

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, January 13, 2025

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Curtis Gardner

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 January 13, 2025 meeting.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(All Standing)

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE

Mayor Coffman provided an update on the Executive Session, stating the sale of city-owned properties and lease agreements were discussed.

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgement.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a December 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 meeting?

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

Abstain: (1): Amsalu Kassaw

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

7.a Swearing-in Ceremony of Presiding Judge, Current Associate Judges, and Current Relief Judges

Don Toussaint, 18th Judicial District Court

7.b Swearing-in Ceremony of Appointed At-Large Council Member Amsalu Kassaw

Shawn Day, Presiding Judge, Aurora Municipal Court

8. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

Council heard public testimony on non-agenda related items.

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

CM Coombs stated there was a proposal on the agenda to make this the rule, and if Council decides to pass it, that is fine, but the people attending did not know that in advance, and therefore, should still be able to speak at the normal time.

Mayor Coffman responded that the motion would not be a permanent rule, but for this meeting only.

CM Coombs expressed she understood that, but the people who came and signed up before 6:20, as directed, should have had the respect of being able to have the current rules be what is exercised.

CM Bergan added that on the agenda item 11.a.6., where they discuss whether to move public invited to be heard, she will have an amendment to propose.

Does Council wish to suspend the Council Rules and move Public Invited to be Heard after Council Reports?

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

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

9. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda as presented?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

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: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Alison Coombs

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

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

10.a Motions

10.a.1 Visit Aurora 2025 Professional Services Agreement

Kim Stuart, Director of Communications and Marketing / Kim Skaggs,
Assistant City Attorney

10.b Planning Matters

10.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

10.c.1 Consideration to Remove Two (2) Members from the Aurora Youth Commission

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

10.c.2 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the General Employees' Retirement Board

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

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

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.

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: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar with items 11.a.5 and 11.a.6 removed?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Elbert County and MU Elora LLC for County Line and Delbert Intersection Signal Funding

R2025-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ELBERT COUNTY, COLORADO, AND MU ELORA LLC, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF COUNTY ROAD 194 AND DELBERT ROAD

Haley Johansen, City Engineer, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.2 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for County Line Maintenance with Arapahoe and Elbert Counties

R2025-02 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, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF ELBERT

Haley Johansen, City Engineer, Development Services / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission for a Lease Extension

R2025-03 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 STATE OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

11.a.4E-470 Reclaimed Wastewater Agreement

R2025-04 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE E-470 PUBLIC HIGHWAY AUTHORITY FOR DELIVERY OF RECLAIMED WASTEWATER

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

11.a.5 Immigration Support

R2025-05 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES AND AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO THE AURORA IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION PLAN 2020-2030

Sponsor: Alison Coombs, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

CM Coombs explained this resolution was in light of the amount of fear and concern for immigrants in the community on potential deportation and rhetoric that does not value their contributions to the community to affirm as a city our value and support of them.

The Council heard public testimony on the agenda item.

Mayor Coffman offered an amendment to the item in the last "WHEREAS" clause which says, "Whereas the incoming Presidential Administrations threats of mass deportation risk undermining Aurora's process, damaging trust and creating fear among immigrant communities". He proposed changing it to "The incoming Presidential Administration has created uncertainty about the future of Aurora residents who are in the United States under the Temporary Protected Status Program, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or have been placed on humanitarian parole pending the adjudication of their asylum claims."

CM Coombs asked if there was a reason to strike the second part. She understood that Mayor Coffman wanted to replace "threats of mass deportation" with the clause he stated. She asked if they could retain the rest of the phrase that includes, "risk creating fear, undermining trust," etc.?

Mayor Coffman agreed with that. He added that the key thing is it would be qualified to the different categories he mentioned.

CM Coombs expressed that she believes that all immigrants should be supported, but will accept that as a friendly amendment.

Mayor Coffman stated that the second amendment would be under Section 1, "The Aurora City Council resolves as follows" amendment of Immigrant Communities, "The City of Aurora reaffirms its steadfast support for its immigrants and stands in opposition to federal policies that promote fear, division, or mass deportation." He proposed to change that to, "The City of Aurora reaffirms its steadfast support for its immigrants and stands in opposition to federal policies that promote the revocation of the existing Temporary Protected Status program, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or individuals that have been placed on humanitarian parole pending the adjudication of their asylum claims."

CM Coombs did not accept that as a friendly amendment, as she believes they should reaffirm their steadfast support for all immigrants, including those with a green card or citizenship.

