

*"Improving the quality of life for Aurora"*

*AURORA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
Aurora City Hall, Council Chambers  
Monday, February 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.*

*I. CALL TO ORDER:*

Mayor Barton called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.m.

*II. PLEDGE AND PRAYER:*

Councilwoman Colwell led the council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

*III. ROLL CALL: Mayor Linda Barton*

*Councilman Steve Ramirez*

*Chairman Pro Tem Lisa Rentfro*

*Councilwoman Doris Colwell*

*Councilwoman Henderson*

All council members were noted present except Councilman Ramirez.

*IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:*

Regular Session held on January 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Colwell moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on January 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0 with the following council member voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Henderson, Colwell, Barton, Rentfro

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: Ramirez was not in attendance

*V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for January/February*

Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro moved to approve the appropriations for January/February with the exception of a bill to Barton's Service for \$655 which was already paid by the insurance company. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Barton, Rentfro, Colwell, Henderson

NAYES: 0

*VI. PUBLIC COMMENT*

Heidi Ryan

Noticed in print, from the local papers, statements to the effect the Aurora and Marionville police departments were being referred to as one entity. She stated they had not merged and should be referred as two separate entities. She felt this information was being portrayed to the public incorrectly and she wanted everyone to know that the departments had not merged into one.

Paul Ward

Had done some research after the last meeting and wanted to apologize to the City Manager that he was incorrect in stating that Jasper was a street and it did need to be paved. Those residents should be afforded the same privilege as every other resident of the city.

City Manager Randall pointed out that Mr. Ward was concerned about his street not being paved at a previous meeting. A list of future proposed pavement projects had

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been included in the council packet which listed Mr. Wards street (Plumb Street to Jefferson- to dead end) as one scheduled to be done this year.

Eddie Breeding

The Street Department is doing a pretty good job plowing the streets and keeping them in good condition. He understood as a city that we were not able to put down salt on city streets but he thought that all main intersections should be. He walks at night and has seen several cars blow right through the intersections.

City Manager Randall stated that he wanted to be informed of unsafe intersections. Salt is not effective in temperatures below 20 degrees and with the extended cold it has not proven to be very effective. When the temperatures remain extremely cold the street department uses finely ground gravel on slick areas for traction purposes in order to keep their sand in reserve.

Myra Goodson

She had recently moved to the community and did not feel that she had received a very warm welcome. She had been reported to have had an abandoned vehicle in front of her house. The police apologized for Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro turning her in for the abandoned car. Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro denied the charge. The police came again the second time and then on the third trip they pushed the vehicle onto her driveway. She was embarrassed and didn't understand why all the hassle when her vehicle had been for sale. Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro stated she had not turned her in. Mayor Barton said the city needed to investigate the matter more and understood why she had been upset.

### *VII. COUNCIL FORUM*

Councilwoman Colwell had contacted the school because she had heard that they had taken out their recycling bins. Her contact on the city's recycling bins was contacted to see if they would set the school a recycling bin.

Mayor Barton stated her interest in wanting to get the Economic Development Committee up and running again. City Manager Randall stated he had talked with Jeremy Grossenbacher and the board was scheduled to meet in January but didn't. He would talk with him about getting a round table discussion started with council.

### *VIII. OLD BUSINESS*

- A. *Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2014-2982  
An Ordinance allowing the "Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday" to apply to the Local Sales Taxes of the City of Aurora between April 19 and April 25, 2014*

Upon final passage this ordinance will opt the city into the "Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday" for major appliance sales during the week of April 19 through April 25.

Councilwoman Colwell moved to approve the second and final reading of Bill No. 2014-2982 making Ordinance No. 2014-2982. Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Barton, Henderson, Colwell, Rentfro

NAYES: 0

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## IX NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Share a Heart Proclamation claiming February 10<sup>th</sup> through February 16<sup>th</sup> as "Ronald McDonald House Week"*

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the reading of the "Share a Heart Proclamation" proclaiming the week of February 10<sup>th</sup> as "Ronald McDonald House Week". Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Rentfro, Henderson, Colwell, Barton

NAYES: 0

- B. *First Reading of Bill No. 2014-2983  
An Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri amending Title I "Government Code", Article II "Open Meetings, Records, Votes", Chapter 110.130 "Board and Commissions-Appointments-Vacancies" of the Municipal Code of Ordinances*

Several of the cities boards and commissions have numerous vacancies that need to be filled. The Planning and Zoning Board has just enough members for a quorum. The Mayor exercised her right as Mayor to become a voting member on the board or it would not be able to function. Advertisements have been placed in the newspaper, numerous times, with no response.

