

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, December 16, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman	Danielle Jurinsky
	Françoise Bergan	Angela Lawson
	Alison Coombs	Ruben Medina
	Curtis Gardner	Crystal Murillo
	Stephanie Hancock	Steve Sundberg

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the December 16, 2024 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(All Standing)

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgment.

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the 12/02/2024 meeting?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

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(non-agenda related issues only)

Council heard public testimony on non-agenda related items.

Moved by: Mayor Coffman

Second by: Alison Coombs

Does Council wish to suspend Council Rules to allow a poll for item 17.a.?

Voting Aye: (9): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (1): Curtis Gardner

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Ruben Medina

Does Council wish to suspend Council Rules to extend PITBH time limit?

Voting Aye: (3): Alison Coombs, Ruben Medina, and Crystal Murillo

Voting Nay: (7): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, and Steve Sundberg

CM Coombs clarified that when she stood for the statement that Kilyn Lewis and all people in our city who have been murdered should still be alive, she was not standing in representation of all of her colleagues on Council, but in representation of the 37,485 people who voted for her. She added that when she speaks not with the majority, she is speaking as a council member and for the people who voted for her.

Mayor Coffman commented that was a violation of the rule.

CM Coombs expressed that speaking from the podium is not a violation of the rule and past council members have done that.

Mayor Coffman clarified that the rule was violated by standing.

CM Murillo asked what rule was violated.

Mayor Coffman deferred to the city attorney.

P. Schulte responded.

CM Murillo voiced that the point of clarification is that it is not actually a rule violation and law is about interpretation. She asked P. Schulte to clarify as a citizen of Aurora their right to public and speech.

P. Schulte responded that any member of the community, including council members, can sign up to speak during public invited to heard if they are speaking in their individual capacity and not on behalf of the Council. He clarified that for the body to be making a message, there needs to be a vote.

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CM Murillo noted that they followed the rules by signing up.

9. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda with item 11.a.1 removed?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

10. CONSENT CALENDAR - MOTIONS

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Steve Sundberg

Does Council wish to approve the Motions Consent Calendar as presented?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

10.a Motions

10.a.1 2025 Aurora Sister Cities International Professional Services Agreement

Sponsor: Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Ricardo Gambetta, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, General Management / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Outside Speaker: Daniana Trigos-Kulkulski, Executive Director, Aurora Sister Cities International

10.b Planning Matters

10.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

10.c.1 Consideration to Remove One (1) Member from the Historic Preservation Commission

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

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10.c.2 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member and to Appoint Two (2) Members to the Commission for Older Adults

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

10.c.3 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Veterans Affairs Commission

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

10.c.4 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board

Marshall Brown, General Manager, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.5 Consideration to Appoint Nine (9) Members to the Infrastructure Task Force

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

Laura Perry, Deputy City Manager, General Management / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Any member of Council may request an item be removed from Consent Calendar and considered separately. Removed items are considered immediately following the adoption of the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Consideration to Authorize the Senior Risk Manager to Expend Funds for the City’s Insurance Program for 2025

R2024-167 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO SPEND FUNDS FOR THE CITY’S INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR 2025, AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

A waiver of reconsideration is requested due to the City’s insurance policies renewals on January 1, 2025, and without the waiver of

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reconsideration, the insurance policies won't have funding to bind the insurance coverages prior to year end.

Renee Pettinato Mosley, Senior Risk Manager, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

11.a.2 Drainage and Flood Control Improvement Amendment for Sampson and Robinson Gulch Regional Pond

R2024-168 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, d/b/a MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SAMPSON/ROBINSON GULCH REGIONAL POND

James DeHerrera, Manager of Planning Services, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Strontia Springs Access Improvement Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment

R2024-169 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER REGARDING THE STRONTIA SPRINGS DAM ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Earl Wilkinson, Assistant General Manager of Operations, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.4 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Between the City of Aurora and City and County of Denver for the 68th Avenue Maintenance and Operation Plan

R2024-170 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PLAN OF A PORTION OF 68TH AVENUE

Haley Johansen, City Engineer, Development Services / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

11.a.5 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Regional Transportation District (RTD) for the Older Adult Microtransit Pilot Program

