MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, September 28, 2026

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

---

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 September 28, 2026 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 real property issues were discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda as presented?

Voting Aye: (11): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

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.

9. REPORTS

Three (3) minute limit per report.

9.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman shared he would be doing the Spanish Hablemos Hoy talk radio show Friday morning, 8:30-9, with Rodolfo Jose Cardenas, on 1150 AM. He announced his quarterly town hall meeting will be at the Aurora Central Library, on October 17th, 2-3:30 p.m. He encouraged everyone to follow him on his Facebook page.

9.b Council

MPT Coombs thanked the community members there and said she was committed to hear everyone's concerns and looking at what they can do as a Council to address the issues they bring forward. She announced their first at-large town hall will be online tomorrow.

CM Jackson plugged their first Aurora Black Forum Series happening on October 2nd, 5 to 7 p.m., at the Aurora History Museum, where they will meet with Aurora School Board directors and state legislators to talk about issues that specifically impact the black community regarding equity. He noted they would like to use this as a model for what having conversations around equity look like, and dinner will be served.

CM Horton stated there are a lot of conversations around Fletcher Plaza, and she asked for people to reach her ghorton@auroragov.org to discuss that. She attended a bipartisan event called Courageous Colorado, where they talked about what it meant to democratically participate in government, an event called Proclaiming Colorado Black History Exhibit, and visited a nonprofit that moved into Ward 1 called Athletics and Beyond, who have programming from littles to elders, and she encouraged people to check them out. She stated that she, CM Jackson, and Mayor Coffman went to the lifting of the arch for the Colfax BRT on the corner of Colfax and Havana. She thanked Mayor Coffman for encouraging her application to the Adams County Regional Opioid Abatement Council and staff for covering her Ward 1 Town Hall last Thursday. She said there will be a Ward 1 meeting tomorrow evening regarding the 13th Avenue Multimodal Focus Group, at 6 p.m.

CM Wiles thanked people from her ward for showing up to the council meeting, as it is important to hear from them. She also thanked them for inviting her to their meeting last week to hear concerns and feedback on different topics. She announced she would be having a data center town hall with Senator Weissman coming, and she has a ward meeting on the 8th, at Central Rec, where they will go over the new fire station and discuss gas station buffers. She attended the Highline Canal Foundation Dinner, Aurora Public Schools Dinner, Proclaiming Colorado Black History Event, and the Aurora Fire Department Awards and Promotion Ceremony. She added Special Olympics Colorado will be doing their Denver flag football tournament on the 10th, and they are looking for more volunteers.

CM Medina announced his town hall will be October 13th, at the Central Library, where they will have the Welcome Center talking about immigrant and refugee communities and programs for the community, Fire talking about mitigation, and Water talking about the drought. He went to a conference on Co-ops, where they looked at ways they can bring some of those into their community, and the 30th annual Down Syndrome Walk at Denver City Park.

CM Hancock gave a reminder that tomorrow, at 10 a.m., they will be doing the groundbreaking of the 9 Mile Pedestrian Bridge on the corner of Quari and S Parker Road, and everyone is welcome to attend. She said Aurora residents have two days to give their input on the survey for infrastructure projects as part of the Build Up Aurora Infrastructure Task Force.

CM Lawson shared her town halls will be on October 13th, at Mission Viejo Library, 6:30-8 p.m., and on October 17th, at Heather Gardens, from 10-11:30 a.m., and the topics for those town halls will be solidified beforehand. She attended the Colorado National Guard Outreach Exchange at Buckley for the Army and Air Force National Guard, where she was able to fly in a Chinook helicopter. She thanked the Buckley Air Force Base, National Army, and Air Force for inviting her.

CM Bergan attended the Gun Club Regional Working Group, her town hall at Heritage Eagle Bend, where they had a lot of people from the Whispering Pines community passionate about getting traffic mitigation for speeding and truck traffic concerns, and she had a call with the owner of the Southland Shopping Center on great things that are going to be happening. She also had a meeting with Red Hat Technologies, the City Auditor, and Planning and Economic Development, and attended the Council Meet and Greet and Global Tolling Conference on behalf of E-470.

CM Andrews and CM Gardner did not have a report.

10. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Non-agenda related issues only. Priority order given to students 18 years of age or younger.