Mayor Coffman stated that being pro-immigrant is being pro-undocumented, so they differ on that. He added that if they wanted to add immigrants of legal permit of residence that is fine, but that can get into a lot of other categories. He shared that he enumerated those categories because the others would probably require a change in statute to change the policy by Congress.

CM Coombs voiced that this is a resolution and not an actual ordinance, so she will not accept that, as that portion is a statement of values, which should be stated universally, not narrowly described.

Mayor Coffman clarified that these are people that have a temporary legal status in the country that could be reversed by the administration, but CM Coombs is including all undocumented individuals, which he did not include.

CM Bergan commented that they passed this particular integration plan back in 2020 by Council. She said this is getting into immigration law, which is done at the federal level. She noted she was in support of the plan they passed, but this is starting to get into immigration

policy, which is not their wheelhouse, so she had concern and hesitation to support the changes.

CM Lawson commented that they passed the integration plan by the majority of the whole Council. She stated that within the integration plan, it had nothing about deportation, but had everything else. She said that Council already approved that plan without federal policies that promote fear and division or mass deportation, and this seems like a separate resolution the sponsor should consider. She asked for an explanation on how a council member can add something to reaffirm the integration plan when that part was not in there. CM Lawson expressed she did not support this with the current language in there on that topic.

CM Coombs clarified those are two separate clauses, so that is not amending the Immigrant Integration Plan to include that clause, but a general statement of values reaffirming their commitment to immigrants and opposing federal policies. She added that they do take positions on federal policies.

CM Bergan stated this would change the plan that was previously unanimously approved by Council that goes through 2030, so she did not support this. She agreed it would need to be a separate item.

MPT Sundberg stressed that the City of Aurora has a special affinity for immigrants and they are concerned about their safety and well-being. He said he supported their Office of International Immigrants Affairs, as they do a great job with encouraging home ownership, teaching of English, business ownership, leadership development, and encourage people to become citizens. He also added that Aurora Mental Health and Recovery has an excellent program that helps people who come here that have gone through trauma. He stated that Aurora is supportive in many different ways.

CM Combs proposed an alternate amendment. She asked if it would be a friendly amendment to say, "The City of Aurora reaffirms its steadfast support for its immigrants", and just strike everything after in that clause in Section 1, Commitment to Immigrant Communities.

Mayor Coffman agreed to the friendly amendment.

CM Jurinsky pointed out that they made history tonight in Aurora by putting Amsalu Kassaw on the Council, and it is unfortunate that the sponsor did not vote for him. She stated that she had an issue with ever saying that they are going to support all of the migrants. She said President Trump did say their entire city was taken over and that was absolutely not true, but affecting or impacting any families are one too many. She voiced that Tren de Aragua is not welcome here, nor are the criminals or gangs, and Tom Holman made it clear that he

was coming for criminals across the country. She stated there are 1.5 million people with active deportation orders in the United States that have to be found and deported. CM Jurinsky expressed they have come here and committed crimes and hurt other individuals. She said she also found it interesting that on the third WHEREAS, that nine countries are named, but Venezuela is left out, and that the largest population in recent months in Colorado and Denver-Metro are Venezuelans. She expressed that Venezuelans should be protected and be included, as they are currently the target of Tren de Aragua here. She voiced that they support their immigrant community and proudly put an immigrant on their Council. CM Jurinsky also noted that their police will not have anything to do with the deportation efforts, so this is nothing more than virtue signaling and there is a lot that is left out. She pointed out that whatever they pass does absolutely nothing, because the current administration has all of the authority on deportations.

Mayor Coffman stated that it does make a statement for those under DACA, Temporary Protected Status, and those that are pending asylum cases, as they have a legal status in the country temporarily. He stated that they hope those status are not reversed, which is important to the Salvadorian community here that initially came under Temporary Protective Status. He stated the way this is written right now is not about undocumented immigrants.

CM Coombs stated the list of countries are just the top countries of which people are known to be here based on census and other data, but she was happy to add Venezuelan, Ghana, and Nigeria to make sure it includes them, as there was no intention to exclude them. She clarified that people can have active deportation orders without having committed any crimes, as there are people with active deportation orders who have not committed any crime besides crossing the border.

CM Bergan asked the city attorney about the comment that they must follow federal law on this subject, and that mayors and city council officials that do not follow the deportation laws would be held liable and face jail time. She asked if they would be in violation of that oath by supporting this resolution.

