, second by Marcano, to approve item 13c.

AMENDMENT I

Motion by Gruber, second by Bergan, to amend item 13c by requiring legal US citizenship or
residency of the people who joined City commissions or boards.

Council Member Coombs pointed out substantive amendments such as this were requested
to be transmitted to Council 24 hours in advance to allow Council an opportunity to assess
them and she noted this was not done in this instance. She noted staff expressed concerns
regarding making the residency verification process more cumbersome for them and for
putting them in a position to enforce laws or adjudicate, noting putting someone's
immigration status into the ordinance would do just that. She explained the intent of the
ordinance was to provide an opportunity for other documents other than voter registration to
be submitted to verify residency.

Mayor Coffman asked staff if there was a time requirement for substantive amendments.

Jim Twombly, City Manager, was unaware of that rule and asked the City Attorney to speak
to it.

Daniel Brotzman, City Attorney, did so, noting there was a 24-hour notification rule when
one was able to do so.

Mayor Coffman asked for further clarification. Mr. Brotzman agreed it was a little unclear, noting it provided some latitude. He stated the intent was to not catch other council members unaware which he did not believe was happening in this instance because the amendment was discussed in a previous study session.

Council Member Gruber stated the purpose of the resolution was to eliminate the use of voter registration as identification for those who wanted to serve on the City's boards and commissions which would make it easier for them to register but noted eliminating the residential requirement was another thing entirely. He stated he offered the amendment to ensure that a person applying for a City board or commission was either a citizen or a legal resident to be considered.

Council Member Coombs clarified the intent was not to eliminate the voter registration piece as voter registration alone continued to be sufficient. She stated the ordinance simply made it allowable to use other documents as well. She stated the item came about because she contacted staff to ask if the voter registration requirement for boards and commissions was intended to ensure that people were citizens when they were participating in boards and commission and staff answered, no. She noted the boards and commissions that were governed by charter were not included in the item.

Council Member Gruber pointed out the resident requirement was not currently specifically stated and the amendment would do that.

Council Member Johnston pointed out the 24-hour rule was not only a professional courtesy but it also took the public into account when substantive changes were made. She noted the public was aware of what would be heard and could therefore call in to speak and substantive changes disrupted that. She objected to using the term that this amendment was a residency requirement as Council Member Coombs' ordinance had a residency requirement that offered alternatives. She stated Council Member Coombs' intent was to get more people involved in local government and at the end of the day, Council chose who to appoint.

Mayor Coffman pointed out the exact point was made at study session and therefore was not new information.

Council Member Marciano asked staff if the 24 hours rule recognized a point of information. Mr. Brotzman answered affirmatively. Council Member Marciano asked staff to explain how the point of information was used. Mr. Brotzman did so. Council Member Marciano asked if that could be used during someone else's speaking time. Mr. Brotzman answered affirmatively, noting as long as they were not attempting to hijack the conversation. Council Member Marciano asked if the chair was obligated to recognize that point of information. Mr. Brotzman stated it was at the Mayor's discretion but pointed out it was in the procedural rules for Council to recognize points of information.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan stated her understanding of the 24-hour notice rule on amendments, noting it was a point of courtesy to attempt to provide 24 hours but Council always had the prerogative to offer an amendment with no notice.

Mayor Coffman asked Mr. Brotzman to opine on that comment. Mr. Brotzman did so, noting that was why Council had such qualified language.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan stated staff would not be required to do much additional work in this regard as has been suggested because there would only be a small percentage of those applying that would require further review.

Council Member Coombs disagreed, noting a citizen might choose to provide an alternative ID for their own reasons related to their voter registration status therefore she felt it put staff in a position to determine whose citizenship should or should not be adjudicated and proven which was precisely the type of position staff would not like to be put in when simply confirming residency for the purpose of boards and commissions service.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan stated her understanding that the onus was on the applicant rather than staff.

Council Member Coombs wondered how residents would know. She asked if staff would tell each applicant to provide proof of residency and proof of legal presence or would they be put in a position to determine which resident to give that status to which would essentially cause them to profile people.

Council Member Berzins expressed concerns related to the use of utility bills as a form of residency because no proof was required to have a utility bill in one's name or to change the name on a utility account.

Council Member Coombs stated that was included because it was accepted by the DMV and schools to legally establish residency.

Council Member Gruber stated his intent was to make it easier for citizens to show their residency and reiterated passing the item without the amendment would make the statement that a board and commission participant was not required to be a legal resident.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT I

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Berzins, Gardner, Gruber

Voting Nay: Coombs, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

Voting Aye: Coombs, Gardner, Hiltz, Lawson, Marcano, Murillo

Voting Nay: Bergan, Berzins, Gruber,

14. **FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES**

14.a. The Ban on Restricted Breed Dogs

2020-70 FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, REPEALING SECTION 14-75 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE BAN ON RESTRICTED BREED DOGS AND AMENDING SECTIONS 14-4 AND 14-73

Anthony Youngblood, Manager of Animal Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

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

Council heard comment from the public call-in line.

