

## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, May 5, 2025

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

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:45 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the May 5, 2025 meeting.

**4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*(All Standing)*

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgement.

**5. EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Mayor Coffman provided an update on the Executive Session, stating litigation was discussed.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6.a April 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

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**7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES**

**8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Amsalu Kassaw

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda as presented?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

**9. 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: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

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

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, Crystal Murillo, and Steve Sundberg

**9.a Motions**

**9.b Planning Matters**

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

**9.c.1 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Youth Member to the Aurora Youth Commission**

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

**9.c.2 Consideration to Remove One (1) Adult Member from the Aurora Youth Commission**

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

**9.c.3 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Human Relations Commission**

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

**10. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

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*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: Alison Coombs

Second by: Ruben Medina

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar with Items 10.a.5 and 10.a.6 removed for discussion?

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

## **10.a Resolutions**

### **10.a.1 Buckley Space Force Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**

**R2025-42** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE FBI, AND BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, COLORADO

Chris Juul, Deputy Chief, Police / Megan Platt, Deputy City Attorney

### **10.a.2 Adams County Cooperative Agreement**

**R2025-43** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT AND ADAMS COUNTY ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Todd Chamberlain, Chief, Police / Megan Platt, Deputy City Attorney

### **10.a.3 38th Avenue Reimbursement Agreement**

**R2025-44** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AND MAJESTIC COMMERCENTER II, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY REGARDING ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION AND COST REIMBURSEMENT

Waiver of reconsideration requested, since the funding for the reimbursement has been approved through the council budgeting process, and the waiver will allow the project to move to construction expeditiously.

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

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**10.a.4 Firefighter Trust Legislation SB24-089**

**R2025-45** A RESOLUTION OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING AND ENTERING INTO THE TRUST AGREEMENT FOR THE COLORADO FIREFIGHTER HEART, CANCER, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Renee Pettinato Mosley, Senior Manager of Risk, Finance / Kim Skaggs, Assistant City Attorney

**10.a.5 Rules of Order and Procedure: Amendment Concerning Council Member Testimony**

**R2025-46** 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 COMMUNICATION

Sponsor: Angela Lawson, Council Member

Liz Rogers, Intergovernmental Relations Manager, General Management / George Koumantakis, Deputy City Attorney

CM Lawson explained that this resolution would put some type of parameter into the rules regarding testimony of council members when they go to legislature to testify. She stated that as the FSIR Chair for the past 9 years, she has seen inconsistencies on how individuals are testifying. She shared that some people on Council may do this because they do not like the chair or what came out of the committee in terms of positions. She said even if a council member does not like the person, decisions, or positions that came from legislative actions, they still need to respect the actual committee. She gave an example that some people have testified and said they were testifying in their individual capacity and on behalf of their constituents and not on behalf of City Council or the legislative committee. CM Lawson asked the city attorney if that makes the line gray of where a council member is crossing the line.

G. Koumantakis responded that if this resolution passes, yes, that would cover what she is concerned about. He expressed that the way Council rules are now, it has the potential to mislead the legislators they are testifying in front of to make them believe that all constituents have concerns about that specific legislation.

She asked how it is presenting if they state they are there in an individual capacity as an Aurora City Council Member representing their ward and urging a certain vote.

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G. Koumantakis answered that if the FSIR Committee and Council as a whole has taken a different position, the Council Member would be in direct violation of the Council rules.

CM Lawson explained that this resolution would add the parameter that when a council member is testifying, they can still say they are speaking in their individual capacity and expressing their own view, but not those of the City Council or their constituents. She added that will give future Chairs and Councils a basic idea of what they can do if they choose to go forward with any kind of censure.

CM Coombs stated that when she goes down to the legislature to take a position on an issue or an item, it has never been about a personal feeling toward the Chair or members of the committee, but often due to opposition to the positions taken. She said it is not personal and apologized if that has ever been the sentiment that has come across. She said she does not oppose all of this, but if she were to use the sample statement, which states that they are not speaking on the views of their constituents, that would be a lie, as she has conversations with constituents that support her same positions. She suggested to strike "or the Council Members constituents" and replace it with "and may not state that they are speaking for their constituents". She offered that as a friendly amendment.