P. Schulte responded no. He said the federal government will do what they want, and the city will not take sides.

CM Bergan asked why they are doing this if they do not have any authority to make any of these decisions. She suggested delaying this to the next meeting in two weeks, so they can get the wordsmithing a little bit better to be all in agreement.

CM Coombs expressed that she has accepted every amendment that has been offered and changed portions that indicate anything about

federal policy, so this is about making sure they are abiding by their state laws related to not having local law enforcement enforce immigration laws and affirming a commitment. She said people can call it virtue signaling if they want, but there are a lot of people who are scared and worried, and saying we support and value them is worth something, and the words they say as leaders matter. She shared that she would rather move forward, but if her colleagues really think there needs to be significant changes, then she is willing to wait until the next meeting. However, she noted that the people who came tonight to support this would have to come back again in two weeks.

CM Murillo supported this and said it is straightforward. She noted a resolution is a statement of value and support. She said either they support their immigrant community or they do not, and they can talk about wordsmithing all they want, but the sponsor has in good faith accepted the amendments. She shared that they have supported resolutions in convenience to the majority of this Council on things that have nothing to do with city council, but they try to take away that opportunity for others to do that. CM Murillo said they hear and feel the fear that has been instilled by the incoming president and they have recognize it, as this is a statement of support of our immigrants.

CM Bergan asked for an amendment that they will not interfere with federal law enforcement.

Mayor Coffman suggested expressing it as they will cooperate with federal immigration authorities as much as allowed as required by law.

CM Bergan agreed that she would be in support with that amendment.

CM Coombs appreciated the way CM Bergan phrased that as we will not interfere with the enforcement of federal immigrant law, and thought that was a more clear statement.

CM Hancock commented on the item, however, her microphone was muted and comments were inaudible.

CM Coombs accepted the friendly amendment by CM Bergan.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Crystal Murillo

Does Council wish to support Resolution R2025-05 as amended?

Amend last WHEREAS clause to state - The incoming Presidential Administration has created uncertainty about the future of Aurora residents who are in the United States under the Temporary Protected Status program, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or have been placed on humanitarian parole pending the adjudication of their asylum claims.

Amend the Commitment to Immigrant Communities section to state:
The City of Aurora reaffirms its steadfast support to its immigrants.

Add - Will not interfere with federal immigration law.

Voting Aye: (8): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Danielle Jurinsky,
Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, Steve Sundberg, and
Amsalu Kassaw

Voting Nay: (1): Stephanie Hancock

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does Council wish to support the motion to end the debate?

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

Voting Nay: (1): Alison Coombs

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

11.a.6 Rules of Order And Procedure: Amending Rules Concerning Public Invited to be Heard

R2025-06 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER AND
PROCEDURE FOR THE AURORA, COLORADO, CITY COUNCIL
CONCERNING PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Sponsor: Stephanie Hancock, Council Member / Danielle Jurinsky,
Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

The Council heard public testimony on the item.

CM Hancock explained that they are asking for respect and an
opportunity to do the work they do to better serve their community,
and if that means moving public comment to the end due to the
disruptions that have been happening for the last six months, that is
what they will do.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM Bergan offered an amendment to remain the same except to read
to allow 30 minutes at the beginning of the Council meetings and 30

minutes at the end of the meeting, with residents being prioritized, and two minutes per speaker to allow more speakers to speak. She added there are residents that may not be able to stay late, depending on when the meetings end, and this would give them the opportunity to speak at the beginning, and for people that have to wait until they get off work to attend, it allows them to speak at the end.

CM Hancock accepted the friendly amendment.

CM Murillo stated that she has seen so many iterations of removing and reducing the public's ability to speak and is deeply concerned at the direction that the Council is choosing to go. She appreciated the amendment, but thought it was a dangerous direction to go, because they keep removing the public's opportunity to speak to their elected officials and she is not okay with that. She added that providing proof of residency was unnecessary and would be a mess. She pointed out that they stopped online comment, which also reduces their public's ability to speak. CM Murillo shared that she does not always agree with decisions that are made by everyone that comes here and also does not agree with how some of her colleagues treat or speak to people. She added that this Council is not about respect at all and they have been vicious, giving personal attacks without decorum being called, and lying to the media on what was happening in the city, with no concern for the truth or respect. She said it is their duty as public officials to listen to the public.

