

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, June 23, 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	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Coffman reconvened the regular meeting of the City Council at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the June 23, 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 contract negotiations were discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a June 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2025 meeting?

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.

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

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

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: Curtis Gardner

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) Member to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals

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

9.c.2 Consideration to Reappoint Three (3) Members and Appoint One (1) Member to the Metro Water Recovery District Board of Directors

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

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.

10. 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: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

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

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 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Aurora Urban Renewal Authority (AURA) Reimbursement of a Portion of City Expenses for the I-70 and Picadilly Interchange Project

R2025-66 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND THE AURORA URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN REIMBURSEMENT OF THE I-70 AND PICADILLY INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS (HORIZON PLAN AREA)

Jennifer Orozco, Project Manager, Planning and Business Development / Rachel Allen, Deputy City Attorney

10.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

Mayor Coffman read the decorum announcement.

11.a First Creek Detention Facility Upstream of I-70 – Zoning Map Amendment

2025-60 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, INITIALLY ZONING FOUR CONTIGUOUS PARCELS OF LAND MEASURING 56.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED SOUTH OF I-70 AND COLFAX AND ABOUT HALF A MILE EAST OF E-470 TO MIXED-USE REGIONAL DISTRICT AND AMENDING THE ZONING

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MAP ACCORDINGLY (THE FIRST CREEK DETENTION FACILITY ANNEXATION ZONING MAP AMENDMENT)

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

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does the City Council wish to support the ordinance to a zoning map amendment for the initial zoning of 56.5 acres to Mixed Use – Regional District (MU-R) for the First Creek Detention Facility Upstream of I-70 Zoning Map Amendment?

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.b Fitzsimons Innovation Community General Development Plan Amendment No. 16

2025-61 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO AMEND THE FITZSIMONS GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO ALLOW FOR INCREASED RESIDENTIAL USES (FITZSIMONS GDP AMENDMENT #16)

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

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

CM Murillo commented that there were promising components about this, and the multimodal aspect was encouraging especially near the Greenway. She had reservations that there was no cap on the height of the building or density and asked what other parts of the city had that same allowance.

Staff responded that the existing approved GDP does not have a height limit, which is generally to encourage density and allow density as much as the

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market will permit, and the highest proposal they have seen was in the realm of 10 to 12 stories. She noted that high rise residential is pretty rare in Aurora, but is a market that is growing, and due to the limited space in the land of the GDP area, they encourage to build up and reserve lands for other things like drainage facilities, amenities, plaza spaces, and parks. She said there are other areas in the city that have a lot of leverage and flexibility and the Transit Oriented Development Corps also does not have a max.

CM Murillo mentioned that one of her interests and a big need in the area is preserving accessibility from an affordability standpoint. She recognized this was not the phase of the project where they dig into that, but it is at the forefront of her mind, and she hopes that if they increase the density allowance by that much, that they really think about mixed use and incorporate accessibility that way.

CM Coombs hoped to hear more about connection to the surrounding community outside of the campus, as they are aware of what happens when highly developed research facilities and communities exist and come into underinvested neighborhoods without consideration of what the relationship is. She said they are also aware there has been efforts over time between Anschutz and Fitzsimmons and the surrounding community and all of them have not been accepted. She expressed they have also had conversations about the boundaries of the campus for a while and how to soften boundaries of the campus and create opportunity of a relationship with the neighborhood. She supported this from a general development standpoint, but wanted to hear about the thoughts and plans in building that relationship.

Staff expressed that campuses like this often build inside and focus in, but they are shifting that with this plan by focusing externally and ensuring that the boundaries do not feel like boundaries but like a neighborhood and community. She stated they are working with Aurora Public Schools on how to ensure students in high schools are working on the campus through paid internships so they can get experience and also see themselves here. She said they discussed that they have a lot of contracts that come onto the campus in a range of services, but she felt they could do a better job of ensuring the community gets an opportunity to have some of those contracts.

Mayor Coffman stated that the University of Colorado on the Anschutz Campus has outreach into the community that has been ongoing that they have been financing.

CM Coombs noted that some of those efforts are the ones she was talking about that have not been entirely effective, but she felt they could do better, and it sounds like they are trying to.