CM Lawson accepted the friendly amendment.

CM Bergan understood what CM Coombs was saying, but she did not think that the word constituents should be used at all when testifying, and should just be testifying on their individual basis. She suggested saying their name and that's it, and that they should not wear their name badges that are given as City Council Members.

Mayor Coffman voiced that the purpose of the resolution is to just have clarifying language that when testifying on a position that is not the City's position or the FSIR Committee, that they clearly identify they are not representing the city. He said they can be silent on the constituent issue, as this is just to have a clean, concise statement that someone reads before testifying.

CM Murillo was not opposed to adding some clarity, but said it is confusing and a slippery slope on the last part. She expressed that she has always been very clear that she is there in an individual capacity, but she wondered if there are some unintended consequences. She stated that it is a fact that she is an Aurora City Council Member, and she does not claim to represent the full opinion of the City Council, but as a representative of her district, whether they say representing their constituents or not, she is concerned with the direction of this. She said her testimony has nothing to do with

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trying to be contrary to the City's position, but if a community group in her community asks her to advocate for a particular bill and it aligns with her beliefs, she will go and do what they ask her to do, so she is worried that this is a gag order and unintended consequences to impede on her ability for freedom of speech and being able to identify herself. She expressed that she does not understand why she cannot say she is speaking in her individual capacity, that she is a city council member, and that she does advocate for a certain position.

CM Lawson responded that she does not think it feels like a gag order. She said she has testified at the legislature before and people have asked her to testify on certain positions and it is not for the city, but she only says, "I am Angela Lawson", and does not go in to say she is a council member. She added that she has testified on behalf of the City because she is the FSIR Chair, but when going down there individually, she has never said she is a council member and only says her name, that she is there in her own capacity, and representing a position on a bill. She voiced that she is not trying to take anyone's rights away, and this is just something that causes a lot of confusion.

P. Schulte explained that under the First Amendment, this is not a gag order. He said that if their testimony and how they introduce themselves gives themselves a little bit more credibility than the average citizen, that is what this resolution is trying to prevent. He stated that a lot of the representatives and senators know who they are, but by stating they are there as an individual and not representing constituents or being a council member will put them on the same level playing field if the City has taken a position that is contrary to their position. He added that from a legal perspective, this is fine the way it is written, because they are not preventing anyone from going down on their individual capacity to speak on something, but you're not representing yourself as a council member.

CM Lawson asked if CM Coombs friendly amendment be a slippery slope.

P. Schulte answered no.

CM Coombs asked with the friendly amendment, wouldn't they also strike "or my constituents" from the example text, as they should not even be saying constituents at all whether it is don't or do.

P. Schulte responded that it would be acceptable. He asked CM Coombs to read into the record what it would say without that.

CM Coombs read "I, Alison Coombs, am speaking in my individual capacity, expressing my own views and not those of the City Council."

P. Schulte said that would accomplish the goal of CM Lawson.

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CM Murillo asked P. Schulte if he stated that the intent was to limit the power of the individual council member.

P. Schulte clarified that what he said was that if they are speaking as a council member, they are potentially giving themselves more credibility than a regular citizen.

CM Murillo responded that she is a council member and was elected, so she does not understand why that would be a problem.

P. Schulte said he understood but he is talking from a legal perspective, not a political perspective.

CM Murillo stated that she is also talking about her obligation and duty to represent her community and to state facts.

P. Schulte responded that every time he has been at the legislature this year, everyone on the Council has been introduced as a council member and that is totally fine, but when someone gets introduced as a council member and they state the recommended sentence in this rule if it passes, they will be in compliance.

CM Murillo voiced she is concerned that if she states she is an Aurora City Council Member, will she be censured or have a gag order to express her opinion on a bill.

CM Lawson expressed that it gives an option, but that does not mean that they can censure them.