CM Coombs stated her preference would be to go back to how it was when she first got on Council, which was unlimited public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting, even if it was hours of people relentlessly attacking them, because it is their job to listen to the people whether they agree with them or not. She added, however, that 30 minutes at the beginning and 30 at the end is more than they have now. She noted she is aware that she is not in the position on the Council to get what she actually wants, but will try, even if it means compromising. She agreed that providing proof of residency would be a nightmare for their clerk to do every meeting. She supported the amendment, but acknowledged that it was not ideal or what is fundamentally right.

CM Murillo voiced another concern around being able to sign up virtually. She said asking people to be here at 5 to sign up is impossible for people who are just getting off work, which creates an additional burden. She offered to bring back the virtual sign up.

CM Jurinsky expressed that a part of this is to try and make sure that Aurora residents are heard, so she does not know how they would show an ID or prove residency if commenting virtually.

CM Coombs asked Clerk Rodriguez if she had a way of identifying whether people are Aurora residents or not when verifying board and commission applications that she could utilize similarly for this purpose.

K. Rodriguez answered yes.

CM Murillo said there were many other ways to prove residency, even though that is going to be a nightmare. She added if the clerk only has 10 minutes to verify residency, put them in order, and have that ready by the start of the meeting that would be putting a stressful burden on the clerk's job. She offered an amendment.

CM Bergan asked if allowing people to sign up online and show proof of residency was during the 5:00 to 6:20 timeframe.

CM Murillo voiced she was hoping it would be a longer timeframe. She asked if people could just sign up day of, stating it would be easier to sign up online day of. CM Murillo deferred to the clerk on what feels feasible. She said her intent is to give people as much time and flexibility so they do not have to be here in person to at least sign up.

CM Coombs made her support contingent on the ability of people to sign up online.

CM Bergan asked for clarification from the city attorney if they could not do the online the day of.

P. Schulte explained the process.

CM Murillo agreed that if that makes people more comfortable, they can make that a virtual by 1 p.m.

CM Coombs clarified that people can still sign up in person up until 6:20 p.m. in addition.

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to support the resolution to amend the Rules of Order and Procedure concerning Public Invited to be Heard as amended?

Add - To allow 30 minutes at the beginning of council meeting (as it is currently) and 30 minutes at the end of the meeting with residents being prioritized, with 2 minutes per speaker.

Amend - Strike Section B on the last page to remove ", and all public attendees will be given ten minutes to vacate the premises" and just end at closed to the public.

Voting Aye: (7): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Steve Sundberg, and Amsalu Kassaw

Voting Nay: (2): Ruben Medina, and Crystal Murillo

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

Moved by: Crystal Murillo

Second by: Alison Coombs

Add - Allow online sign up for PITBH by 1 pm on the day of the council meeting

Voting Aye: (6): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Stephanie Hancock, Angela Lawson, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (3): Danielle Jurinsky, Ruben Medina, and Amsalu Kassaw

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

11.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11.b.1 Adoption of the 2024 Model Traffic Code

2024-83 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

11.b.2 Minor Text Updates to City Code Chapter 135 Oil and Gas Manual

2024-84 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

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

12.a Tower Church Rezone – Zoning Map Amendment

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.

2025-01 A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE 4.285 ACRES OF LAND TO MEDIUM DENSITY MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT (R-3), LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF EAST 22ND PLACE AND CATHAY STREET (TOWER CHURCH REZONE)

Stacy Wasinger, Senior Planner, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM Jurinsky said it was brought to her attention that the applicant's agent for the rezoning is a realtor and the Senior City Planner for Denver and has his own realty company. She asked if there was any conflict of interest there.

Staff answered they were not aware of that information, and any conflict would be with city employees or officials for Aurora.

CM Hancock asked if the church was going to manage this or will it be independent.

Staff responded the church will remain on the site, but be managed by Blue Ridge Atlantic Development Company.

MPT Sundberg asked if the developer is responsible for improving the sidewalk in front of the property on 22nd.

Staff responded that there would need to be a site plan review process if the rezone is approved and they would be responsible for meeting all required city improvements included to the right of way and sidewalk.

CM Coombs stated there was a letter delivered to City Council. She asked if that was to be included on the public record for this item. She noted that the letter discussed the sidewalk issue.

Staff answered yes, that it should be part of the record.

MPT Sundberg expressed that for affordable housing, they are seeing more partnerships with churches that have land and it seems to be a mutually beneficial arrangement. He noted that the presentation is tastefully and artfully designed and it is senior living, so there should not be a lot of traffic in and out of there.

CM Murillo said she would not make assumptions about how traffic or driving would be with their senior living facility.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Crystal Murillo

Does the City Council wish to approve the ordinance to amend the city of Aurora zoning map?