According to City Manager Randall it appears that people are presently serving out of a sense of pride for the community and they might be interested in serving on more than one board. The limitation of serving on one board may have been done, years ago, to limit power to an individual however today with the talented individuals we have serving they might be interested in serving on more than one board.

The recommendation of this ordinance would restrict a person from serving on Planning and Zoning and the Building Board of Appeals at the same time. This was done because the Board of Appeals hears appeals coming from Planning and Zoning. One person will not be able to serve on both boards at the same time because of the appeal process from one board to another. After discussion it was felt that the Board of Zoning Adjustment should be added as an exclusion as it also deals with Planning and Zoning.

Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro moved to add to the exclusion the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Colwell, Barton, Rentfro, Henderson

NAYES: 0

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2014-2983 as amended. Mayor Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Barton, Henderson, Rentfro, Colwell

NAYES: 0

- C. *Resolution No. 2014-1300  
A Resolution appointing a board member to the University of Missouri Extension Council, Lawrence County*

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Because Aurora is the largest city in the county a seat on the University of Missouri Extension Board is reserved for a citizen from Aurora. The name of Brittany Wilson was recommended for the position. Mrs. Wilson was present and stated she had been a resident of Aurora all her life and wanted to be more involved in the community and stated it would be a pleasure to represent the city.

Councilwoman Colwell moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-1300 which appoints Brittany Wilson to a four year term on the University of Missouri Extension Council. Mayor Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYEA: Henderson, Colwell, Rentfro, Barton

NAYES: 0

### *D. Consideration of Community Center parking lot*

City Manager Randall stated that the next step in getting the Community Center project completed was to get their parking lot paved. Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro stated it needed to be done badly. A written report to the council on the project had been inserted into the council packet along with his recommendations for the completion of the project. The following is the list of recommendations for the project:

1. That the two lots adjacent to the Community Center and the current parking area be paved with asphalt over a base of gravel/rock.
2. That the alley between the Community Center lots and Jasper Street be paved with a "chip and seal" surface over a gravel/rock base.
3. That Jasper Street east of Washington be paved with a "chip and seal" surface over a gravel/rock base.
4. That the alley behind the Community Center and the small parking lot behind the Community Center be paved with a "chip and seal" surface over a gravel/rock base.

### Judy Dingman, Aurora Advertiser

Stated that her research had found a sliver of land was owned by John Marks running through the alley the city intended to asphalt. She felt that the Park Board and City put the fence through the alley because they didn't want car traffic through the area.

In view of the information presented City Manager Randall proposed postponing Item No. 2 but going ahead with Items 1, 3 and 4. Judy Dingman spoke up again and asked about the city's requirements for a detention pond. What is the city doing for this? City Manager Randall relayed that he had spoken to the Building Inspector who indicated it was his belief that had talked with the Department of Natural Resources and was told that the small area of land involved was not large enough to warrant a detention pond. Judy stated there were others that had been made to put in detention ponds and she felt the city should be held to the same standard. City Manager Randall said he would get the city engineer to investigate the matter further. He recommended the board to go ahead and pass the issue contingent upon not needing a retention pond.

Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro moved to approve the City Managers recommendations upon the condition that a retention pond would not be needed. Councilwoman Colwell

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seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Henderson, Barton, Rentfro, Colwell

NAYES: 0

*E. Resolution No 2014-1301*

*A Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Jimmy Michel Motors for the purchase of one 2014 Ford Taurus Police Interceptor*

Bids were presented for a lease purchase on a new police interceptor vehicle from two different vendors. Chevrolet and Dodge do not have interceptor vehicles that meet the departments 6 cylinder requirement so it was determined that the Ford Taurus was the preferred product.

Chief Witthuhn recommended purchasing the police car from Jimmy Michel Motors for a purchase price of \$23,461.00. Financing options were presented for a three year lease purchase to include a \$425 underwriting fee for a loan total of \$23,886.00. Financing ARP was 5.50% with a payment factor at 0.351331.