CM Murillo said there is a lot of emphasis on individuals, so it feels suspect to think this is more than focusing on specific individuals. She explained that what concerns her is, like they have now, a majority has green lit a lot of questionable actions by colleagues and have not chosen to censure or create any type of punishment for an opinion that they agree with, and are going to drown out the minority perspective. She added that she is very concerned that this will set up a precedent of a slippery slope or could be used as a gag order, which feels highly undemocratic. She supported adding clarity, but she wanted to know if she will be able to state that she is an Aurora City Council Member when giving testimony, as that is why people ask her to give testimony and her opinion, because she is not an average person with perspective and represents constituents.

CM Lawson called for the question to end debate.

CM Murillo asked for a point of order.

CM Coombs called for a point of order.

CM Lawson expressed that she already called to end debate.

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P. Schulte explained that he cannot answer any more questions, as the call for the question has already been made, and CM Lawson was recognized by the mayor, with the motion pending. He said if the motion fails, then he can answer questions, but the motion to end debate stops everything and that is where they are right now, and it is non-debatable.

CM Murillo asked her colleagues to support that so they can get some clarification, as this is embarrassing and disrespectful.

Moved by: Angela Lawson

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to support the approval of the Rules of Order and Procedure: Amendment Concerning Council Member Testimony with the friendly amendment?

Friendly Amendment: Strike on behalf of constituents under Public Communication and example statement

Voting Aye: (8): Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (2): Alison Coombs, and Crystal Murillo

Moved by: Angela Lawson

Second by: Françoise Bergan

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

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

Voting Nay: (2): Alison Coombs, and Crystal Murillo

CM Coombs stated that she voted no to her amendment because an answer was not given on if it was censurable to say they are a member of the city council and there in their individual capacity.

CM Murillo called for a point of order. She asked if yelling and screaming, throwing a temper tantrum part of the rules of the quorum.

#### **10.a.6 Rules of Order and Procedure: Amendment Concerning Virtual Meetings**

**R2025-47** 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 VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS;

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CAMERAS AND RECORDING DEVICES IN THE CHAMBERS; AND ONE PERSON AT THE PODIUM

Sponsor: Françoise Bergan, Council Member

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

CM Bergan offered a motion to amend 10.a.6 to strike Section 2(a) that is regarding the videotaping.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public comment on the agenda related item.

CM Bergan pointed out that whether it is a school board meeting or any other city council meeting that has happened, there has always been one person at the podium, as that is standard and respectful. She voiced that having multiple people is a safety issue. She explained that even though they have police officers in the chamber, they would have to watch multiple people at the podium versus the one person and watching the audience, which is why this is being brought forward. She noted that she did make the exception for a child being accompanied by a parent or an interpreter. She added that no one on this Council or previous Council has ever given notice when they have allowed virtual meetings, and the 24 hours does not make sense, because if someone is sick or their car breaks down within the 24 hours timeframe, they will be in violation of that rule, which is why she asking for it to be removed.

CM Coombs voiced that there was discussion already this evening about the balance of power and what is appropriate, and even with their state legislature at the well, there are multiple people there for support on a regular basis. She said what this is saying is that elected officials are entitled to that show of support physically, but people are not. She stated that a relevant point was made earlier about what the balance of power is between us as elected officials and the people that we represent. She added that it is believed that because we have the power to govern, that means we should have more power than the people who put us here, and that shows priorities, understanding of power, service and leadership, and responsibility being misguided, imbalanced, and pointed in the wrong direction, as there is no reason why the people in our community should not be able to show each other support in the same way elected officials do.

CM Medina said that he is not going to run and hide from community, because he is not afraid of community and is in the community all the time. He added that he is probably one of the only council members that does not have a podium at his council meetings purposefully because of the power dynamics. He explained that

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everything he does is in a circle of chairs so that they are all equal and he allows people to speak whether they agree or disagree with him, as it is about them working collectively together to solve problems.

CM Hancock called for the question.

CM Murillo offered a friendly amendment to add an exception for people with disabilities or that have some sort of impairment that may need assistance.

CM Bergan asked if that would be someone with a physical disability, like someone with a wheelchair that needs assistance.

CM Murillo responded potentially, as there are also people with mental disabilities.

