

"Improving the quality of life for Aurora"

AURORA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES *Aurora City Hall, Council Chambers* *Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 6:30 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 the 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 March 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the regular session held on March 10, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Marks, Ramirez, Rentfro, Barton

NAYES: 0

V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for March

Councilman Ramirez moved to approve the appropriations for March as submitted along with the additional items presented by Theresa Pettit. Councilwoman Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYE: Rentfro, Henderson, Ramirez, Marks

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: Barton (Had invoice in bill list for approval)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VII. COUNCIL FORUM

Councilman Ramirez wanted to continue the discussion, by putting it on a future agenda, to hire a new activity director or to appoint someone already on staff to the position to help coordinate events.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration/Approval to add Section 130.805 "Social Media Policy" to the Personnel Policy

Motion was made by Councilwoman Rentfro to postpone this addition until further research was done. Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

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AYES: Ramirez, Rentfro, Barton, Marks, Henderson

NAYES: 0

B. *Consideration/ Approval to add Section 130.810 "Weapon Free Workplace Policy" to the Personnel Policy*

Councilman Ramirez moved to postpone this addition until further research could be done on defining knives. Councilwoman Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Ramirez, Rentfro, Marks, Barton

NAYES: 0

C. *Resolution No. 2015-1395*

A Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement for a consultant to do a Wage and Salary Compensation Study

Councilman Ramirez moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1395 appointing The Austin Peters Group to do a Wage and Compensation Study along with a review of job descriptions. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Marks, Ramirez, Henderson, Rentfro

NAYES: 0

D. *Discussion/ Approval to liquidate perpetual care funds*

City Manager Randall stated the city's auditor Marshall Decker of Decker and DeGood has been encouraging the city to get rid of some of its smaller individual bank accounts. The perpetual care fund was initiated, years ago, to provide flowers for certain individual graves by using the interest on the account. Today with very little interest is being received therefore there is not enough funds available to purchase flowers. Contact has been lost with the parties involved over the years.

In keeping with the original desire City Manager Randall suggested buying a memorial with the remaining funds to honor the recipients. Another suggestion was to plant a tree near each person's grave and to place a plaque under the tree stating the name of the loved one. City Attorney Reynolds agreed it was in the best interest of the city to use the funds to purchase a memorial.

Chairman Pro Tem Barton moved to dissolve the account and to use the funds to plant a tree for each person and to put a plaque by the tree with their name on it. Any remaining funds should be used to buy a bench and monument.

Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ramirez, Rentfro, Barton, Marks, Henderson

NAYES: 0

E. *Discussion/ Approval to decide who will pay associated costs for implementing a credit card system*

Mayor Marks moved to implement a credit card system that would be free of charge to the public. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Henderson, Ramirez, Marks, Rentfro, Barton

NAYES: 0

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- F. *First Reading of Bill No. 2015-3025*
An Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri, amending Chapter 220 "Nuisances" Article II "Weeds and Wild Growth" Section 220.090 "Weed, Other Grasses-Excessive Growth Prohibited" of the Municipal Code

Councilman Ramirez moved to postpone the first reading of this ordinance until clarification on brush and rank vegetation could be defined. Councilwoman Rentfro seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye;

AYES: Barton, Rentfro, Ramirez, Marks, Henderson

NAYES: 0

- G. *Resolution No. 2015-1396*
A Resolution of the City of Aurora, Missouri authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Unifirst through the Joint National Powers Alliance for employee's uniforms

Councilwoman Rentfro moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1396 approving an agreement, with Unifirst through the Joint National Powers Association, for employee uniforms. Chairman Pro Tem Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0 with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Barton, Henderson, Ramirez, Marks, Rentfro

NAYES: 0

- H. *Discussion/ Approval for any recommendations concerning the Farmers Market*

City Manager Randall started the discussion by stating the Farmers Markets had met with the Chamber of Commerce, the Park Board and now City Council. They were invited to the meeting to take part in the discussion on all the problems that have been occurring between the two groups.

Presently there are two groups; the Open Market and the Local Market. They each operate under an umbrella of one business license. Each group is to give a listing of their vendors and their sales tax id numbers to the city upon applying for their business license. Several vendors have completely broken away from the markets and are operating under their own business licenses. From the city's standpoint it would be best if each vendor had their own license that way the city could ensure that they did have a proper license from the Department of Revenue. However, that is not the present practice.

