

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, January 22, 2024

1. **RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2024, AND CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council for January 22, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Public call-in instructions were provided in both English and Spanish.

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**– Mike Coffman, Mayor

Mayor Coffman led the prayer for the January 22, 2024 Council Meeting.

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

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Mayor Coffman provided an update on the Executive Session, where they discussed water procurement matters, contract matters, personnel issues, and litigation.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.a. **January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Zvonek, second by Sundberg to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Abstained: Coombs

7. **PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES**

7.a. **Black History Month**

Mayor Coffman proclaimed the month of February 2024 as Black History Month.

7.b. **Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Mayor Coffman proclaimed January 27, 2024 as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

8. **PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD**

(non-agenda-related issues only)

Council heard public testimony on non-agenda-related items.

9. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Sundberg, second by Bergan to adopt the agenda.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

10. **CONSENT CALENDAR – MOTIONS**

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.

10.a. **Motions**

10.b. **Planning Matters**

10.c. **Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

10.c.1 **Consideration to Reappoint Three (3) Members to the Board of Adjustment & Appeals**

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.2 **Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the Cultural Affairs Commission** Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.3 **Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member and Reappoint Three (3) Members to the Public Defender’s Commission**

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Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.4 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Aurora Fox Arts Center Advisory Board

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.5 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the General Employees' Retirement Board

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.6 Consideration to Appoint Two (2) Members to the Historic Preservation Commission

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.7 Consideration to Reappoint Two (2) Members to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Gardner, second by Sunberg to approve the consent calendar- Motions.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

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.

11.a. Resolutions

11.a.1 Appointing New Directors to the Aurora Capital Leasing Corporation

R2024-01 CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPOINTING NEW DIRECTORS TO THE AURORA CAPITAL LEASING CORPORATION

Teresa Sedmak, City Treasurer, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

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11.a.2 Land and Water Acquisition from Blyler Farms

R2024-02 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE CONTRACT TO BUY AND SELL REAL ESTATE FOR LAND AND WATER RIGHTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND KRISANNA MACHTMES

Alexandra Davis, Assistant General Manager of Water Supply and Demand, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Support for the Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Application (Colorado Department of Local Affairs)

R2024-03 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS FOR A GRANT TO FUND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE 13TH AVENUE STATION AREA

A waiver of reconsideration requested due to the grant application deadline on February 2, 2024.

Sponsor: Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Jennifer Orozco, Development Project Manager, Planning and Development Services / Rachel Allen, Client Services Manager, City Attorney

11.a.4 Rules of Order and Procedure: Amending Section D.7, Appendix I, and Section A.7 of the Council Rules

R2024-04 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND SECTION D.7, APPENDIX I, AND SECTION A.7 OF THE RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL

Sponsor: Danielle Jurinsky, Council Member

Kimberly Skaggs, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Jurinsky, second by Zvonek to approve 11.a.4.

CM Coombs said the sections on respectful workplace are appropriate and needed, but regarding the prior sections stating that only Mayor, council members, city manager, etc. may be on the dais, was not appropriate. She stated she was contacted after the meeting

with the swearing in with her child and told there would be a rule change to prohibit having her child on the dais and was asked to agree with that. She said she stated yes she would take the meeting virtually from her office if there was instance where her child was present. However, she noted that would affect a mom that was nursing a baby to no longer permitted to be on the dais during that time and did not see where it was necessary and was potentially harmful to people who may not have any other options in that situation. She also commented that the change regarding seating was concerning. She stated the rules had a seating order in them by seniority and should not be changed due to personal preferences. CM Coombs said they should be able to accept their seating assignment as adults and did not support that.

CM Bergan said they had a virtual option so there would be no situation that would hurt a mother that had a child or was nursing. She said the rule was a good one and there should be no concern with the virtual option.

CM Jurinsky agreed that any mother on the council would be given the virtual option to still be a part of the meeting. She stated she tried to ask CM Coombs to go virtual that night and it did not happen. She also stated that her and CM Medina had the same seniority so the seating would not affect that at all and the rules stated the council members switching seats had to agree and said it was absolutely necessary.

CM Murillo said she was glad there was consideration for parents who may need to bring their kids, but the virtual open was not always the most effective with lags. She stated she was disappointed to hear there were couched in preferences of a particular council member and did not think that was fair. She explained they were making changes based on a council member's preference, not necessarily for a good process standpoint and never had a change like this in her seven years of council.