CM Bergan voiced that she would accept the amendment for only physical disabilities, as it would be difficult to discern any other type.

CM Murillo accepted that.

CM Hancock accepted that as well.

CM Coombs asked for clarification that they agreed to physical disability only rather than disability period.

Mayor Coffman answered that is correct.

CM Coombs added that is deeply problematic and probably discriminatory.

P. Schulte asked if they could make it any acceptable disability under the ADA.

CM Murillo expressed that she would support that if the sponsor would.

CM Bergan said no, as she cannot be going into the unknown at this point and agreed to just the friendly amendment of physical disability.

CM Murillo asked if this would apply to the listening sessions since they have removed them from the agenda.

P. Schulte answered that it does apply to the listening sessions and the council meetings.

CM Murillo inquired how a violation would be enforced.

P. Schulte responded that because they have security officers that work for the City that are able to enforce house rules, they could stand by and not let people pass them, and if they get assaulted or pushed away, the police could arrest those individuals.

CM Hancock called for the question.

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Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to support the approval of the resolution for Rules of Order and Procedure: Amendment Concerning Virtual Meetings as amended?

Friendly Amendments:

- Remove Section 2
- Add exception for individuals with physical disabilities

Voting Aye: (6): Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, and Steve Sundberg

Voting Nay: (4): Alison Coombs, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Crystal Murillo

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Françoise Bergan

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

Voting Aye: (8): Mayor Coffman, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Danielle Jurinsky, Amsalu Kassaw, Angela Lawson, and Steve Sundberg

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

#### **10.a.7W2 Dillon Companies, LLC Incentive**

**R2025-48** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO ("CITY") AND DILLON COMPANIES, LLC

Sponsor: Steve Sundberg, Council Member

Tom Oldenburg, Project Manager, Planning and Business Development / Rachel Allen, Deputy City Attorney

#### **10.a.82025 Central Colorado Mountains River Basin Weather Modification Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**

**R2025-49** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE CENTRAL COLORADO MOUNTAINS RIVER BASIN WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM COST-SHARING AGREEMENT

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

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**10.a.9 Fourth Amendment to Drainage and Flood Control  
Improvements Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Cherry  
Creek Restoration at Arapahoe Road**

**R2025-50** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF THE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE, THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, D/B/A MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT, SOUTHEAST METRO STORMWATER AUTHORITY, THE CHERRY CREEK BASIN WATER QUALITY AUTHORITY, AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY REGARDING FINAL DESIGN, RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS FOR CHERRY CREEK RESTORATION AT ARAPAHOE ROAD

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

**10.a.10 Joint Wet Weather and Discharge Permit Activities  
Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**

**R2025-51** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AMONG THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE, THE URBAN DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, D/B/A MILE HIGH FLOOD DISTRICT, THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, AND THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD REGARDING FUNDING OF JOINT WET WEATHER MONITORING AND OTHER COLORADO DISCHARGE PERMIT ACTIVITIES

Todd Brewer, Deputy Director of Water Quality and Treatment, Aurora Water / Ian Best, Assistant City Attorney

**10.b Finalizing of Ordinances**

*Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.*

**11. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

*Public hearings with or without related ordinances.*

**11.a Urban Cottages Jewell - Zoning Map Amendment**

**2025-06** A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 3.91 ACRES OF LAND TO MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT (R-2), LOCATED SOUTH OF THE

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INTERSECTION OF EAST JEWELL AVENUE AND SOUTH JOLIET STREET  
(URBAN COTTAGES ON JEWELL REZONE)

This item was continued to the July 14, 2025 City Council Meeting

Rachid Rabbaa, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

**11.b Amendments to Crestone Peak Resources Operator Agreement**

**R2025-52** A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR REVISIONS TO EXHIBITS A AND B OF THE CRESTONE PEAK RESOURCES OPERATOR AGREEMENT

Jeffrey Moore, Manager, Energy and Environment Division / David Scott, Assistant City Attorney

Outside Speaker: Dan Harrington, Asset Development Manager, Civitas Resources

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the resolution to revise Exhibits A and B of the Crestone Peak Resources Operator Agreement?

