

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, August 10, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Coffman	Gianina Horton
	Robert Andrews	Alli Jackson
	Françoise Bergan	Angela Lawson
	Alison Coombs	Ruben Medina
	Curtis Gardner	Amy Wiles
	Stephanie Hancock	

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **INVOCATION/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Coffman led in prayer for the August 10, 2026 meeting.

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(All Standing)

Mayor Coffman read a land acknowledgment.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION UPDATE**

None.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6.a July 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Angela Lawson

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026 meeting?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Absent: (1): Alli Jackson

7. **PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES**

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.

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MPT Coombs asked to remove Item 13.a. from the agenda, as she had some amendments to the resolution regarding the Data Center Moratorium that would require significant modifications to the ordinance.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amy Wiles

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda with Item 13.a. removed from the agenda?

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Absent: (1): Alli Jackson

9. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

Council heard public comment on non-agenda related matters.

[Recess]

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: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Alison Coombs

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

Voting Aye: (10): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Absent: (1): Alli Jackson

10.a Motions

10.b Planning Matters

10.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

10.c.1 Consideration to Appoint Two (2) Members and Reappoint One (1) Member to the Aurora Youth Commission

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Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.2 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

10.c.3 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Member to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Board

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Clerk

11. CONSENT CALENDAR - RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

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

MPT Coombs asked if they have clarification on compliance with the state legislative and collection and retention of data for the speed camera contract.

J. Batchelor responded one of the big changes in the state law is that prior automated vehicle identification systems include a picture of the driver and a defense that could be made that someone was not the driver, but now that is no longer allowed. He noted Aurora has already made that change.

P. Schulte added this is separate from the flock system and license plate readers and does not feed into that information, as speed cameras are only to issue citations.

MPT Coombs inquired if that data is only retained for the purposes of the citation and not used in any AI data systems, machine learning systems, or any other purposes aside from the service of the citation.

P. Schulte answered correct, the police do not even access to search that data at all.

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Angela Lawson

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

Voting Aye: (10): Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Aurora Regional Navigation Campus

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.

R2026-93 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY METRICS AND PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS FOR THE AURORA REGIONAL NAVIGATION CAMPUS

Sponsor: Gianina Horton, Council Member

Stephanie Keiper, Manager of Homelessness and Behavioral Health, Housing and Community Services / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda-related item.

11.a.2 Naming Recommendation for the Community Park Surrounding Central Recreation Center

R2026-94 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF NAMING A COMMUNITY PARK SURROUNDING THE CENTRAL RECREATION CENTER AS "SASQUATCH PARK."

Scott Hammons, Planner, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.3 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Inspiration Trail Connection Grant Project

R2026- 95 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA AND ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO, FOR THE INSPIRATION TRAIL CONNECTION GRANT PROJECT

Waiver of consideration is requested because Arapahoe County wants the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) executed within 60 days of the notice of award

Nicole Ankeney, Manager of Planning, Design and Construction, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.4 Amendment to the Strontia Springs Refurbishment Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

R2026-96 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS UTILITY ENTERPRISE AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS BOARD OF WATER

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.

COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE STRONTIA SPRINGS DAM OUTLET
WORKS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Mathew Allsopp, Source of Supply Superintendent, Aurora Water / Ian
Best, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.5 Data Center Moratorium

R2026-97 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
AURORA, COLORADO, DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT
DATA CENTER REGULATIONS

Sponsor: Amy Wiles, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Rachel Allen, Deputy City Attorney

P. Schulte explained 11.a.5 and 11.a.6 are in conflict, so this is not a
situation where both resolutions should pass.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda-related item.