Council heard non-agenda related public comment.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Gianina Horton

Does council wish to suspend the Council Rules in order to change the Public Invited to be Heard time limit?

Voting Aye: (9): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Alison Coombs, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (1): Curtis Gardner

Absent: (1): Françoise Bergan

11. 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: (11): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

11.a Motions

11.b Planning Matters

11.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

11.c.1 Consideration to Remove Two (2) Members from the Aurora Immigrant and Refugee Commission

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.c.2 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Youth Member to the Aurora Youth Commission

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.c.3 Consideration to Appoint Three (3) Members to the Human Relations Commission

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.c.4 Consideration to Reappoint One (1) Member to the Library Board

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

11.c.5 Consideration to Reappoint Two (2) Members to the Building Code and Contractors Appeals and Standard Board

Cecilia Zapata, Deputy City Clerk / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

12. 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: Alison Coombs

Second by: Ruben Medina

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar with items 12.a.2 and 12.b.1 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

12.a Resolutions

12.a.1 Amendment to the Colorado Universal Preschool (UPK) Program Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for 2026-2030

R2026-105 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, EXPRESSING THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS RECREATION DIVISION IN THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT, AND THE STATE OF COLORADO FUNDING THE COLORADO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Donna Hunt, Recreation Superintendent, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Britt Wirth, Assistant City Attorney

12.a.2 Opposition to Colorado Proposition 132

R2026-106 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, OPPOSING COLORADO PROPOSITION 132 (PENALTIES FOR FENTANYL CRIMES) AND AFFIRMING A COMPREHENSIVE, EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE FENTANYL CRISIS

Sponsors: Gianina Horton, Council Member / Robert Andrews, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the 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.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

CM Lawson understood the legitimate concerns about Proposition 132, including incarceration, cost, treatment capacity, and potential impact on overdose deaths. However, she felt they also need to recognize the seriousness of the fentanyl crisis and devastating impact it is having on communities and look at the actual provisions and distinguish it between what the measure says and predictions about what the consequences may be. She expressed this comes down to accountability and public safety, and there should be meaningful consequences for those who distribute fentanyl while continuing to provide treatment options for those struggling with substance abuse. She added they also need to consider the cost of fentanyl crisis.

CM Hancock expressed there are people on both sides of the issue who believe there need to be stronger consequences with fentanyl, and she understood that accountability matters and those who knowingly manufacture and traffic it should be held accountable. She stated Proposition 132 may change the law and increase consequence, but it cannot solve what is happening the war on drugs in their communities. She noted there are wounds in people's lives that the government cannot heal, but that does not mean they should stop enforcing the law, funding effective treatment, or holding people accountable for bringing drugs into the communities. She voiced if they truly want to confront fentanyl, they have to deal with the whole person and restore hope, purpose, faith, belonging, and a belief that a person's life is worth more than a statistic.

CM Horton noted that in Study Session and the policy committees, they have reiterated some key points about how detrimental Proposition 132 would be for their state. She encouraged voters to do their research to learn more about it, including that incarceration does not work and address the addiction crisis. She expressed they owe it their community to prove a wholistic approach to the whole human and address root causes in a more compassionate way and hold manufacturers accountable.

CM Bergan voiced this is difficult, as it is so harmful and devastating to the families who have lost loved ones to fentanyl. She noted 1 gram of fentanyl can kill up to 500 people, and even 2mg is potentially lethal to some people. She said as the Chair of the Arapahoe County Abatement Council, they are in charge of settlement money from pharmaceuticals on the opioid crisis, and they try to make sure that money goes toward good treatment facilities, treatment plans, prevention, and educational campaigns. She believed those distributing fentanyl should be in jail, as they are killing innocent people. She added that in the proposition, it says 1 gram or less but does not define the less;

therefore, a person in possession of just one pill could get a felony, which she had an issue with. She felt that should be more towards those distributing it. She hoped Aurora residents understand how dangerous fentanyl is, but they also have a responsibility to treat those who have a substance abuse issue.

MPT Coombs agreed something is missing from their approach to addiction by way of the war on drugs and they cannot incarcerate their way out of it. She said prison does not restore anything. She thanked the sponsors for bringing this forward and CM Horton for doing community and stakeholder engagement on this.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Robert Andrews

Does Council wish to support the approval of the Opposition to Colorado Proposition 132 resolution?