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

**11.c Quiktrip 4263 Site Plan Appeal**

A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION WITHOUT RELATED ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL BY THE APPLICANT REGARDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION DECISION OF DENIAL FOR THE QUIKTRIP 4263 SITE PLAN AND CONDITIONAL USE

James Schireman, Planner I, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

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CM Hancock recused herself from any discussion, vote, or anything to do with the Quiktrip resolutions, as she participated in a quasi-judicial meeting where she made her position known.

The applicant asked for a continuance for two months, as they are going to engage more with the community and are working on a couple of modifications to the site plan.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to continue this item to the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Council Meeting?

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

#### **11.d Quiktrip 4263 Conditional Use Appeal**

A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION WITHOUT RELATED ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER AN APPEAL BY THE APPLICANT REGARDING THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION DECISION OF DENIAL FOR THE QUIKTRIP 4263 SITE PLAN AND CONDITIONAL USE

James Schireman, Planner I, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

CM Hancock continued her recusal for this item.

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

The applicant concurred with a continuance to July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to continue this item to the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Council Meeting?

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

CM Coombs asked about ex parte communications. She explained that a constituent called her wanting to talk about Quiktrip, but she did not respond to their call. She asked if she should refrain from doing that.

P. Schulte answered yes.

CM Coombs asked if a council member could attend public meetings as the applicant is engaged in their public meetings to hear the discussion that from those meetings and if they are allowed to be informed of when those meetings happen.

P. Schulte responded they should not attend those meetings because they are outside of this process.

CM Coombs asked if information could be provided to Council in advance about the public meetings and what took place in them so they can question and interrogate in that quasi-judicial capacity.

P. Schulte stated that if they do not get information about meetings that they appellant produces, they will have strong questions for them on July 14th, but it would be their obligation, as there are a variety of ways for them to bring evidence to the Council.

CM Coombs requested that they have robust information about the content of those meetings so they can have that conversation in the proper form.

## **12. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

### **12.a GERP Code Amendments Relating to Short-Term and Long-Term Disability**

**2025-42** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 102 AND 147 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO UPDATES TO THE GENERAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN

Nancy Wishmeyer, Controller, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does the Council support the approval of the GERP Code Amendment Relating to Short-Term and Long-Term Disability?

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

Council took a brief recess.

## **12.b 2025 Spring Supplemental**

**2025-43** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY IN ADDITION TO THOSE APPROPRIATED IN ORDINANCE NOS. 2023-52, 2024-18, AND 2024-80 FOR THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR AND ORDINANCE NO. 2024-72 FOR THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR

Tyler Phillips, Budget Program Manager, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM Gardner asked if the \$5.4 million for the security expansion and fire alarm replacement has been funded or if it would require a transfer from the Capital Projects Fund. He noted he was disappointed that this question was also asked in the Management and Finance Meeting last month and it was not made clear.

Court administrator explained the request is not currently funded. She said there were some possible changes to it, where \$1 million for the fire alarm system was maybe not needed, so that would reduce the request by \$1 million, plus contingency. She noted that this came forward prior when the estimate was lower, and they wanted to bring it forward after they had more final numbers.

CM Coombs asked what the process for approving the rest of the items without that and how they would split that up.

J. Batchelor responded that it is broken down in the supplemental and listed as three projects under court admin, with the design listed as Project 1, ADA as Project 2, and the expansion for security and fire alarms listed as Project 3. So, if Council passes the Appropriation, they would probably see if they could find funding for that in the CPF, but alternatively, Council could say this is a discussion better had as part of the 2026 budget.

CM Gardner stated that to him this seems like more of a conversation they should be having as part of Build Up Aurora, as they are going through a process right now to look at capital needs in the City and public safety is going to be high on that list, and this should be prioritized with all of the other capital needs. He supported removing this item from the Spring Supplemental and pushing the discussion into the Build Up Aurora process.

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CM Bergan asked how much it would be to just fund the fire alarms, as that seems to be a very important aspect to public safety.