CM Wiles expressed when she announced bringing this resolution
forward, she was told she must be anti-business, but the resolution is
not anti-business. She said it's pro responsible business and
community, as she wants businesses to come to Aurora, as well
invest, create jobs, build and success in Aurora, but the business
should also be good partners for residents. She said they have a
responsibility to ensure regulations keep up with the changing
landscape of the world, and they have areas of the city to easily
accommodate them once rules are established, so there is no reason
to put them in the middle of neighbors. She noted there is a meeting
next week to continue the conversation on what data centers can do to
be better partners of the community. She added responsible
businesses should not be afraid of responsible standards and
responsible government should not be afraid to set those standards.
She noted a study in 2026 showed that homes within a quarter mile to
a half mile of these centers have the potential to lose 5 to 7% of their
value, and a temporary pause allows them to learn from other
communities mistakes and their successes. She thanked Danielle for
proactively reaching out to her regarding the data center she
represents, the development partners who asked questions and their
desire to do right and get correct information, and the hundreds of
residents who reached out with feedback and support. CM Wiles
explained this resolution is temporary, does not affect active
development, not anti-business or anti-progress, and is simply an ask
to get things right before they get too far down the road.

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

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a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.*

CM Horton asked what benefits they have brought to the city jobwise or any economic contributions.

J. Batchelor responded typically they represent large capital investments, so the property tax entities see significant property tax revenue and jobs created during construction and operations. He added the City of Aurora also sees significant sales and use tax from these kind of facilities.

CM Lawson asked how long the data center in Ward 4 has been there and how much revenue has that brought to the city.

J. Batchelor answered decades and brought in significant revenue from property taxes and used taxes.

CM Lawson inquired if Aurora has received \$24.3 million in tax revenue from the data centers they have had since 2021.

J. Batchelor responded they have received approximately \$24 million from the data centers in Aurora directly or from technology vendors associated.

CM Lawson stated they have not heard anything about that particular data center since it has been in Ward 4, which is in a community and neighborhood area.

CM Hancock heard at the last town hall that Excel Energy cannot serve large load customers before 2021. She asked for confirmation on that.

J. Batchelor responded they have had communication with them that due to the regulatory process they're under, large scale and hyper scale power for data centers is very unlikely until 2031 or beyond.

CM Hancock wanted to understand what staff was going to be able to accomplish in 6 months, what deficiencies the UDO is not already addressing, why can they not work these things while the UDO remains in effect, and what is going to happen after this is done.

J. Batchelor answered they are going to bring forward ordinances for Council's consideration around explicitly outlawing evaporative cooling, look at the land use regulations, and look at anything else identified.

CM Hancock committed that Aurora Water already indicated they would not approve any evaporative cooling systems.

J. Batchelor responded right now that the code is not specific to the cooling methodology. He said they believe they have effectively outlawed evaporative cooling through the Large Water User Guide, but are supportive of an ordinance coming forward to officially ban it.

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P. Schulte added there is no timeline for the moratorium, and if passed, it would direct the City Manager and city staff to have ordinances requested through stakeholders to come be evaluated by Council so they can go into effect. He noted there will not be the ability for the City Manager to accept an application well beyond this resolution's effective date due to the limitations with Xcel and water.

CM Wiles clarified the difference in the data center in Ward 4 and the data centers being built now is the newer ones are far larger, use more energy, and take up a lot more land space. She added the water ordinance is already done and should come forward soon, and she and J. Batchelor have been working on the neighborhood buffer.

CM Gardner inquired if the QTS data center or the landscape requirements around that use more water.

M. Brown answered QTS uses significantly more water for outdoor landscaping than for indoor process, and any new data center right now, under the Large Water User Guide, is regulated tightly on water use for process, and they have the landscaping standards from the Water Conservation Ordinance.

CM Gardner shared he is working on an ordinance to limit and/or restrict any landscaping utilizing water in industrial zoned areas. He asked for clarification they do not currently allow use by right data centers in residential zone districts.

J. Batchelor clarified that is correct.

MPT Coombs asked if they have any information about the current data centers regarding ambient heat impacts.