CM Murillo expressed that she would be curious to know at a later time what the commitment to community looks like and what kind of leadership they can plan in steering the community campus partnership, as it seems that only

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CU is putting money towards the economic benefit, and during COVID there were threats to completely back away from those initiatives. She hoped the FRA can take that leadership moving forward.

CM Bergan applauded Kelly, her staff, the architects, and everyone else in terms of all the work they put into this fantastic master plan that will incorporate much more needed housing and park improvements. She was excited that this was coming to fruition and that they would see more expansion of their bioscience campus, bringing more employment, and having housing available for the people that work on campus.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does the City Council wish to support an ordinance for a map and text change (zoning map amendment) to the Fitzsimons Innovation Community General Development Plan Amendment No. 16. with the condition that the remaining technical corrections be made prior to recordation of the amended GDP?

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 Porteos Business Improvement District (BID) Property Exclusion

2025-51 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXCLUDING CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PORTEOS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Michael Kerrigan, Special District Administrator, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

CM Coombs commented that Council is accountable to the people that own that land, and it is their responsibility when someone says they do not want to be a part of this funding mechanism where they have leveraged certain fees to be a part of it, and it is our responsibility also listen to them, as we do not force people to be in business improvement districts. She added that BIDs are not accountability tools, they're financing tools.

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Moved by: Steve Sundberg

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does the Council wish to support the ordinance of the Porteos Business Improvement District (BID) Property Exclusion?

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.d Aurora Commerce Center (ACC) Metropolitan District Service Plan Amendment

R2025-67 A PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED SERVICE PLAN FOR ACC METROPOLITAN DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO AND THE DISTRICT

Michael Kerrigan, Special District Administrator, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Assistant City Attorney

Mayor Coffman opened the public hearing.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman closed the public hearing.

CM Coombs stated that she saw there was \$71 million of maximum taxing authority, but did not see the number of homes expected to be constructed. She asked if that information was available.

Staff answered yes. He said this was a commercial only metro district and there's a total of four buildings associated with the project.

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does Council wish to support the resolution of the Aurora Commerce Center (ACC) Metropolitan District Service Plan Amendment?

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

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12. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

12.a Lease - Purchase Certificates of Participation (COP) Financing – Animal Shelter

2025-52 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ANIMAL SHELTER PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF A LEASE-PURCHASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN AURORA CAPITAL LEASING CORPORATION, AS LESSOR, AND THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AS LESSEE; AUTHORIZING OFFICIALS OF THE CITY TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE TRANSACTIONS CONTEMPLATED HEREBY; AND RELATED MATTERS

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

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Murillo asked staff to comment on some of the issues that were raised around budget, land, location, etc.

Staff stated that these are budget expenses but was not able to speak to the land or the facility, as she was strictly there to address the ordinance.

J. Prosser added that the land being utilized for the project was a piece of city owned and had been slated for extension services in the future, so that is what was being put on the land with the new animal shelter.

CM Murillo asked where it is currently located.

J. Prosser answered it is in the backup south and east of the current shelter facility, and it is vacant land that is zoned industrial.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Alison Coombs

Does the Council wish to support the ordinance of the Lease - Purchase Certificates of Participation (COP) Financing - Animal Shelter?

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.b DUAL LISTING: Cabaret License Modifications

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2025-53 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 6-136, 6-137, 6-142, 6-143, 6-145, 6-171 AND 6-172 RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF CABARETS

Sponsor: Danielle Jurinsky, Council Member

Trevor Vaughn, Manager of Licensing, Finance / Tim Joyce, Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Jurinsky offered an amendment to add the language that these businesses are required to have insurance at the direction of City Attorney Schulte, so they do not have to vote on this a third time.

CM Coombs supported the amendment and amending on the floor, but did not support both dual listing and amending from the floor. She stated that she would be voting no, because that represented pushing things through without the opportunity to fully review something that accurately reflected what they are voting on. She added that dual listings should be reserved for when there was an emergent or urgent situation or something that will not change policy.

Mayor Coffman asked the city attorney if there were any technical issues.

P. Schulte answered no and explained that there would be a final publication before the next meeting, and that it would be published as amended to be on the agenda for the second and final reading, and it would be legal.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does the Council wish to support the ordinance of the Cabaret License Modifications as amended?

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

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

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

Amendment:

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does Council wish to approve the following amendments:

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Section 6 - For the term of the cabaret license maintain liability insurance, or other documentation indicating financial responsibility, indicating the license has Liquor Liability insurance or General Liability Insurance including a Liquor Liability endorsement with limits of coverage as determined by the Finance Director.