Charles Lecklighter

Mr. Lecklighter informed council that he had put together the information in the packets that were previously distributed to them. He felt that one market in particular was deciphering their own rules and regulations to keep certain people out of their markets. He was refused a license from the Local Market because he was informed that he did not have the right to approach city council with issues. He was also denied the ability to sell his own flowers. People have been thrown out of the group for various reasons because the group was trying to manipulate their membership. Meetings have been held and they do not take minutes. They have no bylaws. Dues are due in March and you can't vote until your dues are paid. He was going to run for President of the market and had requested membership information and was denied the information. About that time Tony Stonecypher, the previous City Manager, split the market into two groups hoping to alleviate the ongoing problems. From that point on there has been nothing but problems. The city should disband both groups and combine them into one group with rules and regulations stated Mr. Lecklighter.

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Trish Matheny, President of the Local Market

Trish reported that they do keep minutes. The market membership dues are \$20 a year. She has 20-35 members in her group. Dues are used for advertising, signs and insurance premiums. Several customer appreciation days have been held that the public was invited to. Vendors keep their own money. The group has no paid employees.

Trish reported that she had been told by Theresa Pettit, Park Board President that she wanted the market out of the park. Several new locations were looked at by her, the City Manager and Theresa Pettit all of which would not work for one reason or another. The market then found another location and moved their operation out of the park. She reported they would be glad to rejoin the group when a new location is found.

City Manager Randall reported that he had spoken with Bill McClure about the North end of Madison Street as a potential location for the Farmers Markets. Mr. McClure felt that would be a great location for the market. He then spoke with the other owner of the property on the other side of the street but she felt there would not be adequate parking. The owner of Gossett's corner was also contacted about a potential location for the market. She was amenable to the idea however she was worried about liability. She would require the markets to add her on their insurance policies as an additional insured.

Theresa Pettit said that she shouldn't be involved in the matter. She was only serving on a committee that was in charge of park improvements. The committee was in the park reviewing things and she fell in a hole that was caused by a tire track. She had been noticing that trailers had been pulling into the park and asked the markets not to park in the park. That didn't work. Theresa reminded the board that there is a city ordinance against selling in the park. She stated she had not asked the market to leave the park only to not park in the park.

City Attorney Reynolds stated that there was no requirement for either group to post their meetings or to take minutes unless their bylaws required it.

Councilman Ramirez brought up the matter again of hiring an activity director to handle these types of things. Theresa Pettit stated as she was sitting in the audience she had put a list together of several things an activity director could handle.

Nita Bass, President of the Open Market

The members of this market are local vendors. Their original market was located downtown however business was not great in that location. Ms. Bass does crafts in her home which she sells through the market. In season, she buys watermelons and sweet potatoes and re sales them. This groups members can buy and re sale products and homemade crafts. After the downtown location failed she moved to Oak Park. When the Local Market started setting up in Oak Park they tried to run her market and their members off. The other market started dictating rules and regulations to her market members which she did not appreciate. She felt the city should not be involved in the matter.

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Members in this group pay \$20 membership fees. Paying members are the only ones that can vote. The market is free for anyone to join. This year she did not have enough membership dues to pay the insurance premium so she paid it out of her own pocket. Vendors in her market can set up 7 days a week if they wish.

Councilwoman Rentfro stated that the city cannot discriminate against anyone or any group. Mr. Lecklighter suggested the city combine both groups together and put into place rules and regulations which would be overseen by a manager. The Chamber of Commerce looked into the matter and stated they would allow the markets to set up on their parking lot but would not be responsible for babysitting either market.

Mayor Marks replied the city would take this matter under advisement and would look into setting up guidelines.

X. *REPORTS*

A. Board Liaison Reports

Councilwoman Rentfro reported on a meeting she had attended in Columbia that was put on through Truman Public Affairs.

Councilman Ramirez reported that he had spent the last few weekends with the Police and Fire Departments.

Theresa Pettit, Park Board President reported that the information she previously passed out to council had a list of several projects that will be ongoing in the parks. School children and various organizations will be assisting the park board with several of those item listed as community service projects.

B. City Attorney Report

No report was given.

C. City Manager Report

City Manager Randall reported on the following items:

- The Wastewater Department has repaired a line break.
- The contractor on the Interceptor Project has moved all its employees to finish up another job.
- The Transportation Department is working on pillars for a sign in White Park and has been installing handicap ramps in several locations.
- Water is being turned on in the parks due to practice season starting early for the restroom facilities.
- Timers are being worked on in White Park to keep the lights from being on all night long.
- Pot holes are being filled with cold mix that has just recently been received.
- Crews have been planting several new trees in the Cemetery.

XI. *CLOSED SESSION pursuant to 610.021 (1)*

Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public government body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representative and its attorney's.

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Councilwoman Rentfro moved to go into Closed Session. Time noted 8:40 p.m.
Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed by a roll call vote with the following council members voting aye:

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

Councilwoman Rentfro moved to go into Open Session. Time noted 9:49 p.m.
Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed by a roll call vote with the following council members voting aye:

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 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

Posted March 20, 2015 by Kathie Needham, City Clerk