

"Improving the quality of life for Aurora"

AURORA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Aurora City Hall, Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Marks called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Rick Boyer

Councilman Steve Ramirez

Councilwoman Linda Barton

Councilwoman Rosemary Henderson

All council members were noted present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Session held on April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Barton moved to approve the minutes from the special session held on April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Henderson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Boyer, Henderson, Marks, Barton

NAYES: Ramirez

Regular Session held on April 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the minutes from the regular session held on April 14th at 6:30 p.m. Councilwoman Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Marks, Ramirez, Barton, Boyer, Henderson

NAYES: 0

V. APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS for April

Councilwoman Barton moved to approve the appropriations for April as submitted.

Chairman Pro Tem Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

AYES: Ramirez, Barton, Henderson, Boyer, Marks

NAYES: 0

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

George Edmonds – 411 E. Highland

Mr. Edmonds complained to council that he had received a summons into court by the Code Enforcement Officer for having more than 3 dogs. He stated he had moved back to town and was unaware that an ordinance existed limiting the number of dogs a person could own. He owned 6 dogs of which 4 were puppies of their mother and father dogs. He vaccinated his animals and bought licenses for each of his pets as requested.

Although he did everything asked of him he still received a summons to go to court. He was told by the Code Enforcement Officer that if he did not agree with the code he needed to see city council.

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A neighbor had complained that his dogs barked all night long. A perpetrator had come over his privacy fence and tried to enter his home. The dogs were barking in retaliation of the intruder. Other than that night his dogs remain inside all night long.

Chairman Pro Tem Boyer explained that the ordinance was to protect the citizens from people having puppy mills. Councilwoman Barton stated council needed to review other cities ordinances to see if any changes needed to be made.

City Attorney Reynolds was asked for his opinion. He stated unless you change the ordinance you have hired the judge to defend you and council should allow her to deal with the matter. The ordinance was put into place for public safety measures. Council needed to leave the decision in the judge's hands. Councils job is to create policy not interpret it.

Mr. Edmonds was instructed that even if the code was changed it would not help his cause. He was told that he needed to appear before the Judge and a determination would be made.

VII. COUNCIL FORUM

Councilman Ramirez stated that he had voted no on the approval of the minutes from the April 14th meeting at 6:00 p.m. because he wanted to change his vote on Resolution 2015-1401. He had originally voted aye and wanted to change his vote to nay. Minutes of this meeting will now reflect the change in his vote to nay.

Mayor Marks has received numerous phone calls on why the lawn at the Police Fire Facility was higher than code permitted.

Councilwoman Barton asked to put a discussion on a city wide cleanup for the spring and fall on the next council agenda.

Councilman Ramirez, in conjunction with town cleanup, stated that if we were going to spend money on a city wide cleanup then the subject of mandatory trash collection needed to be put back on the agenda for discussion.

Councilwoman Henderson also asked for another discussion to be put on the agenda leaves and limb pickup.

Councilman Ramirez inquired why funds for the fire department that had been expended for training, once reimbursed back to the city, was not reallocated back into the fire departments budget. City Manager Randall stated proper accounting procedures for revenue coming into the general fund was to account for it as miscellaneous revenue. Not as a revenue back to an expenditure department. Councilman Ramirez disagreed and stated that was not proper accounting procedures and the money should be transferred back to the fire departments budget for expenditure.

City Manager Randall stated the city's auditor was in the audience and could explain his position on the matter.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

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IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Presentation of the 2014 Audit by Marshal Decker of Decker and DeGood*

In response to the question that was asked by Councilman Ramirez Marshall explained that just because you budget specific numbers does not mean that you have the money available for your usage at any given time. Revenue streams in at different times of the year. All revenue coming into the general fund is revenue to the fund unless something is specifically earmarked for a particular purpose.