R2024-171 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 THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR A GRANT FROM THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT FOR AN OLDER ADULT MICROTRANSIT PILOT PROGRAM

Sponsor: Angela Lawson, Council Member

Erick del Angel, Planner II, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.6 Office of Alternate Defense Council (OADC) Contract Amendment and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

R2024-172 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND THE STATE OF COLORADO OFFICE OF ALTERNATE DEFENSE COUNSEL REGARDING THE PROVISION OF ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION IN CASES WHERE THE MUNICIPAL COURT APPOINTS AN ATTORNEY OTHER THAN THE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC DEFENDER TO REPRESENT AN INDIGENT PERSON AT ANY STAGE OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Shawn Day, Presiding Judge, Aurora Municipal Court / Angela Garcia, Senior Assistant City Attorney

11.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11.b.1 City Code Section 14-75 Ownership of Pitbulls

2024-82 FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 14-75 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE OWNERSHIP OF PIT BULLS (AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER, AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER AND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER) WITHIN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO

Anthony Youngblood, Manager of Animal Care, Housing and Community Services / Angela Garcia, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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.

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

12.a Adoption of the 2024 Model Traffic Code

2024-83 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 134-1, AND 134-8; AND REPEALING SECTION 134-2(n)(3) OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO ADOPTION OF THE 2024 MODEL TRAFFIC CODE AND LOCAL AMENDMENTS

Chris Amsler, Lieutenant, Aurora Police / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to support this ordinance for the Adoption of the 2024 Model Traffic Code?

Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

13.a Minor Text Updates to City Code Chapter 135 Oil and Gas Manual

2024-84 A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 135 OF THE CITY CODE

Jeffrey S. Moore, Manager of Energy and Environment, Planning and Business Development / Dave Scott, Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM Bergan thanked the Oil & Gas Commission.

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Curtis Gardner

Does Council wish to approve these minor text updates to City Code Chapter 135 (Oil & Gas Manual)?

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Voting Aye: (9): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

14. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

15. ANNEXATIONS

16. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

17.a Appointment of At-Large Council Member

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Pete Schulte, City Attorney

Council heard public comment on the agenda related item.

CM Hancock stated they have the opportunity to do something unprecedented and set a new paradigm by having a man who has demonstrated leadership in this country and his former home country of Ethiopia. She added that he knows the Constitution and understands what freedom really means, as he risked everything he had to come to this country and build a life for himself and his family. She expressed that his representation on Council would send a message that Aurora is not a racist city, but an opportunity city that opens its arms to everyone.

CM Sundberg commented that he has a tremendous amount of respect and admiration for the Ethiopian community and one of the most important things that Mr. Kassaw said was that he brings a unique perspective to Aurora and leadership of the Council.

CM Jurinsky asked everyone that supported Mr. Kassaw to stand, and voiced that she heard, understood, and acknowledged every single one of them and she accepts and supports Mr. Kassaw fully and publicly. She encouraged her colleagues to make history and appoint the first legal immigrant to the Aurora City Council.

CM Lawson shared that Mr. Kassaw will bring a unique experience to the Council and a demographic that they have not captured through their policies since she has been there, so his knowledge would be very insightful and bring a different perspective. She added it would be a great opportunity to have him on the Council and work with him.

Mayor Coffman expressed that he met Mr. Kassaw years ago and he has involvement in Aurora and the Ethiopian community.

CM Gardner said there was a lot to unpack here, and found it ironic that some of his colleagues are advocating essentially for supporting someone because of the color of their skin.

CM Hancock stated that Mr. Kassaw earned his way here and this is not about DEI, but someone that wants to serve the community. She said that as a black person, she was deeply offended by what was just said.

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to appoint Amsalu Kassaw to fill the remaining term of the At-Large Council Member vacancy?

Voting Aye: (6): Mayor Coffman, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (4): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, and Crystal Murillo

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does council support the motion to end debate?