CM Hancock said as a mothers, they understand what the job is when they do it, but having infants on the dais was disruptive and distracting and inhibits the ability to do business effectively. She said the night she was sworn in it was hard to have a screaming child on the dais and was also hard on the child and people who witness the event. She expressed they needed to keep respect for this body in mind first and foremost and were doing business on behalf of their city and that should be treated with the dignity and respect it deserves.

CM Gardner reminded Council they had real and serious issues in the city and did not care where anyone wanted to sit and called for the question.

Motion by Gardner, second by Zvonek to call for the question.

Voting Aye: Mayor Coffman, Bergan, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Voting Nay: Coombs

Motion by Jurinsky, second by Zvonek to approve 11.a.4.

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Voting Aye: Bergan, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Voting Nay: Coombs

11.a.5 Acquisition of Real Property for the Aurora Regional Navigation Campus

R2024-05 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY NOT TO EXCEED \$26,500,000 PLUS INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND CLOSING COSTS BY THE CITY OF AURORA FROM POOL IV FINANCE LLC AND POOL IV TRS LLC, OF THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL FOR USE AS THE AURORA REGIONAL NAVIGATION CAMPUS

Jessica Prosser, Director of Housing and Community Services / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Council heard public comment on non-agenda related items.

Motion by Zvonek, second by Bergan to approve 11.a.5.

CM Gardner said he struggles with the item. He agreed they needed to figure out a way to find housing when they abate camps in the community, but did not believe this was the best use of taxpayer dollars and there were less expensive ways to accomplish the same goal. He stated spending on homelessness has increased by millions but the number of homeless residents have increased in Denver and in cities all along the west coast. However, he explained that if the item did pass, he hoped the facility was more successful than what they have seen in other cities. He also noted he did appreciate that Aurora had a better approach to homelessness, but he still would not be in support of the item.

CM Bergan said she struggled with it as well, because it was a lot of money, but most of the money was coming from a combination of different jurisdictions. She said when looking at how to serve homeless in the best way, they want to help them to be productive, overcome substance abuse disorders, get mental health help, and transition into working, productive members of society. She said currently they had shelter but not enough, and this item seemed to be a good solution to help.

Mayor Pro Tem Zvonek said it was an ongoing conversation and this was not money going just towards housing homeless, but would do important things for residents, including allowing them to aggressively enforce their camping ban and look at ways to strengthen it, having nonprofit partners who would be responsible for helping bring other non-profit partners to the campus and for fundraising, and having housing that came with conditions, such as programs that would help them towards self-sufficiency. MPT Zvonek stated he supported the item and added that he would be bringing forward another resolution to make it abundantly clear that was the direction they wanted to see the campus run in order to better serve the community.

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Mayor Coffman said he and MPT Zvonek met to discuss bringing forward the resolution with more specificity as to what the program component would be for the Navigation Resource Center with a lot of elements from the Colorado Springs Rescue Mission and some elements from the Ready to Work program.

CM Coombs ask for clarification if there would be no single mothers with children or families allowed in the facility. Mayor Coffman stated that was correct.

CM Coombs said they would spending funds on a facility that did not include a plan to take care of their families experiencing homelessness and the intention would be to redirect the existing marijuana funds away from the only program that did service families in the city and that was concerning. She also said it was concerning they were continuing to state they were basing the program on San Antonio and Colorado Springs and neither of them had decrease in street homelessness. She said she would not be supporting the item.

Mayor Coffman stated the numbers in Colorado Springs were down and was thankful to the program they have.

CM Sundberg mentioned there was a news article several months ago indicating a rise in homelessness around Denver metro area with only two counties experiencing a decrease. He explained that from a cost perspective, affordable housing projects in Aurora typically cost between 30 and 50 million dollars per project and this one would be around 26 million with cost sharing.