Councilwoman Colwell moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-1301 which approves the purchase from Jimmy Michel Motors for one 2014 Ford Taurus for, \$23,886.00, with financing through Ford Motor Credit. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Barton, Henderson, Rentfro, Colwell

NAYES: 0

*F. Consideration of budgetary allocation for radio repeaters in the police department*

Councilwoman Colwell asked for this item to be put on the agenda. Her concern was why do you need them? She had talked with a radio person that told her the police department did not need them.

Chief Witthuhn explained that when the government cut the narrow band width it cut the police and fire reception in half. There are several dead spots in town that will not allow the officers or fire department to communicate with one another. The radio is necessary for mutual aid. Radiophone is working on a solution that will hopefully be more cost effective. Instead of having to build two towers they are recommending using Marionville's tower and an older repeater they have which should prove to be a much cheaper solution.

Councilwoman Colwell said her scanner picked up everything why can't the departments? Chief Witthuhn stated because of the dead spots in town which consist of one on Highway 60 going toward Marionville and one out by Wal-mart.

Chief Witthuhn stated they were trying to find a cheaper way because when the government narrows the band width again in the next few years it will render all radios in all departments obsolete and unusable. He will report back to the council again with a recommendation.

### *X. REPORTS*

*A. Board Liaison Reports*

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Mayor Barton attended a Bright Futures meeting. They are planning a 3 stage run for some time this year.

### *B. City Attorney Report*

City Manager Randall reported on the following items:

- City Manager Randall stated he had spoken with Chief Witthuhn and he confirmed that he had told the Chief about Myra Goodson's vehicle.
- The Wastewater department has applied for an engineering grant for Infiltration and Inflow studies. The maximum grant award will be \$50,000 and will be an 80/20 grant.
- Two additional umbrellas have been ordered for the pool.
- Building Inspector, Trent White has sent out 11 letters on unsafe structures.
- Last council meeting Paul Ward voiced concern over Plumb Street not being pave. It was discussed at budget time and was put on the proposed paving list for this year.

### *C. City Manager Report*

City Attorney Petrus reported that he had been working with City Manager Randall to commence suit against property owner's tenant's unpaid utility bills. They will be seeking recovery through the landlord for these unpaid bills. Several suits will be filed within the next several weeks.

## *XI. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS*

Chairman Pro Tem Rentfro inquired whether an email could be sent for a utility bill that was in arrears rather than wasting postage and sending out a delinquent card.

Mayor Barton asked Chief Witthuhn if he could create a form like Chief Ward was using for his monthly report. She thought that would be good for his report.

### Judy Dingman, Aurora Advertiser

Judy stated that according to her research the information previously reported by the City Manager on the Jasper subdivision not being done until 1853 was incorrect. The City was not incorporated until the 1870's.

Judy asked if the city had anything on the books to require a homeowner to participate in paving a road for the first time. City Manager Randall stated the date when the ordinance was passed was much later and a precedent had been set to pave all roads in town. New subdivisions have to pay their share. The city always has an option to improve what they own. It would have to be the council's ultimate decision. The City will refer the ordinance to the City Attorney for review.

Council felt this piece of property would be grandfathered due to the fact that the road had never been paved and the property had changed hands many times through the years. By code, the fee would only be assessed to a new home owner in a newly developed subdivision that had never had the roads paved.

### Paul Ward, citizen, employee of the Aurora Advertiser

Under new business Item B. he felt that the city needed to do their due diligence by placing an ad in the paper advertising for volunteers to fill board positions for more than

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a week at a time. The advertisement needed to be put on the website. He felt that if given the opportunity he could put a border around the ad to bring more attention to it.

In addition, he expressed there was too much going on with personal agendas to allow a person to be on more than one board at a time. He realized that not every person in town read the newspaper but the information about board membership could also be put on the radio station.

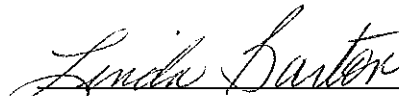
Heidi Ryan, citizen

Asked how many police vehicles the department has. Chief Witthuhn replied when the new car is received the city will have 4 marked cars and 3 unmarked cars. She asked if maintenance records were kept on each vehicle. The reply was yes. She stated she felt that we needed to take care of what we had and she had heard that the inside of the police vehicles were in very bad shape. Every officer should take pride in the vehicle they have been assigned to and should take care of it for the next officer from the exterior to the interior.


*XII. ADJOURNMENT*

Councilwoman Colwell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members voting aye on the motion.

APPROVED:

  
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Linda Barton, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathie Needham, City Clerk, MMC/MPCC