Council Member Gruber pointed out the City was informed that at least one organization intended to file suit as a result of Council's decision to overrule a vote of the people of Aurora related to having pit bulls in the City. He stated he would not support the item because he felt the voters should weigh in again on the issue to see if they have changed their minds.

Council Member Berzins reminded everyone that while it was the owner's responsibility; there were irresponsible owners and that was a shame. She related several instances where dogs and people were attacked and killed or injured and suggested those who voted in support of the item should remember they did when something horrible happened. She related, for the record, messages she received where people have stated voting was the bedrock of democracy and nullifying the voters was a display of arrogance and disrespect for Aurora voters and the actions taken by Council showed contempt for the voters. She stated her respect for voters and love for dogs. She stated this was a public safety issue and she would not support it because it should be decided by the voters and not six council members who did not care about the voters.

Council Member Hiltz believed the new animal code revisions and the outreach that was done in this regard were sufficient. She stated she was glad to see her colleagues focused on the importance of public safety and noted she looked forward to the resolutions that addressed gun safety to come forward because that too was a public safety issue. She expressed appreciation to her colleague for raising the topic.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan stated the City received an email from an attorney that stated plans to file a lawsuit for 'delegitimizing the voters' decisions.' She stated she struggled with this because she loved dogs but felt it was ultimately a decision for the voters. She stated they voted to not repeal the ban and that decision should be respected.

Council Member Coombs read comments by Dr. Apryl Steel, DVM, and CEO & President of the Dumb Friends League, into the record in support of the item because Dr. Steele was unable to call in to speak to the item.

Mayor Coffman stated his opinion that the item should go to the voters and he encouraged a nay vote.

Council Member Murillo stated she had issues initially with the item because she respected the vote but she realized how the item came to be on the ballot and how the ballot language was poorly written which caused her concern. She discussed the Dangerous Dog Ordinance which essentially did the same thing except it did not indiscriminately target a few breeds. She noted there was disagreement among the two major kennel clubs as to the definition of pit bull and she felt the previous Council put it on the ballot so as not to have to contend with a difficult and controversial vote. She stated it should be dealt with now to correct the past deferral of the conversation. She stated this was not meant to overwrite a vote but rather to correct something that never should have gone to the voters in the format that it did particularly when there was not a clear pit bull breed which made it flawed from the beginning. She expressed appreciation to Council Member Hiltz for bringing the item forward and reiterated she could not in good conscience support bringing the item back to the voters in any form. She agreed there should be and was an ordinance in place that targeted dangerous dogs, noting there was a need for a process to handle disputes that would hold owners accountable for the actions of their pets and that has been accomplished. She felt

the public input and outreach processes were sufficient and she felt comfortable moving the item forward.

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

Voting Nay: Bergan, Berzins, Gruber

15. **PLANNING MATTERS**

None

16. **ANNEXATIONS**

None

17. **RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS**

- 17.a. RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2020-22 – Review of the powers granted to the City Manager by Resolution 2020-22.

Jim Twombly, City Manager / Evans, Isabelle, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Marcano, second by Coombs, to approve item 17a.

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

18. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 18.a. Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Busk-Ivanhoe Water System Authority

Susan Barkman Council/Mayor Management Analyst, Christine McKenney, City Attorney
Development Manger

Motion by Berzins, second by Gruber, to appoint to appoint Richard Kind to the Busk-Ivanhoe Water System Authority.

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

- 18.b. Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the General Employees Retirement Board

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk, General Management/Dave Lathers Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Marcano, to appoint David McConnico to the General Employees Retirement Board.

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

18.c. Consideration to appoint three (3) members to the Human Relations Commission

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk, General Management/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Marcano, second by Coombs, to appoint Tremaine Duncan, Nicole Liberatelli, and Katrina Chase to the Human Relations Commission.

Council Member Berzins noted incorrect information in the backup material.

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk, agreed to review the item.

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

18.d. Consideration to appoint (3) members to the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Coombs, second by Bergan, to reappoint Angie Binder and appoint Brandy Delage, and Michael Satter to the Citizens' Water Advisory Committee.

Council Member Coombs stated, out of a desire for transparency, she left out one of the persons recommended by the committee because of her desire for better ward representation, her opposition to the Aurora Water tour attendance requirement and previous board service requirements for the board.

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

19. **REPORTS**

19.a. Report by the Mayor

19.b. Reports by the Council

Council Member Lawson provided a federal legislation update which included an Article of Impeachment introduced against President Trump by House Democrats for incitement of insurrection related to his role in the recent takeover of the US Capital as well as the vote for Vice-President Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove the president.