Section 7 - Certificate of Insurance, or other documentation indicating financial responsibility, indicating the applicant has Liquor Liability insurance or General Liability insurance including a Liquor Liability endorsement with limits of coverage as determined by the Finance Director.

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.c Amendments to the City Charter Concerning Non-Substantive Updates to Create Gender Neutrality

2025-54 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 2-2, 3-10, 3-14, 3-15, 3-16, 3-17, 5-2, 6-5, 7-4, 8-2, 10-1, 10-5, 10-8, 11-2, 11-3, 12-7, 14-9, AND 15-9 OF THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING NON-SUBSTANTIVE UPDATES TO THE CITY CHARTER TO CREATE GENDER NEUTRALITY

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Coombs commented that this talked a lot about recognizing nonbinary people, which is important, and it also did not assume people in leadership positions in the city were men, which is also important. She urged a yes vote.

CM Murillo voiced her support for this, as language does matter and impacts people's sense of belonging within our organization.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Danielle Jurinsky

Does the Council wish to support the Amendments to the City Charter Concerning Non-Substantive Updates to Create Gender Neutrality?

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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 Amendments to the City Charter Concerning Filling City Council Vacancies Based on the Timing of the Vacancy

2025-55 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 3-7 OF THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING FILLING CITY COUNCIL VACANCIES BASED ON THE TIMING OF THE VACANCY

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Hancock asked for clarification that this is different than what happened at the State Capitol, where people ran for elections, resigned, and appointed a successor to fill, their position, and that we are being more fair here with this revision stating that we would be able to have an election if it was more than the days prescribed.

P. Schulte expressed that as the charter reads today, if someone played musical chairs and went to another elected office, the Council would be able to appoint a new council member, but this puts limitations to that where an election is necessary depending on the time period. He noted that the election would only not be necessary if it was within the 90 days of a year due to the elections, but the person would still have to run in the next election whether their seat is up or not.

CM Coombs commented not to misunderstand that this body has operated in that manner described of appointing their replacements since roughly 1965, and numerous times someone resigned when they were about to term out and appointed a replacement of someone who lost a prior election.

CM Jurinsky called for point of order.

CM Murillo asked if this ordinance was brought by council members or staff.

P. Schulte answered that all six of the charter amendments were drafted by himself and J. Batchelor. He stated they had conversations with several council members, but none of these were sponsored by any council members. He clarified that the question was whether or not they want to pass the ordinance and place it on the ballot for the voters in November.

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CM Murillo expressed this was not out of the kindness or fairness on behalf of any council member wanting to self-regulate. She asked if any council member could have brought his forward.

P. Schulte responded yes, any of the amendments could have been.

CM Murillo inquired if it was true that the appointment process at the State Legislature was the same for any party where there was a vacancy, that they would create a vacancy committee to appoint a replacement only one party would be regulated to.

P. Schulte answered correct, as there is a committee at the state level by the party, and under our charter it is a majority. He added that if a democratic legislature resigns, it would be the democratic committee that would select. He noted that they are nonpartisan at the City Council.

CM Murillo stated that it is a vacancy committee from that party, not the elected officials, and the Republic party would do the same.

CM Bergan voiced that the seat they are talking about is bipartisan and it is adding transparency, as they will be able to go to a special election if the vacancy is longer than the period they currently have in their charter. She commented that this goes to the voters and is put on the ballot for them to decide. She also pointed out that CM Gardner talked to her about this months ago and probably would have sponsored it if it had not come as a bundle with the charter amendments from staff.

CM Coombs stated that a very similar item to this was proposed after the debacle with CM Johnston's vacancy and was not supported by Council at that time, so they had the opportunity to do this and never would have had the vacancy for CM Zvonek's seat, and that was because people felt they could have the majority to appoint who they wanted as they had previously. She said partisanship is baked into the way their nonpartisan elections operate and that will continue; however, she felt this was a move they ought to make, as people should be voting for their representatives.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does the Council wish to support the Amendments to the City Charter Concerning Filling City Council Vacancies Based on the Timing of the Vacancy?

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

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.