Voting Aye: (8): Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (2): Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

12.a.3 Affordable Housing Lease with Mercy Housing

R2026-107 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING THE GROUND LEASE BETWEEN CITY OF AURORA AND MHMP 22 AURORA GLOBAL, LLLP (MERCY HOUSING MOUNTAIN PLAINS) FOR AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

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

Outside Speaker: Austin Pierce Flanagan, Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry, P.C Law Firm

12.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances, including annexation ordinances, approved unanimously at first reading.

12.b.1 Repealing Sections of Chapter 94 of the City Code Pertaining to Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions

2026-47 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTIONS 94-74, 94-85 AND 94-122, AND REPEALING SECTIONS 94-75, 94-80, 94-149, 94-219, 94-222, 94-223, 94-224, 94-246, 94-248, 94-279, 94-280, 94-281, 94-312, 94-346, 94-347, 94-348, AND 94-385 OF CHAPTER 94 OF THE

CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF AURORA PERTAINING TO OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Coffman asked what was not consistent with the state's Supreme Court decision.

P. Schulte answered the theft between $100 and $300. He explained if it was still on the books and there was a mandatory minimum sentence of 3 days for retail theft, that would be subject to that mandatory minimum 3 days. However, he also found out they added retail theft as a separate offense a couple years, where they could track how many shoplifting cases there were, but APD has just been following the regular theft statute, so judges were not doing the 3 days. He was not sure where the disconnect was on that.

Mayor Coffman offered an amendment that they maintain the 3 day mandatory sentence for retail theft over $100 in the code.

MPT Coombs clarified that is not a friendly amendment. She said this has other relevant sections that lead to excessive prosecution, and in talking to staff at the county level, this is resulting in them having people kept in our jail and other jails for 3 days. She noted the way statute was intended is not the way it has been operating.

P. Schulte agreed with MPT Coombs. He stated they had the code section direct the 3 days be spent at the Aurora Municipal Jail, but other legislature changes does not allow them to do that anymore and sends them to the county jail where the offense occurred. He added they have a lot of people in the jails, and the first people to release for overcrowding are municipal offenses, so a lot of them were not serving the 3 days.

CM Bergan commented whether people have to go to county court and are released is their decision, but there still has to be a consequence in their city for stealing.

CM Hancock said not holding people accountable for retail theft sends a terrible message and tells business owners they are closed to business and open to crime, and retail theft will spike back up.

MPT Coombs expressed they still have consequences for theft in their code, including the penalties permitted by state law for each level of offense they are able to prosecute in the municipal court. She felt this sends a message to the community that they are not going to pursue the ineffective policy of mandatory minimum sentencing.

Mayor Coffman shared a constituent who committed retail theft stated they had no problem paying the fines but could not tolerate the 3 days mandatory minimum.

CM Lawson asked P. Schulte if his office is prosecuting the lower level offenses.

P. Schulte answered yes, if APD files the case in the municipal court whether it is under retail theft or theft. He added they do ask for jail sometimes, but it is up to the judge.

CM Hancock said she has had enough of the state coming down on their municipal home rule authority. She shared she has served on the Public Safety Committee for the past 3 years, and the constituents have told them loud and clear they want to feel safe and want theft and crime addressed. She stated the legislation passed previously had an impact and retail theft in her neighborhood went down. She added they want their businesses to remain open and successful and they should feel safe. She commented she stands on public safety and will not vote to repeal these decisions to their city code.

CM Bergan concurred with CM Hancock. She said state legislatures continue to step on their home rule authority, and Aurora should have a right as a municipality to have their own laws on public safety.

MPT Coombs voiced the ruling that prompted this was that cities could not be sentencing excessively. She said in some cases, they were sentencing more than 30 times of the amount in state code, and most of the people subject to those are people experiencing poverty. She stated their people are not made more safe and crime does not go down by not knowing which sentence they are going to get depending on where they are in the area.

CM Hancock said there are people in poverty who do not steal, and she challenged MPT Coombs to give her the statistics on what crime punishment and accountability are not effective, as the statistics they have gotten have been that crime has gone down since these ordinances have been implemented. She believed the Mayor's amendment was a nice compromise. She added telling people it is okay to continue to do these behaviors without consequence and that they are open for crime and closed to business will have a devastating impact.