J. Batchelor answered not that he is aware of.

MPT Coombs inquired if any of the districts where data centers are permitted adjacent to residential zone districts with current or future planned residential development.

J. Batchelor responded yes, there are several areas of the use by right districts that abut residentially zoned properties.

MPT Coombs supported the work CM Wiles has done and the ordinance as written; however, after hearing several conversations and concerns, she brought forward some amendments to Section 2 and 3. She thanked CM Wiles for being open to the amendments, stakeholders, and her colleagues who supported the amendments. She said they heard from the community that they want them to go further than this and permanently ban data centers, and the amendments were intended to create a compromise to ensure business can continue and workers can continue having their jobs.

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CM Andrews thanked CM Wiles for her effort on this, but he did not support the public not having an honest view of what they are doing.

CM Horton acknowledged CM Wiles' effort, including community engagement, working with developers, and working with business partners in trying to thread a needle through a very sensitive topic on an issue that touches a lot of realms. She agreed there were obvious economic benefits to data centers and they now have the opportunity to review and reassess what is working and not working. She felt this resolution allows them as leaders to make sure they have good governance and are working alongside their business partners, residents, and developers to do right. She added this will have continuous impact, and thanked CM Wiles for all of her work, effort, and due diligence.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amy Wiles

Does Council wish to approve this Resolution as amended with a waiver of reconsideration?

Voting Aye: (5): Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (6): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

Amendments:

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amy Wiles

Does Council wish to approve the following amendment to the resolution?

Section 2 - The City Manager is directed ~~not~~ to accept new Development Applications that propose to establish as a primary use, expand or otherwise increase the gross-floor area of an existing or new Data Center as of the effective date of this Resolution

only if it meets the following requirements: a) half mile buffer from any current or planned residential development b) use close loop cooling

Voting Aye: (5): Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (6): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amy Wiles

Does Council wish to approve the following amendment to the resolution?

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.

Section 3. This Resolution shall not be applied retroactively. Development Applications currently pending **including those that have had a pre application meeting** and other contractual negotiations that were initiated prior to the effective date of this Resolution (including incentive agreements pursuant to City Code Section 130-298) shall be expressly exempted from this Resolution

Voting Aye: (6): Mayor Coffman, Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (5): Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

11.a.6 Data Center Development Standards

R2026-98 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT DATA CENTER REGULATIONS

Sponsor: Curtis Gardner, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Rachel Allen, Deputy City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Horton requested continuing the resolution to the next City Council Meeting.

CM Gardner urged to vote no on the continuance. He said having an item put on the agenda at the last minute and saying it was an emergency and that they had to address the issue right away to now asking for a continuance was insanity. He stated they have a process to have these conversations, and they could have worked together, but that was not done.

CM Horton felt confident in her vote with the previous resolution because CM Wiles shared it with all of Council a number of times, but she was also surprised to see this resolution on the agenda. She said in order to vote as a council member, she felt they should vote on a resolution that is robust and understands the complexity of this issue in real time. She added having the work from CM Wiles and CM Gardner allows them to do their due diligence by the residents of Aurora and not have the divide.

CM Bergan stated CM Gardner reached out to work together with CM Wiles, but that was not accepted. She did not know why they would delay the resolution, as it basically addresses what was in the prior resolution. She noted they are getting things at the last minute in terms of the amendments on the floor and did not get them in writing. She encouraged a no vote on the continuance.

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Mayor Coffman encouraged a no vote as well, as the two resolutions are identical when it comes to water and both open-ended on every other issue, but the process is different in regard to a time limit on how long it would take to come back to Council. He said in regard to the 30 days, they would have the ability to opine on it and say if they want to look at other things or if it is insufficient. He liked that it states the process and he did not see any reason to delay that.

MPT Coombs asked if back and forth with staff already occurred with council members on this topic.

J. Batchelor answered yes, he had heard from everyone on the dais at some point or the other regarding this discussion.

MPT Coombs inquired if J. Batchelor indicated to CM Wiles this would likely taking more than 30 days to complete the necessary steps to bring forward the changes.