12.e Amendment to the City Charter Concerning the Residency Requirement for the City Manager

2025-56 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 7-1 OF THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE CITY MANAGER

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Coombs voiced that the reasons P. Schulte presented were worth considering but felt it should also be a matter for the voters to determine if the leveling should happen, and Charter changes result in the voters giving us that type of direction. She felt there were people in the city concerned about the idea that the city manager would not live in the city.

CM Bergan asked if the fire chief and police chief currently does not have to live in the city. She also agreed that it needed to go to the voters.

P. Schulte answered correct, unless the Council wanted to make that a condition of a contract, but it would not be Charter required.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does the Council wish to support the Amendment to the City Charter Concerning the Residency Requirement for the City Manager?

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.f Amendment to the City Charter Concerning Elective Public Office

2025-57 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3-3 OF THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

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 Coombs expressed that this struck her as very problematic, as in the whereas clause, it says "Elected officials are accountable to voters and subject to ethical and legal standards that govern conflicts of interest and the responsible exercise of public duties." She said it would be nearly impossible to uphold those ethical and legal responsibilities as a member of this body and the state legislature, because that person would be called on to vote on positions taken regarding state legislation, to be present in meetings at the state legislature that would likely overlap with their obligations and requirements to be here, and could create legal conflicts of interest. She did not see how someone could responsibly be a member of this body and the state legislature. She shared that she did not support this and did not think the voters would get the information they need to understand those conflicts.

Mayor Coffman expressed that as a former state legislator, the status of conduct or difference from that of being state employee and the way it defines conflict of interest is financial.

CM Murillo added that she knew this was allowed in other places, but she could not support it, as she is for trying to disperse power and create more opportunities for people to have power and weigh in on these important positions, and the ability to consolidate one person with that amount of power did not sit right with her.

CM Hancock pointed out that anyone that runs for the legislature had to be elected by the people in order to be in the state legislature, so it is not really a consolidation or a power grab.

P. Schulte stated that is what other jurisdictions do, and in Aurora, the council member spots are considered part-time, so that is how it rectifies with the Colorado Constitution. He clarified that the mayor could not run for a state house seat, but it would be left up to the voters if they wanted to elect one of the council members to the state legislature.

CM Coombs voiced she knew a number of situations with the state legislature currently where people who ran and were council members, when people voted for them, they assumed they were not going to keep staying in their old seat. She said that was not always clear to voters when they made that decision to just stick around, and most people think you can only hold one office at a time.

CM Bergan commented that this would also be for the school board, not just the state legislature, which could be on different nights than council meetings and did not require that much time either.

P. Schulte responded that unless there was something in the governing body of the school board that did not allow them to hold another elective office that is correct, but city council members serving on school boards happens a lot, as they are both considered part-time positions.

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Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does the Council support the Amendment to the City Charter Concerning Elective Public Office?

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

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

12.g Amendment of the City Charter Establishing the Salaries of the Mayor and City Council Members

2025-58 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3-6 OF THE CITY CHARTER ESTABLISHING THE SALARIES OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS BASED ON THE SALARY OF AN ARAPAHOE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman supported the increase for the council members, but not for himself, as he felt his pay was adequate as the full-time mayor. He explained there is a formula where his pay gets adjusted up every year.

P. Schulte responded that is a cost-of-living increase.

J. Batchelor added that he gets the lesser of what employees get in terms of their raise or inflation, and typically over-time, that essentially ratchets down and does not generally keep up with inflation.

P. Schulte noted that if people want to run for council later, this will make less of a barrier for those who have jobs that want to get compensated for their time, especially the mayor.

CM Lawson felt this would bring new people because right now people have to have a couple jobs. She noted that it would not benefit people like her, as she was going to be termed, but it would benefit future council members. She stated that would get more people to run for council, as there would be more of a salary and may not have to work another job if they did not want to.

P. Schulte voiced that this would go into effect January 1st of next year.

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CM Bergan stated that she voted no the last time a pay raise was brought up, as her concern was that the people who did have another job would not be able to do Council as well. She said she works sometimes 40-50 hours a week, and has very good attendance on all her outside boards and meets with staffers, developers, and businesses for meetings. She felt that some people did not deserve a raise, but some do and they will let the voters decide.

CM Murillo asked people to think about not necessarily this group of individuals, as the Council changes every two years. She said that when she thinks about access and who is able to run from a financial standpoint, she felt they should increase salaries. She stated that they have enough work and are a large enough city to do that, and if this is an opportunity to not be a self-serving way to increase salaries and make it more accessible, she was for that. She added that it makes sense regardless of people's opinions about specific individuals, and is a step in making it more accessible and supporting working class people. She asked if they are getting paid half of what county commissioners, what are they getting paid.

P. Schulte answered that \$130,000 is the full-time salary, so it would be about \$65,000 a year.

CM Coombs reiterated that when they make rules, they should not be about individuals, but the general principle and general operation and what they think is a good operational procedure. She believed it was a good operational procedure to make it possible for people interested in this work to do it. She pointed out that the legislative body for this city accounts for less than 1% of the budget and would still account for less than 1% of the budget with this change. She said the most appealing thing about this is that it takes it out of their hands and sets it so that they do not have to keep coming back to it.

CM Bergan stated that the voters will decide but some rules should be put in place to hold people accountable to actual work if this does pass, as there are people that hardly go to outside meetings and do not respond to constituents.

CM Murillo pointed out that on this agenda item, when the mayor asked for questions, people gave statements and not questions, but he did not correct them in the way CM Coombs was cut off at the last opportunity, where several council members interjected and rudely interrupted. She wanted to make it clear that they should be consistent moving forward and not biased in how they are running meetings.

Mayor Coffman responded that he asked for discussion after the motion.

CM Jurinsky called for the question.

CM Murillo said he did not cut people off during the question section when they did not have a question but did that to CM Coombs earlier.

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CM Coombs asked the city attorney if a person can make a motion while another person has the floor.

P. Schulte answered no.

CM Jurinsky called for the question.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does the Council support the Amendment of the City Charter Establishing the Salaries of the Mayor and City Council Members?

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

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Mayor Coffman

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

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

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

12.h A Proposed Amendment to Article 3-5 of the City Charter Clarifying that the Ward and At-Large Positions are Separate Offices like the Mayor Regarding Term Limits

2025-59 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT THE REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 3-5 OF THE CITY CHARTER SEPARATING TERM LIMITS FOR WARD AND AT-LARGE CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS AND PERMITTING CONSECUTIVE SERVICE IN BOTH POSITIONS

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Coombs asked how this would affect a situation when a council member runs for a ward, then at-large, switches back to a ward, and then back to at-

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large since it is consecutive. She asked if they could just have no term limits ever in that scenario.

P. Schulte answered that it could, but they would have to be elected each time they did that, and with incumbency, sometimes it is more specific to the particular office than the name.

CM Coombs voiced that currently most instances of term limits are lifetime term limits, not consecutive term limits, and people cannot serve 36 years across three different offices, so this way people would not only be able to serve 36 years but could forever if someone just switches back and forth because it is consecutive.

P. Schulte responded that it is the same way with the Mayor, if someone wanted to run for mayor, and then run for at-large, run for mayor, and then run for at-large, they could do that under the current charter.

Mayor Coffman shared that it is the same way in the state legislature.

CM Coombs noted that those are lifetime term limits and not consecutive, so they could only do 8, and then 8, and that's it.

Mayor Coffman commented that he did not think that was true, as he was in the state legislature and knew people who did that.

CM Murillo said that she could not support this in good conscience, as one person should not hold office for that long especially in the same body.

CM Coombs shared that Mayor Coffman was right, that it is consecutive.

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Amsalu Kassaw

Does the Council support the proposed Amendment to Article 3-5 of the City Charter Clarifying that the Ward and At-Large Positions are Separate Offices like the Mayor Regarding Term Limits?

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

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

13. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

14. ANNEXATIONS

15. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

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16. GENERAL BUSINESS

16.a Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Planning and Zoning Commission

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

Moved by: Danielle Jurinsky

Second by: Mayor Coffman

Does council wish to appoint Michael Riley to the Planning and Zoning Commission?

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

Mayor Coffman announced his town hall meeting will be July 19th, 2 to 3:30 p.m., at the Aurora Central Library. He explained what happened tonight in this meeting, which is that under the prior city attorney, if there was a threat of litigation from an officer involved shooting, irrespective of whether the city was at fault or not, there tended to be a check written on the basis of saying if they had to defend it, it would cost a certain amount of money to go to court to make it go away. He said our city attorney now, under the request of the majority of council, said they are not going to settle cases that do not have merit, and this officer involved shooting does not have merit. He voiced that the officer was cleared, as required under state law by an entity outside of Aurora and was acquitted by a grand jury. He expressed they are being harassed every single meeting and it will only go away when they write a check, but his position of mayor is to not write a check.