Council Member Hiltz announced the At-Large Town Hall meeting-was scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., noting further information could be found online. She stated she was removing the appointment of Mike Westerberg and appointing Kevin Cox instead to the Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee. She stated she was thrilled about the pit bull ban repeal and noted she looked forward to learning more from Animal Services in that regard. She stated she condemned the attacks and attempted coup on the Capital and extended her sympathies to the officers who were injured. She expressed her hope for a peaceful transition of power would occur moving forward. She pointed out this type of vitriolic hatred came from the top and noted Council needed to remain aware of

that at the local level as well because how they interacted with each other mattered and she felt everyone could strive to do better.

Council Member Gruber gave a shout-out to the Aurora Police Department in recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day which was January 9, 2021.

Council Member Murillo discussed recent legislative recommendations made by the RTD Accountability Committee and shared CARES ACT funding appropriation which boded well for RTD and Denver Metro Area transit. She changed her Citizens' Advisory Budget Committee appointee of Mike Himawa to Mike Westerberg. She asked for a moment of silence for Rudy Arguello Rios, 19, who passed away recently when he was shot trying to be a Good Samaritan. She raised the topic of the recent coup attempt at the Capital and referenced an article that demonstrated a side-by-side timeline of the Black Lives Matter protests at the nation's Capital versus the Capital protest that took place recently. She stated it was outrageous to see the disparity in terms of reaction and preparation. She stated one group was protesting social justice, social rights, human decency and how the black community was treated and the other was a literal attempted coup by people who did not want to respect a vote. She pointed out there was discussion by Council earlier about respecting people's votes and she stated she was waiting for those same council members to condemn what happened at the Capital as unacceptable. She stated her hope that, while Council had a lot of arguments on the dais, they would not disagree that it was tragic the way the incident was handled as opposed to how BLM protests were handled.

Council Member Johnston expressed appreciation to Council Member Murillo for her words. She updated everyone on the work being done on the Police Independent Oversight Task Force. She discussed the commemoration of Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr kickoff and various events taking place in the City to celebrate Dr. King. She discussed the success of the recent Ward II Town Hall meeting and appointed Idris Keith to the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee.

Council Member Berzins discussed Accelerate Colorado updates related to scheduling a lobbying trip in July since the December trip was cancelled. She let staff know a July Council meeting might have to be rescheduled as a result. She announced the Ward III meeting was scheduled virtually for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 and Wednesday, March 4, 2021 and noted further information could be found on her Facebook page and the City website.

Council Member Marcano announced the Ward IV Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., where HOAs would be discussed from a City and State perspective. He too stated his hope that, while Council had political differences, they would come together to denounce the attempted coup and fascism in the country and that they could stand together to ensure that civil liberties were not eroded as a part of the response to the debacle.

Council Member Coombs provided an update on Visit Aurora and announced the Ward V Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., where the Tri-County Health Department would be present. She noted she would continue to hold meetings online for the remainder of the year due to COVID safety concerns. She echoed her colleagues' sentiments regarding the egregious attempted coup on the nation's Capital, noting the importance of standing against that action as well as the rhetoric that led up to it. She expressed appreciation to Council Member Gardner for bringing similar online threatening comments towards her to her attention.

Mayor Pro Tem Bergan announced the Ward VI Town Hall meeting was scheduled virtually for Wednesday, January 27, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where she was hoping to have the Neighborhood Watch representative present to discuss increased crime in Ward VI and how people could keep the community safe.

Council Member Gardner announced the Amendment 64 Policy Committee would meet on Thursday, January 14, 2021, where hospitality in the marijuana industry in Aurora and potential medical studies at the University of Colorado campus would be discussed. He addressed the recent events at the Capital and how they related to City Council. He expressed his disappointment in the number of elected officials that chose to participate and escalate the situation. He stated he would like to see Council have a higher level of discourse and asked them to keep in mind that people looked to them as leaders in the community. He stated there would always be policy disagreements therefore it was incumbent upon Council to operate as leaders in the community.

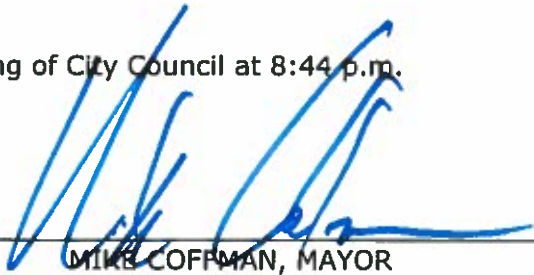
Council Member Murillo discussed a Ward I community event scheduled for MLK day, January 18, 2021, at the Aurora Library where 1000 meals would be distributed.

20. **PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

(non-agenda related issues only)


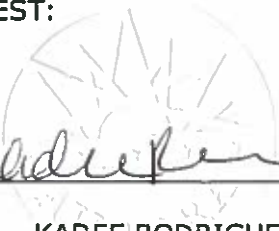
21. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council at 8:44 p.m.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK