

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting – Aurora City Council  
Monday, June 1, 2020**

Title correction: These minutes are for the June 22, 2020 meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Coffman convened the regular meeting of City Council at 4:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

PRESIDING: Mayor Coffman  
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Berzins, Coombs, Gardner, Gruber, Hiltz, Johnston, Lawson, Marcano, 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 Gruber, second by Coombs, to recess for executive session.

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

Abstaining: None

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 22, 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, Marcano

3. **INVOCATION** Barbara Dahl, City Clerk Analyst

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

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 1, 2020**

Motion by Bergan, second by Berzins, to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 1, 2020, as presented.

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

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6. **CEREMONY**

- National Gun Violence Awareness Day – Mayor Coffman

Mayor Coffman read the proclamation declaring June 4, 2020 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

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

Elizabeth Restauri provided comments via video relating her support of Council Member Coombs.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, and City staff read public comments submitted to [publiccomment@auroragov.org](mailto: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.

Sandy Garcia asked when the zip line would be reinstalled on the park services at the playground.

Michelle Driessnack discussed ways in which Mayor Coffman and the Aurora City Council could use their power for good.

Tad Trout, TNT Fireworks, discussed the sale of safe consumer fireworks.

Dick Thompson stated he was not in support of defunding the police.

Linda Neely; Jill Cullis; Lynee Cottrell; Cynthia Myers; Ryan & Jessica McNalley; Michelle Lanigan; Greg Trahan; Ariel Bay; a concerned American; Cynthia Eger; Gregory King; Melissa Becker; Joanne Fitzkee; Miguel Schindler; Michelle Cody; Emilie Parvis; Molly Barrett; T. May; Jay & Tina Harrison; Michele Grizzle; Angie Olsen; and Malaya Hall; spoke in opposition to Council Member Coombs' recent social media post.

Ethan McDougall addressed Mayor Pro Tem Johnston regarding Mr. Sears being disqualified from serving on the independent review committee for past behavior.

Paul Gagliardi; Gail deVore; Jessica Roe; Troy Valentine; Jim Punkett; Summer Gardner; Chris Davis; Aly Nutter; David Ortiz; Michael Himawan; Lavette Clardy; Hanna Camp; Kristen Mallory; Alfred Smith; Jeff Moser; Andrea Chavez; Shenika Carter; Melanie Moreno; Linda Servey; Nicholl Pekarske; and Kristen Hirsch; spoke in support of Council Member Coombs' recent social media post.

Brad Pierce asked Council Member Coombs to join the conversations on public safety, housing, healthcare and employment.

Council Member Coombs requested a point of privilege. Mayor Coffman answered no, noting everyone would have the opportunity to comment at the end of the meeting.

8. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Motion by Gruber, second by Berzins, to adopt the agenda as presented with the removal of items 11a – 11c.

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

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9. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**General Business**

- a. Consideration to AMEND AN OPENLY SOLICITED CONTRACT with Dewberry Engineers, Inc., Denver, Colorado in the amount of \$153,492.00 for providing construction phase services for the 60-inch Gun Club Pipeline from E. 6th Ave. to I-70, Phase I. Project, R-1838.  
**Presenter:** Steven Fiori, Project Delivery Svcs Mgr - Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- b. Consideration to AWARD AN OPENLY SOLICITED CONTRACT to Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc., Lakewood, Colorado in the amount of \$1,226,238.00 for professional engineering services for the North Campus Well Field Expansion – Former Thornton Property Project, RFP R-2019.  
**Presenter:** Steven Fiori, Project Delivery Svcs Mgr - Aurora Water/Senior Assistant City Attorney
- c. Consideration to AWARD A COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT to Duran Excavating, Inc. Greeley, Colorado in the amount of \$2,296,881.25 for the 2020 Water System Improvement Project, Project No. 5767A.  
**Presenter:** Dean Bedford, Principal Engineer - Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- d. Consideration to AWARD A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT to Environmental Systems Research Inc. (ESRI), Redlands, California in the amount not to exceed \$111,133.97 for annual maintenance of the City's geographical mapping software system through July 12, 2021.  
**Presenter:** Scott M Newman, Interim Chief of I.T. - Information Technology/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- e. Consideration to AWARD AN OPENLY SOLICITED CONTRACT to Tetra Tech, Inc., Denver, Colorado in the amount of \$2,298,532.00 for professional engineering services for Engineering Services for the Feasibility Design for Wild Horse Dam and Reservoir, RFP R-2030. ***(Staff Requests a Waiver of Reconsideration)***  
**Presenter:** John Clark, Principal Engineer, Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- f. Consideration to AWARD A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT to Hach Company, Loveland, Colorado in the not-to-exceed amount of \$195,000.00 for the purchase of water quality monitoring equipment and supplies for the Water Department as required through June 30, 2021.  
**Presenter:** Bobby Oligo, Manager of Water Treatment - Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- g. Consideration to AWARD A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT to Waste Management of Colorado, Incorporated, Englewood, Colorado in the amount not-to-exceed \$374,000.00 for landfill services at the Denver Arapahoe Disposal (DADS) site through June 30, 2021.  
**Presenter:** Mike Mills, Manager of Water Operations and Maintenance, Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Marcano, to approve item 9g.

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

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Abstaining: Hiltz

- h. Consideration to AWARD A SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT for professional consulting services to ICON Engineering, Inc, Centennial, CO in the amount of \$53,092.00.  
**(Staff Requests a Waiver of Reconsideration)**  
**Presenter:** Tracy Young, - Manager of PROS Plan, Desn, Cons - Parks, Recreation & Open Space/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- i. Consideration to award a SINGLE SOURCE CONTRACT to Pinnacle Data Systems, LLC, Phoenix, Arizona in the amount not-to-exceed \$121,000.00 for water bill processing which includes data processing, printing and mailing services.  
**Presenter:** Jo Ann Giddings, D/D Water Financial Admin - Aurora Water/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- j. Consideration to AWARD A COMPETITIVELY BID CONTRACT to S-Comm Fiber Inc., Watkins, CO in the total amount of \$58,970.00 for services to install locking racks for IT equipment in facilities citywide. (B4519).  
**Presenter:** Scott M Newman, Interim Chief of I.T. - Information Technology/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Gardner, to approve items 9a – 9f and 9h – 9j with waivers of reconsideration on items 9e and 9h.

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

#### **Final Ordinances**

- ◆ k. **2020-17** Consideration of AN ORDINANCE FOR FINAL of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, Amending Various Sections of Chapter 130 Of the City Code Related to Marketplace Sellers and Marketplace Facilitators  
**Presenters:** Trevor Vaughn, Manager of Tax and Licensing, Finance/Hans Hernandez Perez, Assistant City Attorney II
- ◆ l. **2020-18** Consideration of an ORDINANCE FOR FINAL of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, vacating a Portion of the Public Right-Of-Way for South Andes Circle, A Developed Street Located Between South Tower Road and East Colorado Drive, City of Aurora, County of Arapahoe, State of Colorado (South Andes Circle Street Vacation)  
**Presenter:** Ryan Loomis, Senior Planner, Planning & Development Services/Dan Money, Senior Assistant City Attorney
- ◆ m. **2020-19** Consideration of an ORDINANCE FOR FINAL of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, to Approve the Amended and Restated Service Plan for the Aurora Crossroads Metropolitan Districts Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Aurora and the Districts.  
**Presenter:** Vinessa Irvin, Manager of Development Assist, General Management/Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney I

Motion by Marcano, second by Bergan, to approve items 9k – 9m.

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

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10. **RESOLUTIONS**

- ◆ a. **R2020-53** Consideration of A RESOLUTION of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, expressing the Aurora City Council's strong support of hazard pay to police officers and firefighters for the covid-19 crisis and issuing corresponding instruction to the City Manager. ***(This Item also appears on the June 22, Study Session) (Due to this item being dual listed, the backup is included in item 5b of the Study Session Packet.)***  
**Presenter:** Dianna Giordano, Director of Human Resources/Allen, Rachel, Client Group Manager/Evans, Isabelle, Assistant City Attorney II Civil

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

Jim Twombly, City Manager, stated the resolution extended hazard pay beyond the June 1 termination of the Disaster Declaration and did not call for a written agreement between the two bargaining units who would benefit from hazard pay. He asked for direction from Council to allow for a written agreement with each department in order to ensure clarity.

Mayor Coffman asked Council if there was any objection to the request and hearing none, directed the City Manager to do so.

Council Member Gruber stated he would not support the item because there were currently six cases of COVID within the City's 1000+ first responders. He pointed out none of those cases were severe and while it was federal money and not City money, he still felt giving people money for a potential threat when no threat was realized was not prudent. He noted additionally, the recent protests have not resulted in a COVID spike as anticipated and the governor was opening up more and more between now and December.

Council Member Coombs pointed out the City's public safety officials did not receive hazard pay for the time they spent during the highest spikes of COVID because it was no longer in effect when Council initially approved it. She stated her belief that it was very important that the threat and hazard to those who have direct contact with the public during a global pandemic should be recognized.

Council Member Gardner pointed out the hazard was not based on the number of first responders who tested positive for COVID-19. He noted a hazard was a danger or risk that existed in spite of the number of positive cases and the bottom line was that danger still existed. He stated there were very limited uses for the federal CARES dollars and he felt it was important to recognize that first responders were on the front lines every day and they could not work from home or call in sick.

Council Member Murillo stated her support for the item and expressed her disappointment that Council was unable to expand the scope of who was included in the hazard pay. She pointed out Council Member Coombs attempted to extend it to other City staff because while they were not on the front lines or in emergency services, they kept the City in operation. She stated this was an exceptional situation and she felt it was appropriate to support the City's first responders in this way.

Council Member Marcano expressed appreciation to Council Member Gardner for bringing the item back up and his remorse that it was not extended to EMTs.

Council Member Hiltz echoed her support for the item and expressed appreciation to Council Member Gardner for bringing the item up. She stated her disappointment that this did not

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come up in the discussion when Council was deciding on terminating the Disaster Declaration.

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

Voting Nay: Gruber

11. **ANNEXATIONS**

- ◆ a. **R2020-21 PUBLIC HEARING AND Consideration of A RESOLUTION** of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Colorado, making certain findings of fact regarding the proposed annexation of 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
- ◆ b. **2020-20 PUBLIC HEARING AND 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
- ◆ c. **2020-21 PUBLIC HEARING AND Consideration of an ORDINANCE FOR ADOPTION** 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 Services/Dan Money, Senior Assistant City Attorney

12. **RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL-UPS**

- ◆ a. **RECONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION R2020-24 - to Suspend Certain Council Rules.**  
**Staff Source:** Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk/Isabelle Evans, Assistant City Attorney

II

Motion by Murillo, second by Marcano, to approve item 12a.

Council Member Gardner asked if the item would be reviewed at each meeting.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, answered affirmatively.

Council Member Gruber pointed out a spike was not realized as a result of the recent protests and while COVID was not over, he felt it was overkill to remain in an emergency situation at this time.

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

Voting Nay: Bergan, Gruber

Absent: Coombs

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13. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. Consideration to appoint two (2) members to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals  
**Presenter:** Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk/Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Marcano, second by Lawson, to appoint Richard Palestro and Marty Seldin to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals.

Council Member Coombs stated Mr. Palestro was one of her constituents who had considerable experience with issues related to City code and how it was applied therefore she was glad he applied for the position.

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

- b. Consideration to appoint one (1) member to the Public Defenders Commission  
**Presenter:** Stephen J. Ruger, City Clerk/ Dave Lathers, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Marcano, second by Berzins, to appoint Colette Tvedt to the Public Defenders Commission.

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

- c. Renewal or termination of the current disaster declaration pursuant Sec. 38-33(b).  
***(This item relates to item 5a on the Study Session agenda. Please refer to the back-up for that item for more information)***  
**Presenter:** Jim Twombly, City Manager/Matt Chapman, Fire Battalion Chief/Nancy Rogers, Deputy City Attorney / Isabelle Evans, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gruber, second by Murillo, to table item 13c.

Council Member Hiltz asked if tabling the item extended it further if it was not deferred to a date certain.

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, stated tabling it removed it from the agenda or a motion to postpone it to a date certain could be put forth. He pointed out tabling it had no bearing on bringing it back to the next meeting.

Council Member Hiltz stated she would like it to be put on the July 6, 2020 City Council agenda so that it was not extended further.

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

- d. Consideration to appoint one (1) Additional Member to the Aurora Police Community Task Force  
**Presenter:** Jason Batchelor, Deputy City Manager/Claudine McDonald, Manager of Community Relations/Nancy Rodgers, Deputy City Attorney

Motion by Murillo, second by Marcano, to appoint Candice Bailey to the Aurora Police Community Task Force.

Council Member Murillo stated Ms. Bailey applied for the opening during the initial round of applicants. She stated she was recommending Ms. Bailey because she worked in the criminal justice system and had knowledge on impacts and advocacy of the community members. She stated Ms. Bailey was also involved in drafting some of the reforms that passed at the state level therefore her policy mind around engaging with police was needed. She stated this was particularly so when the City was attempting to ensure a community perspective was incorporated in this regard.

Mayor Coffman asked if there was a recommendation by staff.

Claudine McDonald, Manager, Community Relations, answered no, and noted however that staff was looking for individuals who resided in Ward I because Wards I, V and VI only had one representative each on the task force.

Council Member Murillo stated she was a strong advocate for getting as much Ward I representation on the task force as possible when the task force was being created and she remained so however, when weighing the final appointees, she felt Ms. Bailey had the experience of working directly with the people of Ward I even though she did not live there. She reiterated there was also the additional benefit of having her experience in the criminal justice system as both an advocate and a professional.

Council Member Bergan stated one of the criteria for being on the task force was to be objective and unbiased and that was why City Council was looking for people of various backgrounds and who represented different organizations. She noted that was demonstrated in City Council discussions related to not having Marc Sears on the task force as the union president. She expressed concerns that Ms. Bailey demonstrated bias when she went on a public show and stated her plans, as a member of the Citizens Advisory Budget Committee (CABC), to defund the police department.

Council Member Gruber concurred. He pointed out Ms. Bailey also sat on another City board currently. He discussed the process noting City Council requested staff conduct an evaluation of applicants and then provide recommendations however in this instance, a council member brought forward a person without review who was biased and anti-police who wanted to defund police. He recommended Council go back to staff and request an evaluation of the remaining candidates for their recommendation.

Mayor Coffman asked Council Member Gruber if he was making a substantive motion. Council Member Gruber answered no and stated he would vote in opposition to the appointment instead.

Council Member Berzins stated she would not support the appointment. She clarified her opposition was not towards Ms. Bailey personally but rather was related to the need for background checks for appointees in this regard. She pointed out City Council selected someone for the task force who was later shown to have something in their past that was unacceptable. She wondered what would happen should it be discovered that someone else had done something unacceptable. She stated her support for the task force but noted she did not want to move forward with putting people on it without conducting background checks.

Council Member Coombs asked staff if all the applicant staff brought forward met the basic qualifications of the task force set forth in the resolution. Ms. McDonald answered affirmatively, noting those who did not live in Aurora were removed.

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

Voting Nay: Bergan, Berzins, Gruber

14. **REPORTS**

a. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Coffman stated the COVID-19 crisis was receding somewhat as the City opened incrementally and as a result, he has been visiting churches again. He discussed his recent visit to Heritage Christian Church and his new plan to visit all 17 fire and rescue stations in the City. He stated the Aurora Community Relations Division and Inter-faith Community Services hosted a major food bank drive every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at Gateway High School. He encouraged those facing food insecurities to reach out to that program. He stated as Mayor, he strongly encouraged every member of the Aurora City Council to conduct themselves in a manner at all times that was respectful to the office they have been elected to.

b. Reports by Council

Council Member Coombs stated anyone who knew her knew that she has and would always stand with and up for marginalized and vulnerable people. She referenced the public comments related to her recent post that used a common protest chant reflecting her stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. She stated the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) has attempted to use respectability politics to attack her and to encourage others to do so as well. She clarified no threats or attacks would intimidate her into being less vocal or adamant in the pursuit of standing up for marginalized people nor would they deter her from pursuing changes to policing. She stated policing changes were necessary so that the responsibility of every social ill was not put on the shoulders of police daily and pointed out no one person or entity should be expected to be responsible for everything that could go wrong in society. She stated additional public safety programs must be built up to remove some of that burden from the City's police department. She stated she was committed to demilitarizing the police and stated her support of Senate Bill 20-217, Chief Wilson's directives, and ordinances introduced by Council Members Marcano and Lawson that ensured safer and more accountable policing. She also applauded the steps the Public Safety Policy Committee was taking to address these issues. She stated black lives matter, Elijah McClain's and De'Von Bailey's lives mattered as did the lives and legacy of black and brown trans women that fought for everyone's rights in the Stonewall Uprising.

Council Member Marcano announced the Public Safety and Police Forum was scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2020 via WebEx or Facebook Live at 6:30 p.m. and noted links to register could be found on his and Council Members Murillo and Coombs's Council pages. He announced the appointment of Candice Bailey to the Citizens Advisory Budget Committee. He stated the invocation of the US Constitution and earlier speaker comments got him thinking. He pointed out the country has foregone general welfare as it has doubled-down on defense and determined that some segments of the community were enemy combatants and noted the City budget reflected that truth. He stated it was the City Council's duty to live up to the challenge of the moment and to find ways to strategically reallocate resources that supported community so as not to continue to burden a small segment of its civil service with dealing with all of the ways society could fail somebody. He stated that was an

extensive list and noted he was counting on everyone on council to participate in that in good faith so they could ensure meaningful change for the future.

Council Member Gruber mentioned the Colorado Create Occupational Credential Portability Program was vital to Aurora's effort to gain US Space Command. He described the program which allowed military spouses to bring their licenses to Colorado from other states to have them active in Colorado without further recertification. He stated the evaluation for Space Command came down to Aurora being competitive if they had it and not if they did not so the governor would sign it later in the week and he congratulated the state legislature for pushing the item forward. He addressed Council Member Coombs' comments as disgusting and pointed out no one should be surprised that the community was furious about it. He stated this situation was being led by the Chair of the Arapahoe County Democratic Party and was a Democratic Party position. He stated they had a paper out currently for their activists to send to City Council which talked about everything the speakers commented on. He stated the reason he and Council Member Gardner were called out was because they were opposed to it as were many other council members. He stated people who thought this was one person standing up stating what was on their hearts were being fooled as this was an active campaign by the Arapahoe Democratic Party and was not at all authentic.

Council Member Murillo reiterated her support for Council Member Coombs and stated her belief that people were upset that their bully pulpit was taken away. She stated people knew how vulnerable messaging against a marginalized council member could happen and how in the past specific council members have shaped public narrative that was false. She knew too well personally how certain council members have organized messaging around and against certain council members that had made threats against their lives so she empathized and acknowledged that situation. She noted in the spirit of transparency, it was important to acknowledge other instances where certain council members, such as Council Member Gruber specifically, have used the bully pulpit of this forum to push very conservative agendas. She stated her belief that this was a double standard which was fine but should be called out. She stated council members should call it out as they saw it therefore she felt it was fair to bring that issue up again. She stated in terms of the background of the issue, she felt it was very important to state who organized this attack that included intimidation, threats against her life and very homophobic comments against a certain council member. She stated she was glad that Council Member Coombs was unwavering in her pursuit to reform systems and to support the black community because this was the moment to think about systems. She stated she did not have all of the answers but noted she has been doing research while trying to keep an open mind. She referenced an article she read related to policing in the United States where she discovered the fact that early policing was a de facto slavery round-up. She clarified she was not speaking about specific police officers but the system itself and pointed out those on City Council who were not thinking about systems and how they disproportionately impacted black lives were not doing their jobs. She stated this attack was a distraction from the larger goal and narrative around protecting black lives in the country and the City. She stated she could not control what the rest of the community did but stated she could be a part of leading the community into the future and entertaining the marketplace of ideas. She stated it would be wrong to ignore that people want to *(inaudible)*. She stated City Council should not try and run away from ideas brought forward by the public they chose to serve. She announced June was National Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Awareness Month and noted she raised the topic because she has received a lot of constituent concerns related to fireworks going off so she wanted to let the veteran community know that she was looking into resources especially with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July coming up. She stated she too has seen an uptick in neighborhood fireworks and she wanted to be sure she was doing what

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she could to serve and support the City's veteran community who were experiencing PTSD and noted that while she was not an expert, she planned to reach out to those who had experience in that regard. She stated Aurora Public Schools (APS) was putting on a fundraiser to "close the digital divide" in Ward I and they requested her support. She noted APS was going to a hybrid model in the next school year and students would need access to technology and APS had a match commitment of up to \$10k. She recognized these were difficult times and asked anyone who was able to pledge any sort of donation to do so by Wednesday.

Council Member Gardner stated he found it ironic that he was called out in one of the public comments and noted the demographic similarities to the two people who were called out, noting it was obvious why they were included. He stated he has done as much for criminal justice reform as anyone on Council since he was elected. He listed his efforts such as bringing a prison reform resolution forward, voting in favor of the task force and all those appointed to it, requesting an independent investigation into Elijah McClain, questioning the use of force and militarization of the police, and requesting reviews of ending the Qualified Immunity Act and the Justice for Breonna Taylor Act. He pointed out he has been on record several times in that regard and yet several council members chose to make that their issue when he has not heard them on record for anything. He reiterated he found it ironic that the two white males were called out. He noted it was very disappointing to realize that was where the City's political discourse has gone. He pointed out it was possible to have disagreements politically and noted he was good friends with a lot of people he disagreed with politically but he did not treat them poorly. He stated it was unfortunate that there were those on Council and in society that decided that was the best way to approach things. He confirmed he would continue to treat people with respect and the way they deserved to be treated. He stated it was unfortunate that not everyone wanted to operate that way and that there were those who would instead bring toxicity into the political environment.

Council Member Hiltz announced she and Council Member Lawson were holding a joint Town Hall meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020, where the trash system and budget information from staff would be discussed. She noted she was the Chair of the Public Safety Committee and she echoed Council Member Gardner's sentiment that he has been the toughest critic of what was going on right now and that he has offered many police reform proposals on Public Safety. She stated she did not think they would be able to get through the next five months to the end of the year without him on the committee because most of what has been coming up as a topic has been driven by him, mostly because she has been absent and because he is passionate about it. She stated the topics of discussion were use of force, demilitarization, the grievance and disciplinary processes, the return-to-work protocol after an excessive force, training standards around de-escalation and mediation, no-knock warrants and other issues as they arose. She noted she was aware of other council members who were working on other various areas of reform that would come forward as well and the plan was to create a topic area for each meeting and then slate things in where appropriate. She confirmed these would be public meetings that she would share on social media. She pointed out a year ago when a few council members were slandered, there were resulting comments about Aurora Police Department (APD) being weak because they did not step in. She noted a lot of comments were made not only about council members that resulted in death threats but also about police leadership and people that were working that day. She stated she did not remember there being an outrage at that time and the point of view was people were allowed their First Amendment Rights to state whatever they wanted to state. She pointed out things were different a year later where some council members were up in arms about a council member exercising their First Amendment Rights. She pointed out the difference was that a year ago it was done on Council time by stepping

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off the dais and this platform was a personal Facebook profile. She stated it was also disappointing that the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) chose to not only share the council member's personal profile but to direct people to it rather than using an official channel such as the public page or email. She stated it spoke volumes that the post has since been taken down and noted it was unfortunate that it had to be personalized and not kept through City business. She pointed out it did not matter if council agreed or not because 'defund police' had a different definition depending on who was discussing it. She reiterated it was unfortunate that those on Council who were claiming First Amendment Rights a year ago were not interested in extending those same rights today. She expressed her hope that moving forward Council would cut back on personal attacks and noted she looked forward to having conversations with all of her colleagues regarding bringing forward various areas of reform.

Council Member Bergan read a letter aloud for the record that she sent previously to her Council colleagues with the request that they sign it as it related to healing the discourse between the community and the City's police department. She stated her hope that her colleagues would sign the letter because she truly believed everyone needed to come together to heal. She pointed out the Council stated their support for the City's first responders and she reminded everyone that police were first responders as well and she thought it was time to really come together. She stated there was a constituent at Heritage Eagle Bend organizing two food drives and she would post information as she had it.

Council Member Berzins wished the LBGTQ community a safe and happy Pride celebration and announced the Town Center of Aurora would open all the stores inside the mall on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. She encouraged all shoppers to visit the Aurora Town Center and shop. She referenced Council Member Murillo's comments related to fireworks in the City and noted she too heard them every night. She reminded everyone that fireworks were illegal in Aurora and that the fines for shooting them off were high. She asked everyone to not do so. She stated she received many complaints from residents and reminded everyone that it disturbed many Aurora residents with PTSD. She stated she understood it was a fun time but asked everyone to please remember their neighbors and their neighbors' dogs. She referenced the evening's topic of discussion and stated her view that there were those who were giving the FOP too much credit in this regard. She stated she has not spoken with them and she confirmed she did not learn about the situation from them but rather from Aurora residents. She felt it was coming from a lot of people and she cautioned those who would make that accusation of the FOP. She concurred with Council Member Bergan that it was time to start coming together and healing the wide divide between Aurora police and residents. She noted now was a good time to start. She stated Aurora police went out every day to try and keep the community safe. She noted they were parents who wanted to go home to their families just as citizens did. She pointed out it should be kept in mind that they made split second decisions. She stated her support of the City's police department and acknowledged there were problems. She stated everyone could work together to make changes but they had to begin. She pointed out divisive speech and always blaming the other person did not help and sometimes it was necessary to look inward in that regard. She asked what happened to respecting others and noted no resident or police officer was perfect. She wondered if everyone could start respecting each other again. She agreed everyone needed to be held accountable in their words as well because actions and words meant something especially for elected officials who were held to a higher standard. She stated elected officials ran for the job and wanted the job therefore they should do the community proud by working with citizens. She reiterated it was time to come together and stop all of the bickering and vitriol.

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Mayor Pro Tem Johnston stated she was glad the task force was official so the work could begin. She stated the task force was very important and noted a lot of their focus would be on creating an independent oversight entity or mechanism to provide recommendations to create that policy as well as other work done with council on various initiatives. She stated there were many wonderful applicants and noted that, while the City could not accept all 52 of them, there would be a community engagement process in that regard. She pointed out the task force wanted to hear ideas from everyone in the community including the police because they wanted to have dialogues for all those reforms. She mentioned the opportunity for the community to learn about the four Chief of Aurora Police candidates scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Channel 8 as well as the oil and gas regulation updates scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2020. She stated a Town Hall meeting would also be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 where more information on the oil and gas regulations would be provided. She noted the regulations have not been updated since 2015 and she encouraged everyone to visit [auroragov.org](http://auroragov.org) for more opportunities to be involved with what was going on in the City.

15. **PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

Stephen Ruger, City Clerk, read public comments submitted to [publiccomment@auroragov.org](mailto: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.

Aly DeWills-Marcano, Kristen Seidel, Kristen Hirsch, Stephany Rose and Dale Nichols addressed Mayor Coffman and the manner in which he ran the meetings that disallowed people and their representation to speak. They stated their staunch support for Council Member Coombs and her comments.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council at 9:57 p.m.

  
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MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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