J. Batchelor responded yes but clarified that he interprets CM Gardner's resolution to start that process. He stated they will be in Study Session in the next meetings to discuss those. He said some of the items can move pretty quickly, like the evaporative cooling, but the UDO changes would take longer.

CM Horton amended her motion to move it to Study Session instead of continuing to the next City Council Meeting.

CM Lawson asked why this did not go to a policy committee where they could have maybe averted some of the confusion. She voiced it seemed CM Gardner tried to work with CM Wiles, but she said no. She said CM Gardner has some of the same parameters that CM Wiles set forth in her resolution, so she asked what was different about them.

Mayor Coffman stated the question was not germane to the question of continuing the motion.

CM Bergan voiced the resolution did not go to Study Session to begin with so why is it going there now after all the communication.

CM Horton asked if CM Gardner's resolution went to a policy committee or Study Session.

P. Schulte answered no.

Moved by: Gianina Horton

Second by: Alison Coombs

Does Council wish to continue this item to Aug. 24th Study Session?

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Voting Aye: (5): Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (6): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

Staff gave a presentation on the item.

CM Wiles asked if Section 2 was legally defensible, as they had discussions about that with her resolution.

P. Schulte recommended that if Council passes the resolution that they remove Section 2 altogether, as any changes to the code coming before a data center application is final will be affected by any code changes Council brings forward unless otherwise addressed, and he did not want to send any false promises to any developers looking to do a data center.

MPT Coombs expressed her understanding was that Section 2 was there to assure Council people cannot just get in line to hold their spot for the current regulations. She asked if someone filed before they adopt all the regulations, would it be considered legislating retroactively if they try to apply those regulations to an application already in the process.

P. Schulte answered yes, if an application has been filed, but a pre-application meeting does not mean an application is filed and does not give anybody any safeguards.

MPT Coombs asked if anyone could still submit a data center application under their current code up until they pass the subsequent codes if they pass this resolution.

P. Schulte answered no.

MPT Coombs offered friendly amendments to change it to 35 days, as requested by staff, and the striking of Section 2.

CM Gardner accepted the friendly amendments.

MPT Coombs offered another amendment to Section B to include special or conditions use permits with zoning, as requested by staff in CM Wiles' resolution, but was not included in this resolution.

Mayor Coffman asked the City Attorney if that would be covered under Section C.

P. Schulte answered yes, it would cover what CM Coombs asked for.

CM Gardner was glad to see there was general consensus in terms of addressing this issue, and even though he wished the process had

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been followed, he preferred not having policy committee since they do not use them. He thanked CM Wiles for her work on this and he resented the implication that he did not do the work or not know what he was talking about. He looked forward to coming up with appropriate safeguards to ensure they protect residents and that Aurora stays a business friendly city. He said they have done things over the last several months to create uncertainty for businesses in the city, and business owners cannot handle uncertainty.

CM Bergan shared they should ensure that any business that wants to come to Aurora is compatible with zoning, water use restrictions and other environmental concerns. She said a lot of the business already invested a lot of money to operate in Aurora, and it is poor business practice in terms of unpredictability. She added there are other businesses that could impact their different residential areas besides data centers, and this could have gone to PUD with the UDO changes in this resolution. She noted they do not currently allow any of the data centers to come into the city that do not have a close loop system, and this gives very significant investments to their county and school districts, which reduce their tax burden. She expressed the data center they have already built has contributed \$1.1 million to Aurora Public Schools and another one is paying \$2 million to Aurora Public Schools, and the others in the planning stages are projected to add at least \$86 million. She stated this would help secure Aurora's future and they can mitigate any other valid concerns.

MPT Coombs expressed the work being directed by this resolution, absent a moratorium, is already happening, and this resolution was presented as an alternative to a moratorium, so they do not need to do this to do the work.