Voting Aye: (8): Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

Absent: (2): Curtis Gardner, and Amsalu Kassaw

13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

14. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

15. ANNEXATIONS

16. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

18. REPORTS

18.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman announced his Town Hall will be Saturday, from 2-3:30, at the Central Library. He said the chief will be presenting on his public safety plan, and they will be talking about economic development and redevelopment, and will have a speaker present on the Resource Navigation Center. He directed people to his Facebook page to see his daily activities and what he has done over the last four weeks. He also thanked the firefighters, as they had a crew that went and is on the ground in the Los Angeles area helping out.

18.b Council

CM Coombs thanked everyone who has been patient to wait for their opportunity to speak and is grateful that there will be some time for people to speak at the beginning of the meeting moving forward. She noted that they kicked off the 39th Annual City of Aurora Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration today with an opening celebration. She announced that tomorrow they will be having At the Table with Dr. King virtual program from 6 to 7 p.m., and on Wednesday, they will have and Aurora Speaks Poetry and PROS reading at the Aurora History Museum 6-8 p.m., the Interfaith Breakfast on January 17th, at Quebec Place at Fairmount 8:30-10 a.m., and a Community College of Aurora Film Festival at 6 p.m. also on the 17th, and Saturday, January 18th, there will be a service project 8:30-10:30 at MLK Library followed by a wreath laying ceremony, and youth talent show at the Community College of Aurora Center Tech campus, and Monday, January 20th, the MLK Parade and MLK Jr. African American Heritage Rodeo. She said that she will also be joining Brother Jeff in the statement that No one Should be Hungry Period on January 20th, that prepares and delivers meals, and stated to go to brotherjeff. Com to learn how to volunteer or how to receive a meal.

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.

CM Murillo announced her Town Hall will be January 23rd, at 6 p.m., at Moorhead Recreation Center, where they will have a special presentation from a contractor doing a feasibility study along the Colfax corridor to facilitate growth and development, and she invited everyone to join. She stated she was at the Orthodox Christian Christmas Buffet last weekend and met with another Ward 1 business owner that expressed they want to continue to support our different businesses and expressed frustration that her rent continued to go up. CM Murillo stated she will put her in touch with their small business development center. She has heard that often from small business owners, as many are not the property owners of their buildings.

MPT Sundberg stated that tomorrow there will be a Buildup Task Force in Murphy Creek, at 10 a.m., trying to raise money to improve our bridges and roads in the future. He noted that he, CM Jurinsky, and CM Hancock's husband worked hard at a Soldier's Angels Food Bank event in the cold and met a lot of great people, and gave thanks for the donation of food for that. He said they honored two female veterans in their 90s.

CM Medina announced his Town Hall will be tomorrow, at the Central Library, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., discussing PROS updates and things happening in Ward 3.

CM Hancock stated she had her first town hall of the year and it was really great, where they had a presentation by Emma Knight on homeless services, and working with the Navigation Campus to help find them gainful employment and housing. She voiced they honored two 97-year-old colonels at St. Andrews Independent Living Facility by the National Women's Memorial. She announced her next town hall will be in April.

CM Lawson gave her legislative update. She said the Colorado Legislative Session started last week and the FSIR committee already met and started taking positions on several pieces of legislation that will be reported to the Study Session on January 27th. She listed notable topics for this year, including the budget, public safety, specifically sentencing, and affordable housing. She announced the city will be closing following the legislature, to ensure the interest of the city and our community are represented, and the city will also start identifying projects to present for congressional project funding, which will be brought to the Council in the upcoming weeks. She announced her Town Hall will be at February 8th, at Heather Gardens, from 10 to 11:30, and February 11th, it will be from 6:30 to 8 at Mission Viejo, with topics on getting to know our City Attorney's Office with P. Schulte.

CM Bergan send her thoughts and prayers to the victims of the fires in the Los Angeles area. She announced she will be at the Murphy Creek Clubhouse tomorrow morning from 10 to 11. She stated that she sits on the Infrastructure Task Force, and noted that they kick off that effort tomorrow, and will do public engagement throughout 2025 to get their input on the capital needs and how to fund those necessary infrastructure needs. She announced her Town Hall will be Wednesday, from 6 to 8, at the Southeast Recreation Center, discussing public safety, a presentation by Chief Chamberlain, and will probably have representation from Aurora Fire and Rescue to discuss fires in Colorado.

CM Jurinsky had no report.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR



ATTEST:



KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK