MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Aurora City Council

Monday, May 18, 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 May 18, 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 labor negotiations, real estate acquisition and litigations were discussed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.a May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Gianina Horton

Does Council wish to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting?

Voting Aye: (7): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Alison Coombs, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, and Ruben Medina

Absent: (4): Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, Stephanie Hancock, and Amy Wiles

7. PROCLAMATIONS OR CEREMONIES

8. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Stephanie Hancock

Does Council wish to adopt the agenda as presented?

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

Absent: (1): Amy Wiles

9. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

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: Françoise Bergan

Second by: Ruben Medina

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

Voting Aye: (9): Mayor Coffman, Robert Andrews, Françoise Bergan, Alison Coombs, Curtis Gardner, Gianina Horton, Alli Jackson, Angela Lawson, and Ruben Medina

Absent: (2): Stephanie Hancock, and Amy Wiles

10.a Motions

10.b Planning Matters

10.c Appointments to Boards and Commissions

10.c.1 Consideration to Appoint One (1) Youth Member and One (1) Adult Member to the Aurora Youth Commission

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

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.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Robert Andrews

Does Council wish to approve the Resolutions and Ordinances Consent Calendar with Item 11.a.2 removed?

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

Absent: (2): Stephanie Hancock, and Amy Wiles

11.a Resolutions

11.a.1 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Arapahoe County for Additional Voter Service Polling Center (VSPC)

R2026-54 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, APPROVING AMENDMENT NO.4 FOR 2026 TO A STANDING INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN ARAPAHOE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF AURORA, PERTAINING TO APPROVED VOTER SERVICE AND POLLING CENTERS

Kadee Rodriguez, City Clerk / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

11.a.2 Emergency Resolution to Implement a Policy Regarding Aurora Police Department Communications

R2026-55 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY REGARDING AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATIONS

Sponsors: Alison Coombs, Mayor Pro Tem / Gianina Horton, Council Member

Jason Batchelor, City Manager / Peter Schulte, City Attorney

MPT Coombs announced the substitute version of the resolution, which included replacing the first clause with a directive regarding following existing policy and workflows related to communications, and amendments in the second section to ensure public safety, emergencies, and concerns as instances where immediate publication of information can be made.

P. Schulte explained that over the weekend, City Communications informed him and Council that there were existing policies, procedures, and workflows that existed in the city that apply to all departments, so many Council Members asked him to address the amendments. He said the resolution is asking APD and the city manager to review and amend as necessary the established city communications policies, procedures, and workflows that apply to all city departments. He noted it also means APD will not post

mugshots and/or suspect names publicly until the subject has pled guilty or been convicted of a crime, unless the city manager approves otherwise on a case by case basis.

J. Batchelor added mugshots and people's names are subject to the Criminal Justice Records Act, but the direction of the resolution is to not have the police department do that on their social medias.

CM Bergan stated there was a request for CM Andrews to recuse himself from this item due to the active DUI case in Arapahoe County District Court.

P. Schulte responded he did not see where CM Andrews was required to recuse himself under their rules of conflict. He added the 18th Judicial District Attorney said they are no longer handling that case, as it has been turned over to the Denver DA's Office and County Court.

MPT Coombs pointed out that conversation was not to the motion.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Ruben Medina

Does Council wish to substitute the resolution in the agenda packet with the amended resolution?

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

Voting Nay: (3): Françoise Bergan, Curtis Gardner, and Angela Lawson

Absent: (1): Amy Wiles

Council heard public comment on the agenda related item.

MPT Coombs moved to approve the substitute motion.

CM Bergan appreciated the changes that were made to the original resolution, but she still felt it stifled the speech of the police chief. She noted the statement in Section 2, number one, was complicated and not practical for the police chief to have to get every single thing approved for things like a media requests or telling the public about an incident that happened. She asked why this was an emergency resolution and bypassed the Public Safety Committee and Study Session. She added it also has a waiver of reconsideration. She expressed getting information out to residents right away is being transparent and often in the interest of safety. She commented that the chief and commanders are qualified to speak about crime, not City Council or City Manager. She pointed out the situation they had a few years ago with apartment complexes and Tren de Aragua, which was terribly handled by communications.

CM Lawson shared she received many messages from residents over the weekend about this resolution. She said not having information about a

person who has allegedly committed a crime in someone's neighborhood is a devalue to the community and public safety. She voiced a business owner contacted her and said it was important for businesses to have information on what is going on. She noted transparency is very important and APD has done a good job on that and the residents have appreciated it. She also pointed out one of the ballot initiatives is for public safety, as that was a lot of people's number one priority. She asked if they were going to stifle the voice of the police department, what was the point of having the public safety initiative and supporting public safety? She added that as a resident, she did not want the city manager or City Council to be approving anything like that, as they do not have experience in that arena, and she wanted to hear from the public safety groups that know about the issues and can reassure residents.

CM Hancock said she was deeply disturbed by the resolution and wanted to know why it was considered an emergency and did not go through the Public Safety Committee. She stated this was a direct attack on the police chief to muzzle him and make the city less safe. She reiterated the number one thing constituents wanted was public safety and that the chief can use his expertise and experience to keep the city safe and not bend to whims and ideological disposition of people on City Council who want to see the chief fired or put so much pressure on him that he will quit. She noted the Police Union has also come out against this and she has received dozens and dozens of emails saying they do not want this, and as City Council, they are supposed to represent the needs and wants of their constituents.

MPT Coombs commented the main and important piece is that factual information is given and not tinged with personal opinion, political inuendo, and the beliefs of the chief about legislation. She stated transparency and respect for the public requires respecting different roles and not putting information out that leads to people feeling empowered to make disgusting comments about their neighbors or judgements ground in assumption that certain groups are inherently a threat, which is what happens on APD pages due to the tone, opinion, and personal bias. She said that undermines public trust and torches any credibility they may have had over the work that many members of the department and city staff put into the Consent Decree. She expressed this resolution was not preventing transparency or factual information, and provides specific exceptions for emergencies or individuals not yet detained.

CM Wiles voiced she was conflicted about this resolution because she was trying to balance the ability for the public to have information they need to be safe, but also be mindful of what is being released and keeping liability in mind when they publish incorrect things or inhibit prosecutors from being able to prosecute things correctly because of social media posts. She felt it was a shame the police chief could not follow directions to post just the facts and not create division and racist comments. She hated they have gotten to the

point where they cannot work together and the city has become so hateful and divided, but it starts with leadership.

CM Horton stated the text of the resolution is very mundane but it is about making sure a city department is in line with city expectations around communications on digital and social media platforms and identifying the discrepancies that need to be addressed. She expressed it is their responsibility as a governing body to have not only the authority and say of legislation and where the city stands, but also to remind people that constitutional guarantees like due process and governing fairly and with justice are very important, as well as the chief not making posts that put their city in a terrible position. She added the resolution makes sure they can communicate effectively and factually on public safety issues, which was the number one priority from constituents.

CM Medina asked if there have been concerns raised that APD releases have impacted the prosecution cases.

P. Schulte answered yes, and he shared some examples of that.

CM Bergan voiced if there was a person arrested for rape and posted bond and were out in the community, the public should be able to have that information to protect themselves. She said the majority of the public appreciates the postings put out by APD.

MPT Coombs clarified that is why the amendments were made for the city manager to create a policy to include exceptions where there is a imminent public safety risk or emergency, including someone being released pre-adjudication and a potential threat to the community.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Gianina Horton

Does Council wish to approve the substitute resolution?

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

11.b Finalizing of Ordinances

Ordinances approved unanimously at first reading.

11.b.1 Amendment to Section 2-812 of the Aurora City Code with Regard to the Commission for Older Adults

2026-16 FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 2-812 OF THE AURORA CITY CODE WITH REGARD TO THE COMMISSION FOR OLDER ADULTS

Kris Ryan, Recreation and Golf Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Open Space / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

11.b.2 Update to Aurora Public Library Ordinance

2026-17 FOR AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, AMENDING SECTION 2-297 OF THE AURORA CITY CODE CONCERNING MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

Ginger White Brunetti, Director of Library and Cultural Services / Andrea Wood, Assistant City Attorney

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings with or without related ordinances.

13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

13.a Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project - Property Acquisitions

2026-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO EXERCISE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS NECESSARY FOR THE COLFAX BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) PROJECT

Kurt Muehlemeyer, Director, Public Works / Michelle Gardner, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Alli Jackson

Does Council approve the ordinance authorizing the use of eminent domain, pursuant to Aurora City Code Section 12-12, in order to acquire the necessary property interests for the construction of the Colfax BRT Project?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

14. FINALIZING OF ORDINANCES

Ordinances not approved unanimously at first reading.

15. ANNEXATIONS

15.a 161 and 121 Gun Club Road Annexation Substantial Compliance

R2026-56 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FINDING A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF TWO PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SOUTH HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 66 WEST OF THE 6TH PRINCIPLE MERIDIAN, ARAPAHOE COUNTY, COLORADO, TO BE IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 31-12-107(1), C.R.S., AND GIVING NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION (161 and 121 GUN CLUB ANNEXATION) 20.491 ACRES

Justin Andrews, Development Project Manager, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Alison Coombs

Second by: Ruben Medina

Does City Council wish to approve the resolution as proposed and set the date for a public hearing on the proposed annexation?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

15.b 222 Gun Club Road Annexation Substantial Compliance

R2026-57 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, FINDING A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION OF THREE PARCELS OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SW 1/4 SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 65 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M. AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE SE 1/4 SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 4 SOUTH, RANGE 66 WEST OF THE 6TH P.M., COUNTY OF ARAPAHOE, STATE OF COLORADO, TO BE IN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 31-12-107(1), C.R.S., AND GIVING NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION (222 GUN CLUB ANNEXATION) 46.6 ACRES

Justin Andrews, Development Project Manager, Development Services / Brian Rulla, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Staff gave a brief presentation on the item.

Moved by: Ruben Medina

Second by: Alison Coombs

Does City Council wish to approve the resolution as proposed and set the date for a public hearing on the proposed annexation?

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

Absent: (1): Curtis Gardner

16. RECONSIDERATIONS AND CALL UPS

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

18. REPORTS

18.a Mayor

Mayor Coffman shared he has a program where he visits different religious faiths, and he posted about visiting a Mosque on April 10th, and it went viral in a negative way, as most of the comments were ugly and intolerant. He stated that on the post he expressed that he was a Christian, but stood by Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists and their right to practice their religion without fear of discrimination and intimidation. He expressed that in a city that is a diverse culturally and in different faiths, it surprised him they are not as tolerant as they think they are, which was disappointing and he hoped they could heal those divisions.

18.b Council

CM Coombs announced the next Rule Committee Meeting on decorum will be on the 26th, at 5:30 p.m., in the Aurora Room. She noted that will be the last meeting on decorum, but they will continue with discussions on virtual participation, recommendations on City Council travel budgets, and the introduction of new items for consideration. She stated tonight's meeting was pretty intense and she appreciated the invitation to think about how they view louder reaction and how they often do not see proactive actions. She said everyone has a right to be heard and to be there without feeling threatened, and everyone is responsible for making sure that happens. She shared some community members have said there was a lot of pain in the Aurora Muslim community and American Muslims in general, as they are feeling vulnerable and deeply troubled by the shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego. She expressed Muslim hatred is on the rise across America, but everyone should be free to worship and practice their faith without intimidation, fear, or targeting, and it is incumbent on all of us to push back on that. She requested a brief moment of silence for them.

CM Jackson gave a shoutout for National Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander month, and she read a quote about truth from Pakistanian Political Scientist Eqbal Ahmad. She announced the Mosaic of Cultures exhibit around Aurora's Filipino community will be running until April 2027 the Aurora History Museum, and there will be National Asian American Native Hawaiian

and Pacific Islander Month Celebration tomorrow, from 12-1 p.m., on the Great Lawn.

CM Horton reported that she presented an update on the work being done for place accountability at the Consent Decree's Community Advisory Council, went to the State of the City Luncheon, Spring Workshop with multiple Build Up Aurora presentations and discussions on budget, hosted a Know Your Rights Training and Learn Your Rights in Community (LYRIC), and Aurora 911 tour. She gave a reminder that her Ward 1 Town Hall is May 21st, at 6 p.m., at the MLK Library, which will include presentations on Housing Forward, Access Aurora, and Code Enforcement, as well as 30 minutes at the end to talk about things going on in Ward 1.

CM Wiles expressed her deepest condolences to the Muslim community. She felt that was reflective of a lot of things they discussed today, and she offered apologies for potentially not listening to other people. She said they are leaders of this community and do not do a good job of listening and respecting one another, much less the community, and if they want change to happen it has to start with them. She added their community is diverse and they all bring unique things to the table and need to think about how they are engaging with one another. She shared a young male athlete at the Special Olympics said, "I hate how mean everybody has become. We should be better than this and we're not; we're falling farther and farther down, and it hearts my heart and it makes me sad." She stated that was reflective of how many people feel right now, so she asked that they all do better.

CM Medina attended the Lotus School Senior Graduation, with more than half going to Colorado colleges and many others going out of state, so it was great to see a diverse community going out in the world and continuing their positivity.

CM Hancock gave a reminder that her town hall is the 21st, at Noonan's, at 6 p.m., where they will start with a half hour networking for businesses in Ward 4. She read an email she got from someone who attended the April 20th City Council Meeting in person, who stated they wanted to speak, but after seeing how the Council was treated with profanity, disrespectful comments, clicking of fingers, clapping, shouting, bullying, groups, and threats, they no longer wanted to speak in person again, as they did not feel safe. That person also said public safety was their first concern and should be that of all of City Council. CM Hancock said it made her sad people felt like that, and she did not know the benefit of the decorum meetings when they continue to attack one side or the other. She stated unless everyone agrees to follow the rules, they will continue to have the same thing every week. She believed in having vigorous discussion between differing opinions, but the level it has reached was staggering. She mentioned one religious group that has not been talked about much in the news lately are the Christians who have been persecuted, kidnapped, and murdered in Nigeria, as well as pastor being arrested in front of abortion clinics in the United States. CM Hancock voiced their country was

founded on freedom of religion, and it is unfortunate they are so divisive that explanations and demonstrations of faith are marked with violence and brings the whole country down. She asked for a moment of silence for Christians who are being persecuted around the world.

CM Andrews and CM Gardner did not have a report. CM Lawson and CM Bergan were not available.

19. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

(non-agenda related issues only)

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.