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AURORA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Aurora City Hall, Council Chambers

Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Marks called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE AND PRAYER:

Councilman Ramirez led the council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL: *Mayor David L. Marks*

Chairman Pro Tem Linda Barton

Councilman Steve Ramirez

Councilwoman Lisa Rentfro

Councilwoman Rosemary Henderson

All council members were noted present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Session held on December 22nd, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 22nd, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion.

Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Barton, Rentfro, Marks, Ramirez

NAYES: 0

Special Session held on December 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on December 29th, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion.

Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Barton, Marks

NAYES: Rentfro, Ramirez

Special Session held on January 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the minutes from the special session held on January 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Marks, Henderson

NAYES: Ramirez, Rentfro

V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for December/January

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to remove the invoice for Barton's Service from the bill list. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Marks, Barton, Henderson

NAYES: Ramirez, Rentfro

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the bills as amended. Mayor Marks seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Marks, Barton

NAYES: Ramirez, Rentfro

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VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Witte

Ed was concerned with the ongoing situation with theft and drugs in town. He felt nothing was being done to resolve the situation. He felt that not only himself but others he had spoken to did not feel the police were doing the jobs they were hired for. Others he had spoken to feared coming to council meeting because they felt they would have a bulls eye on them for complaining.

He stated a circumstance where a kid pulled out of Sonic squalling his tires and there were three officers on the scene immediately with the kid over the hood of the truck with handcuffs on. He wanted to know why they weren't doing their jobs and trying to catch drug dealers and those that are stealing everyone blind.

He had called the police chief a year ago and never received a return call. He called him again a week later and discussed with him the possibility of a group of citizens getting together with him to discuss the matter. He never received a return call.

Dispatchers are another issue. They are rude and just don't care. He had also called Officer Rackley three times and left messages for him to call. He never received a call back. Since that time he had spoken with him and felt he was a good officer. He also discussed another situation with Officer Kozisek about a certain house where 5 to 20 vehicles came and went all through the night. He had witnessed drug buys and materials being unloaded to cook meth. He reported it and nothing was done. Officer Kozisek stated they knew they were trading drugs for electronics and at the time the pd was experimenting with new software to track the sale of that type of items through the pawn shops. The department was never able to locate anything with his name on it. Mr. Witte replied that if it wasn't running correctly through the pawn shops you won't ever catch the burglars. Officer Kozisek stated that the pawn shops openly work with them by allowing them to look at daily pawn slips. The department works with Comet on a daily basis as well. Citizens need to understand that the department has \$500 a year to buy drugs. That can be gone overnight. It's expensive to join Comet and to hire officers exclusively to fight drugs.

Officer Vaughn informed the public that they needed to secure their belongings. Call us when you see something unusual. We'll be there as quickly as we can. We respond to Lawrence County when they call and they respond back to us. Our officers carry county commissions.

Mr. Witte said communication is key. Officer Vaughn agreed. The force has sent 288 major cases to Lawrence County. Sex crimes are up 98%. The department is at the mercy of the prosecutor. Criminals have been remanded to the county only to be turned loose by the prosecutor. Our hands are tied.

Mr. Witte in closing stated crime was in epidemic levels and he would like to see the city set up a citizens committee to discuss the matter. He would be available to assist. Chairman Pro Tem Barton and Councilwoman Rentfro also offered to serve if the committee was established.

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Anissa Gilmore

Her and her husband had been broken into 5 times. The same people are getting stopped over and over but nothing is ever done. There are more and more burglaries going on and nothing ever gets accomplished. There have been 7 burglaries in her neighborhood in the last two weeks. A Polaris ranger had been stolen from them. She had requested the report. There has never been any follow up done. Officer Vaughn stated there is follow up done however those reports are never issued to the public.

In another instance tools were found at Dorothy's Trading Post. The name and address was given to an officer and told where all the stolen goods were located. Nothing was done. They were told there was not enough evidence for a conviction.