J. Batchelor answered that it is something they are continuing to look at. He explained that the fire alarm system in the Courts Building is so old that it is connected to the police headquarters building and history museum, so they are all operating off of one fire alarm system, which does not meet current code. He added they are looking at if they should break out the fire alarm system for all three buildings and have that be a separate project from the expansion for the physical security of the Courts Building, but either way the expansion would probably trigger that requirement.

CM Bergan asked if they could bring the fire alarms to code without having to do the entire expansion.

J. Batchelor responded that they would essentially have two separate projects, one being a fire alarm project for the three buildings, which would be about \$1 million, and the second being a physical expansion of the Courts Building for about \$4.4 million.

CM Bergan expressed she was hoping they could use some potential ARPA dollars for the fire alarms, but it does not sound like that possible.

J. Batchelor explained the ARPA dollars are already fully committed.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the Spring Supplemental Ordinance as amended?

Amendment: Court Administration building expansion capital project 3 removed

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

Voting Nay: (1): Danielle Jurinsky

### **12.c Stanley 98 Street Vacation 3.0**

**2025-44** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15 AS A DUPLICATE OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-13 DUE TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR AND CORRECTING SAID ERROR WITH THIS ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A 16-FOOT WIDE ALLEY RIGHT-OF-WAY, N BLOCK 104 DEDICATED BY THE PLAT OF JOHNSON-HICKAM SUBDIVISION AT RECEPTION NUMBER 480782, SITUATED IN THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 3 SOUTH, RANGE 67 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. LOCATED NORTH OF EAST 25TH AVENUE,

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AND BETWEEN JAMAICA STREET AND JOLIET STREET (STANLEY 98 STREET VACATIONS)

Ariana Muca, Planner III, Planning and Business Development / Lena McClelland, Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to support the approval of the Ordinance that would repeal Ordinance No. 2025-15 and vacate a portion of the 16' wide alley right-of-way between Jamaica St. and Joliet St.?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

#### **12.d Property Acquisitions - Aero 70 Project**

**2025-45** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO EXERCISE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS NECESSARY FOR THE AERO 70 PROJECT

Hector Reynoso, Real Property Services Manager, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to support the approval of the ordinance authorizing the use of eminent domain, pursuant to Aurora City Code Section 12-12, to acquire the necessary property interests for the construction of the Aero 70 Project?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

### **13. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES**

*Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.*

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**14. ANNEXATIONS**

**15. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS**

**16. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**16.a Determination of Final Candidates to be Interviewed for the Planning and Zoning Commission Vacancy**

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

Mayor Coffman suggested going with the top two, Michael Riley and Johnny Watson.

CM Bergan commented that she would normally interview three, but the third person was at least 10 points behind the other two, so she recommended just interviewing the first two.

CM Coombs said that they had found themselves in a position before where they ended up not having any candidates they wanted to appoint based on fewer interviews, so she offered a friendly amendment to add the third candidate.

CM Bergan did not accept the friendly amendment.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Who does Council wish to select as final candidates to interview for the appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission vacancy?

- Johnny Watson
- Michael Riley

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

**16.b Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Future In-Person or Virtual Council Meetings**

Peter Schulte, City Attorney

P. Schulte asked Council if they had any actions that they would like to be taken on the next meeting in regards to In-Person or Virtual Meetings.

CM Bergan noted that there will be a few people missing on the next meeting, so she recommended a virtual meeting.

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CM Coombs asked if that would include removing all public comment or would they provide an avenue for that. She explained if it is only because people are going to be elsewhere, those people could just join virtually.

P. Schulte explained that if Council gave direction for public comment to be on the call-in line, they could do that, but with the motion as it sits right now, there would be no public comment on the 19th, and they would just go right into Study Session.

CM Bergan asked if they could add a call-in line for that particular meeting, as she would be amenable to that.

CM Jurinsky agreed with that.

CM Coombs asked for clarification if that would eliminate the public comment session or would they have that virtually.

P. Schulte explained that the motion on the floor is that the meeting would be virtual, and they would make sure to have the 40-minute public comment session from 6 to 6:40 via the call-in line.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does the Council wish to move the Council Meeting on May 19, 2025 to be Virtual, with call-in line for public comment listening session? (Requires 2/3 vote members present)

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

## **17. REPORTS**

### **17.a Mayor**

The mayor had no report.