Motion by Zvonek, second by Bergan to approve 11.a.5.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

Voting Nay: Coombs, Gardner, Medina

11.a.6 Adams County ARPA Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Aurora Homeless Navigation Campus

R2024-06 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND ADAMS COUNTY, COLORADO PERTAINING TO ADAMS COUNTY PROVIDING CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO THE CITY TO BE USED FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AURORA REGIONAL NAVIGATION CAMPUS

Emma Knight, Manager of Homelessness Behavioral Health, Housing and Community Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.7 Arapahoe County ARPA Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Aurora Homeless Navigation Campus

R2024-07 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA,

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COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO PERTAINING TO ARAPAHOE COUNTY PROVIDING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO THE CITY TO BE USED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE AURORA REGIONAL NAVIGATION CAMPUS SITE IN THE CITY

Emma Knight, Manager of Homelessness Behavioral Health, Housing and Community Services / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.b. Finalizing of Ordinances

11.b.1 15800 E 40th Avenue - Zone Map Amendment

2024-02 CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE 10.244 ACRES OF LAND TO BUSINESS/TECH DISTRICT (I-1), LOCATED WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF EAST 40TH AVENUE AND EAST 40TH CIRCLE

Sarah Wile, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

11.b.2 3550 Chambers Road – Zoning Map Amendment

2024-03 CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 4.2 ACRES OF LAND TO MIXED-USE CORRIDOR DISTRICT (MU-C), LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF EAST 33RD PLACE AND NORTH CHAMBERS ROAD

Stephen Gubrud, Planner, Planning and Development Services / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

CM Gardner asked to remove 11.a.5.

CM Coombs asked to remove 11.a.4.

Motion by Bergan, second by Hancock to approve the consent calendar – Resolutions and Ordinances with item 11.a.4 and 11.a.5. removed.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

12. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

13. **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

14. **FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES**

14.a Sable Boulevard Townhomes Zoning Map Amendment

2023-69 CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE 5.0244 ACRES OF LAND TO MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2), LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SABLE BOULEVARD AND EAST MONTVIEW BOULEVARD

Aja Tibbs, Planning Supervisor, Planning and Development Services / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Motion by Bergan, second by Gardner to approve 14.a.

Voting Aye: Bergan, Coombs, Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Lawson, Medina, Murillo, Sundberg, Zvonek

15. **ANNEXATIONS**

16. **RECONSIDERATION AND CALL UPS**

17. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

18. **REPORTS**

18.a. Report by the Mayor

Mayor Coffman announced his town hall meeting would be Saturday, at 2:00pm, at the Aurora History Museum, where they would be discussing a presentation by APD on different strategies to lower the crime rate, a presentation on homelessness and policies, and a presentation on affordable housing. He reappointed Sunny Banka and Janet Marlow to the Citizens Advisory Budget Committee.

18.b. Reports by the Council

CM Coombs stated she was using the opportunity to defend herself after people questioned her judgement and trustworthiness since she was not given the opportunity to earlier in the meeting. She said her child had only been on the dais twice, one of which was the day she was sworn in and said the only time they were screaming was when she tried handing them off to someone else after CM Jurinsky requested it. She expressed she understood they were babbling and grabbing things and that was why she

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did not bring them to meetings usually, but felt the swearing in was appropriate to share with her child. She said she agreed to not having them at future meetings and it was unfair to say choosing to bring your children to a special event was poor judgement, disrespectful, and untrustworthy behavior. She added that when it's men doing it, there is never a question.

CM Murillo announced her town hall is Thursday, from 6 to 7 at the MLK library. She apologized that CM Coombs did not get the opportunity to speak about her experience as a mother and agreed that was unfair. She explained that she only agreed to close the debate because they were starting to get into uncomfortable territory on how people parented and did not want to create further unproductive and unhealthy debate.

CM Lawson gave a short update on the Federal, State, and Antigovernmental Relations Committee, stating Governor Polis gave the state of address on January 11th and highlighted projects, including housing affordability, transit oriented communities, income tax reform, and economic growth. She stated President Biden signed a stopgap measure to fund the government through the beginning on March to avoid a shutdown. She announced her Ward 5 meeting would be at the Central Rec Center on Thursday, the 25th, and they would be discussing I-225 homelessness encampments and crime.

CM Bergan stated she had her Planning Economic Development Policy Committee, attended the E-470 Executive Board and meeting, the Opioid Region 9 meeting, the subcommittee work where she is chair of the detox walk-in crisis center for Opioid Region, her town hall last Wednesday that was very well attended where she did a city government 101 and had Lynne Center from Public Works Department, officers, and representatives from the fire department there, attended Celebration of Life for Mayor the meet and greet for the mayor and council from Seongnam, South Korea with Mayor Coffman, and attended the MLK interfaith prayer breakfast with Poonam and her husband as the keynote speakers with Mayor Coffman.

Council members Gardner, Hancock, Jurinsky, Medina, Sundberg, and MPT Zvonek did not have a report.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of the City Council.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

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ATTEST:


KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK



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