The city maintains a fund balance policy that should be strictly adhered to. This ensures the city has on hand adequate funding to run the city for a three month period of time. Once you have maintained that balance you can acceptably spend into your fund balances. The budget is set in anticipation of certain revenues. Later in the year when you can clearly see if revenue is coming in as anticipated or not you can amend your budget to adequately reflect what is happening.

Marshall's presentation showed the city in good financial standing. The fund balance in the general increased from the prior year leaving the city in a rock solid position.

One positive remark was the city will show an unfunded accrued liability of 126% more in assets than liabilities in regards to Lagers in next year's audit. Most cities never attain 85% funding. Balances in the Transportation Department and Wastewater Funds have decreased due to ongoing projects.

B. *Resolution No. 2015-1405*

A Resolution appointing a council liaison to the Aurora Park Board

This resolution rescinds Resolution No. 2015-1401 which appointed Rick Boyer as Park Board liaison. The new resolution, once executed, will appoint Steve Ramirez as liaison to the park board.

Councilwoman Barton moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-1405.

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

AYES: Ramirez, Henderson, Barton, Boyer, Marks,

NAYES: 0

C. *First Reading of Bill No. 2015-3029*

An Ordinance calling for the election on the question of proposing a one-half cent Storm Water Control and Local Park Sales Tax and eliminate the current collection of park property taxes, designating the time of holding such election, and directing the said notice of said election to be published in form an at such times as provided by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Missouri, and the Ordinance of the City of Aurora, Missouri, and setting forth the form of the ballot to be used said election

City Council is proposing a Strom Water Control/Local Park Sales Tax in lieu of collecting park property taxes. The general fund is now allocating \$182,000 for the parks that could be relieved by the collection of the new sales tax. This proposition will go before voters in the August election.

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Councilwoman Henderson moved to approve the first reading of Bill No. 2015-3029. Councilwoman Barton seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye on the motion:

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

D. Safe and Sober "Stop Teen Drinking" Month Proclamation

Chairman Pro Tem Boyer moved to approve the proclamation stating May will be Safe and Sober "Stop Teen Drinking" Month. Councilman Ramirez seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

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

X. *REPORTS*

A. Board Liaison Reports

Park Board

Aurora High School Students held a workday in White Park. Not all projects were completed but will be done in the near future. The entrance columns for the sign coming into the park are almost complete.

B. City Attorney Report

No report.

C. City Manager Report

City Manager Randall reported on the following items:

- City Council needs to discuss with their voting constituencies the terms of the sales tax proposition being proposed. City Manager Randall will work with the press to help educate the public and attend civic meetings.
- A list of contractors was previously sent to council on vendors that are in town working toward resolution of hail damage issues. One hundred roofing permits have been issued in the last couple of weeks.
- Twelve city vehicles were damaged due to hail damage. According to the cities procurement policy either the repair would have to be bid out or council could approve the repair under an emergency situation to get the vehicles back out on the road at the next council meeting.

Chief Witthuhn spoke with council about the need for city council to approve repairing the vehicles under the emergency clause. Two companies refused to give estimates due to the large number of vehicles they already had to repair. The city's insurance carrier, Midwest Pubic Risk selected an estimator to come to town and estimate the damage on all city vehicles. Hudson Collision agreed to work with those estimates through the estimator and insurance company to repair the vehicles.

The Police Department had 8 vehicles that were damaged, the Fire Department had 3 vehicles and the Transportation Department had 1 vehicle.

Motion was made by Councilman Ramirez to have Hudson Collision due the repair under the emergency purchase option. Chairman Pro Tem Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following council members voting aye:

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

Chief Witthuhn also reported that Captain Vaughn has been put in charge of the Neighborhood Watch Program. He will also be putting a citizen police academy together which will meet one night a week for a month for citizens to learn the responsibilities of the police department. Interested citizens will have to make application into the program. Background checks will be done on each applicant.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed with all members voting aye.

APPROVED:



David L. Marks, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kathie Needham, City Clerk, MMC/MPCC