### **17.b Council**

CM Coombs thanked Staff for their continued work on the Civic Engagement Academy, where she presented last Wednesday, and appreciated their thoughtful questions. She noted that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Colorado has a program called I Matter, which provides six mental health sessions for all Colorado youth, and information on this can be found at [imattercolorado.org](http://imattercolorado.org). She stated that on May 17th, they have Water-wise Day, AFR, Rotary Fire Safety Field Day, and the opening reception for the Prehistoric Aurora Exhibit at the Aurora History Museum. She put a formal opinion on the record on whether or not the conduct of identifying oneself as a council member without saying "I represent" would be censurable

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conduct. She added that by already saying they do not represent City Council it implies being a member of Council.

P. Schulte responded that each situation is going to be different, but if they call themselves a council member but still state they are representing themselves individually, he thinks that should be fine with the rule passed tonight, but they need to be clear, based on their testimony, that they are representing themselves and not the city in any way, and that would not be censurable.

CM Jurinsky attended the Aurora Economic Development Council's Accelerate trip and met with the Colorado Delegation to lobby on behalf of current frozen federal dollars, as there are several grants they are waiting on funding for and pled the case that we meet requirements of the current administration to receive our federal funding. She got two congressional members committed to helping us get our grant funding released.

CM Murillo announced her May Town Hall, which will be May 22nd, 6-7:30 p.m., at the MLK Library. She acknowledged that today is Cinco De Mayo and wanted to uplift the celebration of that and the role that our Mexican neighbors played in pushing against slavery back in the day, which is one of the biggest outcomes of Cinco De Mayo.

CM Sundberg reported that he recently participated in a couple of neighborhood cleanups, one at Murphy Creek and another along Colfax with Iron Sharp and a couple of police departments. He attended the Freedom Memorial Visitor Center groundbreaking, part of the Triple Creek Trailhead Art and Public Places process, Community College of Aurora luncheon, and the Energy and Environment Symposium in Rifle.

CM Medina attended the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists yesterday, where they had students from 5th grade to high school that are interested in being project managers and looking into how to build affordable housing. He said they had a lot of projects around aerospace and engineering and other types of engineering aspects, and it was well attended. He announced his town hall, which is May 13th, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Central Library.

CM Hancock voiced that she also attended the Accelerate trip, as they advocated for the much-needed infrastructure funding needed in Aurora. She attended the Buckley Regional Military Affairs Council Meeting, where they reaffirmed their commitment to support the brave men and women who serve, along with their families. She noted that one of the biggest takeaways they got from the congressional delegation in DC was their support for the Space Force Guard and Reserve Units that are much needed. She was present at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Colorado Freedom Memorial Project. She said Dr. Brownlee and his remarkable team played a key role in the CCA College Beyond Walls Luncheon, and they are expanding out into a partnership with Commerce City. She expressed that the City of Aurora is doing many great things behind the scenes and in the public to ensure the city is the gold standard for what happens in communities across the country. She added that

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people can download the Aurora Public Library Magazine online, as there are amazing opportunities for young people in it.

CM Lawson thanked everyone that attended and participated in her last town hall that was on Drug Takeback Awareness Day, where they had a lot of people that brought their unused medications. She announced her next town hall is May 13th, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Central Rec Center, and there will be another one on May 24th, at 10 a.m., at Heather Gardens.

CM Bergan stated she also attended the Accelerate Colorado Business Development trip, where they met with their congressional delegation, and got to meet with Congressman Crow, Congressman Neguse, Congressman Evans, Congresswoman Boebert, Congresswoman Pettersen, and Congressman Jeff Hurd, Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennett. She said they had good meetings with different departments, including Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, and Intergovernmental Affairs, and received insight from some news organizations. She also attended the Infrastructure Task Force Meeting, Fitzsimmons Redevelopment Authority, and the E-470 Roadway Committee Meeting.

CM Kassaw did not have a report. CM Gardner was absent.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR



ATTEST:



KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

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