Mayor Coffman strongly disagreed. He stated the public needs to be involved in this, not just individual discussions with staff, and the way this resolution is written brings it to a public hearing at Study Session, where they can have a debate on what direction to take.

MPT Coombs responded they have already had public comment, and they wanted a moratorium or a ban, but CM Wiles is bringing forward a set of thoughtful regulations, which she put months into working on already. She added if staff can bring those forward in 30 to 35 days, it is because they already did the work.

CM Hancock called for the question.

Moved by: Curtis Gardner

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to approve this Resolution with the following amendments?

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Amendments:

Section 1 - The City Manager, or designee, is hereby directed to bring forward ordinances for consideration by the City Council within ~~thirty (30)~~ thirty five (35) days to:

Remove Section 2

Voting Aye: (7): Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Angela Lawson, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (3): Alison Coombs, Alli Jackson, and Ruben Medina

Moved by: Stephanie Hancock

Second by: Angela Lawson

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

Voting Aye: (7): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Angela Lawson, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (4): Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Alli Jackson, and Ruben Medina

11.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11.b.1 Clarifying Membership Requirements for the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee

2026-32 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE AURORA CITY CODE REGARDING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AURORA OIL AND GAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jeffrey Moore, Manager of Energy and Environment Division, Planning and Business Development / David Scott, Senior Assistant City Attorney

11.b.2 Amendment to Chapter 134 of the City Code

2026-42 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING CHAPTER 134, ARTICLE XI OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Jason Pray, Lieutenant, Police / Mandy MacDonald, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda-related item.

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Charter prescribes the Mayor may vote on resolutions and ordinances only to create or break a tie vote of Council Members present. The Mayor Pro-Tem is always permitted to vote on all items.

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

13.a Moratorium on Data Centers

2026-43 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AUTHORIZING A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE OR PROCESSING OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS WHERE A DATA CENTER IS INCLUDED AS A PROPOSED PRIMARY USE

Sponsor: Amy Wiles, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Rachel Allen, Deputy City Attorney

14. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

14.a A Charter Amendment Concerning Timing of Municipal Elections and Transitional Extension of Terms of Office

2026-41 AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AT A COORDINATED ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4 OF ARTICLE II OF THE CITY CHARTER CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO DIRECT THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SHALL BE HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 5 OF ARTICLE III TO PROVIDE FOR ONETIME SHORTENED TERMS OF OFFICE TO FACILITATE THE TRANSITION TO REGULAR ELECTIONS OCCURING IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS

Sponsor: Alli Jackson, Council Member

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Hancock expressed the beauty of off-year elections is that their cities, candidates, and local issues receive the attention they deserve, and local government should not be buried beneath the noise, money, and partisan politics of a presidential election. She was concerned about moving a municipal election into a presidential election year, as democracy is about more than increasing the number and is about informed populus, accountability, competitive elections, and ensuring local voices are heard. She stated higher turnout should not automatically be treated as justification for restricting local elections, and they should be cautious about changes that could allow national partisan politics or ideological agendas to overwhelm the nonpartisan municipal elections.

MPT Coombs voiced cooperative elections are about more people voting, and greater participation is the hallmark of democracy.

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Mayor Coffman commented that it has not worked well for RTD directors, and he found it ironic that a school board member from Aurora Public School came up and testified for the proposal of moving City Council to the general election ballot but not the Aurora School Board.

CM Jackson wanted to see a greater democracy in Aurora. She said this is nonpartisan and will allow for coalition building, voters to get a break from mailers every year, and will give people an opportunity to hyperfocus on politics every other year instead of one year.

Moved by: Gianina Horton

Second by: Alli Jackson

Does the Council wish to support the approval of A Charter Amendment Concerning Timing of Municipal Elections and Transitional Terms of Office?