Her husband can't sleep at night so he regularly patrols the neighborhood and not once has he seen an officer anywhere. Why aren't they patrolling in the neighborhoods that are being struck?

She cited several other instances where reports were requested and received however with no follow up report after the initial report was received. Officer Vaughn established the fact that once the initial report is done an investigative report is done and that report is not accessible to the public.

She asked why police were not stationed in Marionville and others in Aurora instead of the officers patrolling both towns. Officer Vaughn stated the department was going to institute a beat program like years ago when a specific officer is going to be stationed in a particular part of town. Officers will still be able to respond to other parts of the city. The department wants to ensure manpower is disbursed throughout the city.

Mark Ball

Reported he had a 60 ft. trailer with tools stolen from in front of his house. A report was done but he wondered how involved they get with the reports. Are they issued to Lawrence County? Officer Vaughn indicated they were shared with Lawrence County. Everything is put into the mules system which goes across the country as well as other resources. He explained the problem is certain individuals that steal get caught, they go to prison and then they get out and steal again. A cycle that sometimes never gets broken.

Don Collins

Wondered who handled code enforcement? He made a complaint a year ago about a neighbor who was caught dumping sewer waste into chat creek. His neighbor has no electricity, water or sewer but is being allowed to reside in the property. At the time he had requested a copy of the ordinance and he was never given one.

He had found his deceased son in May of 2013 and had called the police department for assistance. An officer came and asked him for his social security number. A friend of his was there and witnessed the action. He had called the Chief to ask why the officer had asked for the social security number. He left a message for him to return the call and never received a call back. He should have had the decency to return my call. The dispatchers can be pretty hateful. He stated he was waiting for an apology from the Police Chief. It was a difficult thing to go through without ever hearing back. Officer

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Vaughn apologized on behalf of the department and said that individual was no longer with the department.

In conclusion the Mayor stated his concerns were good to hear and the city would be working toward a solution. Mr. Witte again asked if it would be appropriate to hold another meeting to specifically talk about this matter. He wanted to put a stop to the stealing and drugs and was willing to help in any way he could.

City Manager Randall stated the department had a new tool to assist with reporting. Captain Jenkins explained there is a new hotline where things can anonymously be reported. The number is 440-4441 and is available 24 hours a day.

VII. COUNCIL FORUM

Chairman Pro Tem Barton stated she was all for having a special meeting to discuss the crime and drugs in town. She felt that the thieves know exactly what they are taking and the value of the item and where they are going to dispose of the items. She would be willing to represent the city. Councilwoman Rentfro also volunteered.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. *Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2014-3017
An Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri accepting and approving the rezoning of the Briggs/ Fulp property located at 3100 S. Elliott, Suites 101 to 106, from "A-1" (Agricultural) to "C-2" (General Business District)*

Councilwoman Rentfro moved to approve the second and final reading of Bill No. 2014-3017 which will now be known as Ordinance No. 2014-3017. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Marks, Henderson, Rentfro
NAYES: Ramirez

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Resolution No. 2015-1379
A Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce*

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1379 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Aurora Chamber of Commerce. Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Henderson, Ramirez, Marks, Rentfro
NAYES: 0

- B. *Resolution No. 2015-1380
A Resolution of Aurora, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Aurora Historical Society*

Councilman Ramirez moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1380 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Aurora Historical Society. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Rentfro, Henderson, Marks, Ramirez, Barton
NAYES: 0

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- C. *Resolution No. 2015-1381*
A Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Main Street Aurora

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1381 authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Main Street Aurora. Councilwoman Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Marks, Ramirez, Barton, Rentfro, Henderson

NAYES: 0

- D. *Resolution No. 2015-1382*
A Resolution appointing membership to the Aurora Park Board

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1382 appointing membership to the Aurora Park Board (Thach). Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

AYES: Ramirez, Barton, Henderson, Rentfro, Marks

NAYES: 0

- E. *First Reading of Bill No. 2015-3019*
An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Aurora and the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission providing for Phase II of the White Park Trail

Upon final passage of this ordinance the city will accept the grant award of Phase II of the Walking Trail Project.

