

AURORA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

*Aurora City Hall, 2 W. Pleasant, Aurora, MO 65605
Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.*

I. Call to Order: Mayor Marks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Mayor David L. Marks
Chairman Pro Tem Barton
Councilman Ramirez
Councilwoman Rentfro
Councilwoman Henderson

All council members were noted present.

III. Agenda: Budget Work Session

City Manager Randall reported that General Fund budgets were reduced by \$58,749; and Transportation by \$38,913 in order to balance the revenue versus expense. By doing this council had \$37,597 in contingency funding to fund whatever projects they see fit. No growth factor was put into this budget due to the flat economy.

No funding for raises for employees was added to this budget. City Manager Randall recommended a 1.7% rate increase to run consistent with the CPI.

6:00 – 6:15 p.m. Administration - Council

Administration received the largest cut in the general fund departments (\$9,250). An expansion request of \$10,000 was requested to do a pay plan update. In the Council budget \$96,000 was requested to offset impending litigation charges for ongoing telephone litigation.

6:15 – 6:30 p.m. Public Facilities – Planning & Zoning

Public Facilities requested \$10,000 in expansion requests for carpeting the council chambers. Planning and Zoning budget was cut by \$900. A request in the expansion line was put in for a secretarial position (\$22,908).

6:30 – 6:45 p.m. Finance/Ec. Development

Finance but was cut by \$2,185 and they requested \$5,000 back for an economic development documentary film and an additional \$4,000 to offset training expenses for a new employee when a present employee retires. A request was also registered for installing a credit card system to receive payments.

6:45 – 7:00 p.m. Police – E911 – PFF-Police

The police budget was cut by \$9,825 with the department requesting money for their bailiff of \$1,000 annually, \$8,390 for an additional car and \$2,500 to paint all police vehicles alike. City Manager Randall suggested trading the Saturn ION from Administration for the Chief's Crown Victoria. The Saturn could then be utilized for a detective vehicle. The PFF-Police budget was cut by \$12,515 which was shared equally with PFF-Fire due to the escalating bond payments next year. Police Chief Witthuhn also voiced concern on prisoner care stating if the prisons remain as full as they presently are more money may have to be requested.

7:00 – 7:15 p.m. Fire – PFF-Fire

The Fire Department budget was cut \$22,270 with add backs of \$51,500 being requested for three sets of Bunker gear (\$4,350), extrication bag (\$4,150), replacement of a 1999 Suburban (\$40,000) and a \$3,000 match for a wild land firefighting grant. PFF-Fire was cut \$12,515 due to the escalating bond payments next year. PFF-Fire also requested an additional \$8,900 for a lawn mower.

7:15 – 7:30 p.m. Park – Cemetery – (Transportation Fund) – Street –
Airport - Court

The Transportation Budget was cut by \$38,913 with request for additional funding for four seasonal employees (\$37,204) and \$40,000 for a parking lot at the Community Center.

7:30 – 7:45 p.m. Wastewater – Pool

No funding was cut from the Wastewater budget however add backs of \$706,940 was added for the continuation of the ongoing wastewater grant. The pool requested an additional \$4,000 for paint.

7:45 – 8:00 p.m. Park Board

No budget cuts were taken from this department. Capital Improvements of \$40,911.30 were defined as follows: Reserve \$10,000, Baseball \$20,750, playgrounds \$9,911.30 and soccer \$250. In the future the park board would like to construct a pavilion by the tennis court area.

UDAG Fund

This money has been used for façade loans and downtown revitalization loans. Three outstanding loans will be coming due in 2015. City Manager Randall requested Council to consider terminating the loan programs and using the money to refurbish the Creamery Bldg.

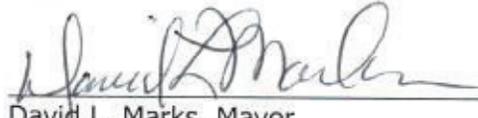
All departments voiced concern over losing employees to the outside sector and how hard it is to retain quality employees at the wages the city is paying.

Council discussed pros and cons of COLA and merit rates. A request for more information on a 1.7%, 3% and 5% raise was made. The information will be provided to them via email with another meeting being scheduled for November 4th at 6:00 p.m.

IV. Adjourn

Councilwoman Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

APPROVED:



David L. Marks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathie Needham, City Clerk, MMC/MPCC

Posted 10-24-2014 by Kathie Needham, City Clerk