Voting Aye: (8): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (2): Danielle Jurinsky, and Crystal Murillo

CM Bergan voiced that she met with Mr. Kassaw for coffee and appreciated the time with him. She believes Mr. Kassaw is a great person and has passion for the Ethiopian community, but was supporting Danielle Lammon, as she has known her for several years, has served on the budget committee, and is an active member of the community. She expressed that she did not vote against Mr. Kassaw but was voting for Danielle Lammon. She also added she does not vote on the color of anyone's skin or ethnicity, but on who she thinks is the most experienced, best qualified person.

CM Murillo thanked all of the candidates for applying and congratulated Mr. Kassaw. She stated that she is hoping to get to work with someone who speaks to their word and is actually for community. She explained she was supporting Jonathan McMillan's for his experience in local government, running state agencies, and centering impacted peoples.

CM Jurinsky voiced she also known Danielle Lammon for quite some time and did not know she was interested until she saw the list, but knew Mr. Kassaw was immediately interested. She stated publicly that she did not cast a vote

for DEI, but for Mr. Kassaw and the second largest immigrant population in Aurora for the single most diverse city in Colorado.

CM Coombs congratulated Mr. Kassaw. She clarified that her vote was not a vote against him, but for another candidate who had very clear statements on policy and experience in local government.

CM Sundberg acknowledged that they had three incredible candidates with vast experience.

17.b Consideration to Elect Mayor Pro Tem

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Pete Schulte, City Attorney

Moved by: Mayor Coffman

Second by: Crystal Murillo

Does Council wish to elect Curtis Gardner as Mayor Pro Tem?

CM Gardner withdrew his name as a candidate for MPT.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does City Council wish to elect Steve Sundberg as Mayor Pro Tem?

Voting Aye: (7): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (3): Alison Coombs, Ruben Medina, and Crystal Murillo

17.c Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future In-Person or Virtual Council Meetings

Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

18. REPORTS

18.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman announced his upcoming Town Hall meeting, January 18, 2025, at 2:00, at the Aurora Central Library, with presentations by Judge Day and Chief Chamberlain.

18.b Council

CM Coombs wished a happy birthday to her father and acknowledged the privilege to still be able to wish her father a happy birthday. She stated it is important to cherish our parents while alive, but also recognized the pain of

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others that have lost that ability at any age. She thanked all the candidates for Council and congratulated Mr. Kassaw. She also acknowledged those that came to speak regarding mass deportations of people in their community.

CM Jurinsky agreed that they should not be using city resources to carry out mass deportations. She noted that she also is glad to have the privilege of still having her father. She reminded that the animal shelter is still in pretty bad shape and donations are needed, stating they have an Amazon wish list on the City of Aurora's website and on their Facebook page. She added that she is looking forward to serving with Mr. Kassaw.

CM Murillo stated that there is a feasibility study happening that she and CM Gardner are co-sponsoring around the creation of some sort of district along the Colfax corridor and they are looking for community feedback. She is hosting a January Town Hall that will focus on that and invited Ward 1 and others to come share feedback and learn about it.

MPT Sundberg gave a shout out to the Public Works Department on completing Buckley and Iliff. He attended the tree lighting ceremony and said it was well attended. He attended a veteran's court graduation of the diversion program and an AEDC meeting. He stated that he serves on the Defense Council for Aurora Chamber of Commerce that is being renamed to the Buckley Regional Military Affairs Council. He attended the cadet graduation of 37 new police officers and noted that Rhonda Fields is a new county commissioner.

CM Medina attended a neighborhood meeting at 6th and Peoria to talk to constituents and they invited him to a dinner/celebration for the holidays.

CM Hancock stated that the police force is out checking cars to make sure people have updated plates, a license, and insurance. She urged the importance of getting those things in line. She announced her first Town Hall of 2025 is at Noonan's on the Heather Ridge Golf Course and said Chief Chamberlain will be in attendance.

CM Lawson thanked Mr. Russo from Regis Jesuit High School for allowing her to present to two of his government classes. She said the students were fantastic and asked a lot of questions and she received a lot of letters from them. She announced her first 2025 Town Hall will be February 8th, at 10, at Heather Gardens and is looking forward to working with Mr. Kassaw.

CM Gardner and CM Bergan did not have a report.

P. Schulte noted that since the media story posted on the trifecta ordinance going into effect, numerous city attorneys from other cities have called that want to copy that exact ordinance.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.

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MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

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