

*“Improving the quality of life for Aurora”*

**AURORA CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

*AURORA CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS*

*Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

*Mayor Linda Barton called the meeting to order. Time noted was approximately 7:00 p.m.*

**II. PLEDGE AND PRAYER:**

**III. ROLL CALL:**

<i>Mayor:</i>	<i>Linda Barton</i>
<i>Chairman Pro Tem:</i>	<i>Steve Ramirez</i>
<i>Councilwoman:</i>	<i>Lisa Rentfro</i>
<i>Councilwoman:</i>	<i>Doris Colwell</i>

*Others in Attendance: Interim City Manager David Price, Deputy City Clerk Donna Elery, Building Inspector Trent White and Code Enforcement Officer Lance Eley*

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Regular Session held on September 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.*

*Councilwoman Rentfro felt changes should be made to page 2 of the minutes and made a motion to table the minutes until City Clerk Kathie Needham could be present. Chairmen Pro Tem Ramirez seconded the motion. All Members voted in favor of the motion.*

**V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for September**

*Deputy City Clerk Elery advised that the bill for the City of Fenton should be pulled from the appropriations. City Clerk Needham had attended a conference where the rooms were sold out and Fenton had an extra room they allowed her to use. The City of Aurora was being billed for the room. Therefore, the City of Fenton would not need to be reimbursed. Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez made a motion to approve the appropriations with the exception of the City of Fenton bill. Councilwoman Colwell seconded the motion. Councilwoman Rentfro, Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez and Councilwoman Colwell voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Barton abstained from voting since Barton's Service had an invoice listed for approval. Motion passes.*

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Elsie Layton of Sunset St. thanked the Council for the dead end and speed limit signs that were recently installed. Interim City Manager Price advised that the streetlight request had been submitted to Empire Electric and should be installed within the next 60 days. Ms. Layton expressed concern about the police response to a recent assault in the neighborhood. Interim City Manager Price requested that Ms. Layton contact him to set up a meeting on Monday so the issue could be reviewed. Ms. Layton added that the neighborhood was experiencing problems with the illegal parking of a dump truck and a feral cat problem. Code Enforcement*

*Officer noted that the City did not have a feral cat ordinance but if there was a vicious animal or they presented health violation he could look into it.*

*Janet Shelton whose mother owned property on Glendale St. and William Neff and Jan Van Camp who owned property on Glendale St. advised the Council of an ongoing problem with a neighbor who had numerous cars parked in the yard and appeared to be operating a vehicle repair business out of their home. Building Inspector White reported that he had been in contact with that property owner and had a meeting scheduled for the following day to discuss the neighbors concerns.*

## **VII. COMMUNITY FORUM**

*Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez noted that the holes by the railroad track on Morgan Street were getting bigger. Melissa Briggs added that out of the 5 sets of tracks only 1 set was acceptable. Interim City Manager Price reported that and October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was scheduled with MoDOT and the railroad to discuss the issue.*

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

*None*

## **IX. NEW BUSINES**

### *A. Discussion on anti-tethering law*

*Code Enforcement Officer Eley had reviewed the Michigan State University's website and provided the Council with a list of States that did have anti-tethering laws. Interim City Manager Price added that the "unleash your dog" article recently published about Carthage was related to vicious dogs, more particularly pit bulls, not the general dog population. Officer Eley felt that tethering dogs was a viable form of animal control as long as the dog had access to food, water and shelter. He did not believe that tethering a dog made them vicious. Many citizens rented or could not afford to fence the yard and by enacting an anti-tethering law it would take away their rights to own a dog. Depending on how the ordinance was written he questioned the ability to enforce such an ordinance. Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez was not a fan of tethering and would like to see what the surrounding communities were doing. Melissa Briggs spoke in favor of an anti-tethering law and felt that if the owner could not afford a fence or keep the dog inside they did not need to own a dog. She sees many dogs that are tied up with no shelter and have their area wore down to mud. She believed that the dogs were more likely to be aggressive and that tethered dogs were responsible for nearly all dog bite fatalities. Ms. Briggs believed that after the initial passing of the ordinance the public would get used to it and the penalty should be a large fine. Mayor Barton requested that Ms. Briggs get a signed petition. Although she would need to clarify with the Lawrence County Clerk, they thought a petition required 10% of the registered voters. Ms. Briggs agreed to start a petition. She added that Aurora should be innovative and take the lead on such an ordinance, regardless of what surrounding communities do.*

### *B. First Reading of Bill No. 2013-2970*

*An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment #1 between the City of Aurora and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for additional funding for land acquisition for the Jerry Sumners Sr. Aurora Municipal Airport*

*Rita Engeldinger questioned the purpose of this amendment. Deputy City Clerk Elery advised that this would provide the grant funding for the recently purchased Ruble property for the airport. The property was purchased for \$76,550.00 and the grant would reimburse 95% of the cost. Councilwoman Colwell made a motion to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2013-2970. Chairman Pro-Tem Ramirez seconded the motion. All Members voted in favor of the motion.*

- C. *Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2013-2970 Making Ordinance No. 2013-2970 An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute Amendment #1 between the City of Aurora and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for additional funding for land acquisition for the Jerry Sumners Sr. Aurora Municipal Airport*  
*Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez made a motion to approve the final reading of Bill No. 2013-2970 making Ordinance No. 2013-2970. Councilwoman Colwell seconded the motion. All Member voted in favor of the motion. The motion is approved.*

## **X. REPORTS**

### **A. Board Liaison Reports**

*Councilwoman Colwell – nothing to report*

*Chairman Pro Tem Ramirez – Park Board walking trail plans done and sent to MoDOT for approval. The project should start in March. The pool has been painted and they were reviewing options for buying a shade apparatus and additional lounge chairs. They were working on a 3D drawing for the tennis grant. The Board was preparing a capital improvement survey for the parks. The new aluminum soccer goals were being moved by the other association and were being damaged. Building Inspector White has volunteered to repair them. They planned to work on the playgrounds and borders, starting in White Park.*

*Councilwoman Rentfro – nothing to report*

*Mayor Barton – Airport had recently purchased the Ruble property and was working on their expansion plans. Police Board – Jerry Sumners had agreed to pay for the new badges and a contest for Juniors and Seniors at both schools was underway for the design of the new logo.*

### **B. Interim City Manager Report**

*Interim City Manager Price reported that they were working on putting the board back together for the Enhanced Enterprise Zone. Nine properties were recently up for the tax sale. He provided information for three derelict properties that needed to be demolished. The property at 515 E. Springfield could be demolished by City Crews once the street work was complete. The City would have to follow the legal condemnation process. The City would be able to save \$110 per roll off by using WCA as compared to a previous demolition. The information for the three derelict properties is attached hereto, incorporated herein, in reference by as "Exhibit A". The City Collector had printed a survey on the recent sewer card billing to get the public's input on a recycling program. City Manager interviews were scheduled for this Friday and next Tuesday. He had been working on gaining access to the sewer departments DUNS number, which had been associated to a previous City Manager's email address. Interim City Manager Price requested the Council's input on citizen complaints during Council Meetings that were specific to an individual. He did not feel that is was appropriate for some items to be*

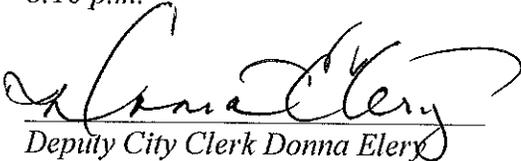
*discussed in an open meeting when the other party was not present. Council was invited to give an update to the radio station on Wednesday mornings. The Windows 7 change over was nearly complete at the Fire Station and they would be working on the Police Station next. ASI was expanding. The ATT permit was complete for construction of a new cell tower on top of the water tower. Verizon was looking for another tower location. Paving should begin in the next one to two weeks. The storm drain at Jefferson and Hadley and caved in and was currently barricaded. This would be repaired once the paving project was complete. A print off from the DNR indicates the sewer project is now on the fundable list. This list is attached hereto, incorporated herein, in reference by as "Exhibit B".*

*C. City Attorney Report*

*The City Attorney was not present*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilwoman Rentfro made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Colwell seconded the motion. All Members present were in favor of the motion. Time noted was approximately 8:10 p.m.*

  
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Deputy City Clerk Donna Elery

  
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Mayor Linda Barton

Approved: 10-8-13