17.b Council

CM Jurinsky echoed Mayor Coffman's statements and added that a lot of the speakers do not live in Aurora and want to come on and talk about the Council's behavior and decorum, when they have engaged in behavior of prostitution, shooting off guns, child endangerment and child abuse, and are not even able to take a position after being elected to a seat. She added that some of them have been accused of pedophilia, evicted from homes, and owe tens of thousands of dollars, and they are trying to take over the city council meetings. She expressed that the Council is not scared of them, will stand their ground, stand up to every lawsuit, and will handle it however they need to. She stated there will be no lawsuit from the Jor'Dell Richardson family, as they had no case and no standing, and they are prepared to fight whatever comes in regard to Kylin Lewis. She stated that the

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disruptions will continue, but she assured the City of Aurora that the Council is a solid team ready to fight, and these people do not speak for or represent the City.

CM Coombs voiced that this is completely unhinged and she could not believe they are in a meeting of the City Council of the City of Aurora where members of the public have come to speak to them and we are raising claims about their legal and debt status and personally attacking them. She said when she came as a member of the public to speak to Council previously, even when she was annoying and talked about the same thing over and over, there were some council members who had things to say about that, but Mayor Steve Hogan never would have ever acted in that manner toward the members of the public who came to speak, and she could not believe that is happening in this Council right now. She expressed that people have the right to be heard and she has listened to a variety of people that have come to Council having something to say to her, and she did not do this. She stated that her sincere hope is that every person in this meeting, every member of the Council, every person in the city, and the families of Kilyn Lewis and Jor'Dell Richardson be free from suffering and the causes of suffering.

CM Kassaw reported that he attended Global Fest, met a lot of diverse people, and it was very nice, and he also attended a great Juneteenth celebration in Aurora.

CM Murillo said happy Global Fest to those that attended. She shared that she is the City Council Appointee for the Aurora Sister Cities Board, and they welcomed a delegation from Nepal and are exploring a potential future sister city. She noted that there are a lot of active residents interested in exploring the idea of a sister city in Nepal. The Nepalese Ambassador from Washington D.C. joined them for lunch and at Global Fest, and they heard about stories from the Nepalese delegation. She shared that the Havanna Bid representatives were there and shared that a lot of the Nepalese businesses went out of business after the pandemic, and she hoped to continue to explore that.

MPT Sundberg expressed that with the ever-changing tactics of the agitators, one of their tactics was demanding that we must reach out to the family, so he did that. He said he tried to contact Kilyn Lewis' brother but no one would give him the phone number, so they are inauthentic. He shamed CM Coombs for perpetuating division in the city and bringing nothing of unity to the City. He noted the tactics do nothing for the name and the honor of Kilyn Lewis.

CM Hancock reported that she visited the Centennial House yesterday in Ward 1, for a block party, and she met some really nice people. She noted that it has gone through several changes over the course of a year, and it is free to see. She expressed that despite the name-calling, bickering, and shenanigans of this evening, the Council is committed to working for the City constituents, and they are very accessible. She added that they understand what this job is and that not everyone likes us or likes it, but they do not understand all the work that goes into what we do, but the people she supports, defends, and works for in Ward 4 know that and

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appreciate it. She announced her next town hall will be the second week of July at Noonan's.

CM Lawson shared that she had a new appointee for the Citizen Advisory Budget Committee, Jamie Geary, who congratulated and looking forward to working with.

CM Bergan voiced that they did not change the rules because of anyone's speech, and will listen to anyone, including non-residents, but they need to follow the rules. She said this group refuses to follow the rules and their intentional disruptions are why they changed the rules. She reported that she had staff calls and staff meetings, three development meetings, a Planning and Economic Development Policy Committee, ICSC recap meeting with CM Lawson, E-470 Executive Board Meeting and Regular Board Meeting, Water Policy Meeting, Infrastructure Prep Meeting, and the Region 9 Opioid Governance Meeting. She attended the Southlands Wine Walk and provided a tour to a constituent that won a bid at an elementary school.

CM Medina had no report. CM Gardner was absent for reports.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.



MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR



ATTEST:



KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

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