MPT Coombs stated 72% of the times they prosecuted someone for shoplifting in their municipal court the bond was forfeited, and the case did not get resolved in quarter 1 of this year, 57.3% in quarter 2, and 31.5% so far in quarter 3 to date.

Mayor Coffman shared that for every day somebody is incarcerated, they are not stealing or violating someone else's rights.

CM Lawson found it insulting that MPT Coombs stated that just poor people steal, because that is not always the case. She added that Cornerstar in her ward has a lot of stealing that goes on, and she did not think this was fair as a consumer that they have to pay when others get to steal, and prices will start going up because of this when people are already struggling. She added it seems once every year, the state legislature always put stuff on home rule authority.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Gianina Horton

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the Repealing Sections of Chapter 94 of the City Code Pertaining to Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions ordinance?

Voting Aye: (7): Robert Andrews, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (3): Françoise Bergan, Stephanie Hancock, and Angela Lawson

Amendment:

Moved by: Mayor Coffman

Second by: Françoise Bergan

Does Council wish to approve the following amendment?

Maintain 3 day mandatory sentence for retail theft for over $100.

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

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

12.b.2 Evaporative Cooling

2026-48 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, PROHIBITING PERMITS FOR NEW BUILDING EVAPORATIVE COOLING MECHANISMS

Sponsors: Amy Wiles, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

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

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

12.b.3 Installation of New Turf and Ornamental Water Features

2026-49 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 138-191 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE INSTALLATION OF NEW TURF AND ORNAMENTAL WATER FEATURES

Sponsors: Amy Wiles, Council Member / Françoise Bergan, Council Member

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

13. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

14. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

14.a Authorizing the Refunding of the City's 2017 Certificates of Participation (COPs)

2026-50 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF LEASE-PURCHASE FINANCING FOR THE REFUNDING OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2017 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

Andrew Jamison, Debt and Treasury Supervisor, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Council heard public testimony on the agenda related item.

Mayor Coffman expressed they have been COPs as long as he can remember.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Amy Wiles

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the COPs financing ordinance?

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

15. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances, including annexation ordinances, not approved unanimously at first reading.

15.a Socioeconomic Sales and Services Impact Permit

2026-45 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING THE AURORA CITY CODE BY AMENDING DIVISION 4 OF ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 86 ESTABLISHING A SUPPLEMENTAL LICENSE FOR SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT RETAIL SALES AND SERVICES

Sponsor: Alison Coombs, Mayor Pro Tem

Trevor Vaughn, Manager of Licensing, Finance / Hanosky Hernandez, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM Gardner stated this is in line with a pattern of this Council being anti-business. He said they cannot pick and choose which business they want or do not want in their city. He stated the way to lift people out of poverty is not by banning a specific type of business, but by continuing to provide economic opportunities. He said businesses are not going to want to come here anymore because they do not want rules to be changed on them midstream.

MPT Coombs understood the concern, but the intent is not to say a business is bad, but about giving Council tools to respond to what they place within their communities and how they structure their retail environment. She stated right now they do not have a lot of tools, so this will give staff a tool to say if they have an overconcentration of certain types of businesses. She shared some businesses were concerned about what it would take for them to comply with the new SNAP stocking requirements, so they changed the ordinance to respond to that and provide a special exception.

CM Gardner voiced it is insulting to hold up a convenience store as an example of a place for food in parts of their city are otherwise a food desert. He said they need to do more work if the best option for somebody is a convenience store, and if there was an overconcentration of businesses, they would go out of business. Therefore, those still in business demonstrate there is not an overconcentration of those businesses.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Gianina Horton

Does the Council wish to support the approval of the Socioeconomic Sales and Services Impact Permit ordinance as amended?

Voting Aye: (8): Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, Ruben Medina, and Amy Wiles

Voting Nay: (2): Curtis Gardner, and Stephanie Hancock

16. ANNEXATIONS

Public Hearings and Introduction of Annexation Ordinances

17. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

18. GENERAL BUSINESS

19. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Non-agenda related issues only. Only those who did not speak during the first Public Invited to Be Heard session may speak during this session.

Council heard non-agenda related public comments.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Coffman adjourned the regular meeting of City Council.

MIKE COFFMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KADEE RODRIGUEZ, CITY CLERK

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.