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2015-3019. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Marks, Ramirez, Barton

NAYES: Rentfro

- F. *Second and Final Reading of Bill No. 2015-3019*
An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Aurora and the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission providing for Phase II of the White Park Trail

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve the second and final reading of Bill No. 2015-3019. This bill will now be known as Ordinance No. 2015-3019.

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

AYES: Henderson, Marks, Ramirez, Barton

NAYES: Rentfro

- G. *Resolution No. 2015-1383*
A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 1 on Airport Project 9454

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1383 authorizing the Mayor to execute Change Order No. 1 on Airport Project # 9454. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Ramirez, Marks, Rentfro, Henderson

NAYES: 0

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H. Resolution No. 2015-1384

A Resolution authorizing and approving the Mayor to submit an application to MoDOT for Federal/State Assistance for sealcoating Runway 18-36, connecting taxiway, turnarounds, and apron

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1384 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to MoDOT for sealcoating the runways at the Airport. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Marks, Ramirez, Rentfro, Barton

NAYES: 0

I. *Permission to sell the hospital property located at 545 S Porter and to put funds from the sale of the property into the Capital Improvement Fund*

Councilman Ramirez, in reviewing the lease, did not find where the houses were attached to the lease. It didn't specify the houses or addresses of the houses or what the assets were. It was not adequately spelled out. Why is the city not allowed the sell those properties and use the money in our General Fund?.

City Manager Randall pointed out a place in the lease stating the sale money was to be placed in the Capital Improvement Fund which the city controls. Mr. Petrus may want to review the contract. It is very unclear and very confusing stated Councilman Ramirez. It does not specify that the hospital is leasing the homes or that the city owns them.

Judy Dingman, Aurora Advertiser Editor, remarked that she thought the hospital had purchased the homes through expansion. Councilman Ramirez stated that if they owned the homes he wanted to see proof of it. City Manager Randall stated that he felt the city owned the homes as the leases were in the City of Aurora's name and that once the properties were sold the funds were to be contributed to the Capital Improvement Fund according to Paragraph C. That is the basis for the city getting the \$650,000 back from the hospital for the Interceptor Sewer Project.

In closing Councilman Ramirez wanted proof as to why the money could not go into the city's general fund.

Councilman Ramirez made the motion to table this matter until clarification can be received on ownership of the properties and whether the funds have to be transferred back to the Capital Improvement Fund. Councilwoman Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Rentfro, Henderson, Ramirez, Marks

NAYES: Barton

X. **REPORTS**

A. *Board Liaison Reports*

Hospital Board

- Discussed getting permission from the city to sell the property at 545 S. Porter

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- A new outreach clinic is opening which will house ear nose and throat doctors and sleep disorder physicians.
- The new hospital is on hold due to being paid less for services through the Affordable Care Act. They are continuing to monitor the situation and will make a determination at a later date.

Airport Board

Discussed and approved submitting an application to MoDot for sealing cracks in the runway.

Park Board

The park board will be going into a planning phase to refocus their efforts this next year on playground improvements.

B. *City Attorney Report*

None

C. *City Manager Report*

City Manager Randall reported on the following items:

- Met with Allgeier Martin representatives to begin preliminary design discussions.
- A fire over the weekend occurred at 32 E Cline at the New Hope Fellowship Church. The structure was a substantial loss.
- The fire department responded to 10 calls over the weekend.
- A new Animal Control Officer has been hired.
- Street department is waiting on cold mix to patch holes.
- The time limit is up on Radio Shack's building permit. The city will put up a condemned sign on the building. Options will be explored on what the next step will be.

XI . ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

APPROVED:



David L. Marks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathie Needham, City Clerk, MMC/MPCC