Voting Aye: (6): Robert Andrews, Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (4): Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

15. ANNEXATIONS

16. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

18. REPORTS

18.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman encouraged people to go to his Facebook Page for updates. He expressed he would like an update on what the District 3 Transportation Commissioner is doing to help them on State Highway 30.

18.b Council

CM Andrews reported there was a resignation on the CABC from Vita Brown, so he appointed Makias Alamaru (ph).

MPT Coombs went over upcoming items for people to keep in mind, including the City Council Chamber Accessibility Meeting on Wednesday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., in the Aurora Room at City Hall, Town Hall on the renaming of the Central Library on the 15th, at 10:30 a.m., at Central Library, and a housing strategy community feedback session next Thursday, at 5:30 p.m., at the Central Recreation Center. She attended the Proclaiming Colorado's Black History Aurora Exhibit opening, a Purple Heart Ceremony with Mayor Coffman outside of City Hall, Adams County Health Department community briefing and town hall on the tuberculosis response at the

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Geo Aurora Facility, and spent time with SEIU Local 105 and their committee on political education.

CM Horton reported she has had a number of conversations regarding Fletcher Plaza, some proactive response working with multiple different city agencies to address how to best provide resources and the Community Development Corporation, where the official Steering Committee was launched. She shared she and MPT Coombs are on the resolution to rename the Central Library and honor Edna Wilson-Mosley, the first African American City Council member, and they will have public comment session on August 15th, in person, and a virtual option on August 25th. She expressed if someone on the dais is going to present an accusation, that the person is allowed to defend themselves, especially if it is male leadership not presenting any facts, as she felt there was not an opportunity for CM Wiles to do that earlier when speaking about data centers.

CM Wiles honored the life of Arthur Williams, who was killed by a hit and run driver earlier in the month. She said police are still looking for the person who did that, and all of their information is on APD's website and social media page, and she asked everyone to keep an eye out for that car. She thanked the Reserve Community for hosting her for their town hall, which is next to the data center to be built in their neighborhood. She heard their concerns and intended to honor her campaign promises to advocate for them. She announced that August 22nd, Nelson Holland is doing a Highline Canal cleanup. She added they need Special Olympics volunteers.

CM Medina went to the Colorado Black History Exhibit at the Aurora History Museum, where he gave a proclamation to Ruben Sims, Jr., the first African American Aurora firefighter. He had his town hall, where they talked about ADA compliances around the city and what they are doing to comply with that, as well as what is happening at Council Chambers. He attended the Del Mar Park Community Picnic as well.

CM Hancock attended the Koren War Memorial on the 27th, at General Park, the Aurora Fire and Rescue Training Facility with Mayor Coffman, and the opening reception at the Aurora History Museum. She shared that knew Ruben Sims from their military days, and it was great to see his family attend and hear the proclamation by CM Medina. She attended the Armed Forces Treatment Court, where Judge Day presided over a man who did the hard work and is on his way to recovery and success, the Interfaith Gala in Centennial, along with CM Andrews, where they raised funds to provide meals for the homeless, and a meeting with Tamia Jackson of Aurora SAVE, in which they discussed what Aurora SAVE does and does not do. She shared she is going on the Water Tour tomorrow, and the Public Safety Meeting is this week, at 11 a.m., in the Aurora Room.

CM Lawson announced her Ward 5 Town Hall will be on August 18th, at 6:30, at Misson Viejo, where they will have Planning and Development, and August 29th, at Heather Gardens, where they will talk about planning, development, and retail.

CM Gardner and CM Bergan had no report.

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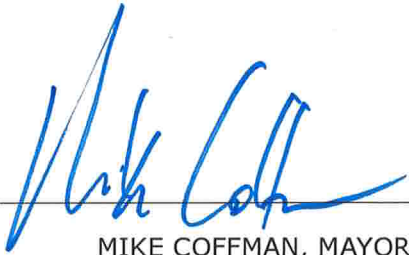
19. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

Council heard public comment on non-agenda related matters.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.


MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:


KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

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