

Aurora City Council Meeting Minutes
Aurora City Hall
City Council Chambers
2 W. Pleasant
Aurora, Missouri
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 - 6 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE:** Councilman Ferguson led the Council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Jason Lewis – present
Chairman Pro Tem Dawn Oplinger – present
Councilman Doyle Ferguson – present
Councilwoman Theresa Pettit – not present
Councilman Tony Kennedy – present

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A citizen desiring to speak on an item not on the agenda may do so at this time. Each citizen is limited to three minutes and the Council will not take action or discuss items at this time. Discussion should be limited to matters of City business and public comment is not permitted in regard to personnel matters or on pending legal matters. Items introduced under "Public Comment" may become agenda items at a later date.

Frank Harris, residing at 145 W. Cofield, spoke to Council regarding traffic concerns he has relating to Morgan Street and the North Tot Lot. Mr. Harris explained that there are loaded semis, neighborhood vehicles, and a 4-wheeler that routinely speed through that area while children are playing. His concern is for the safety of the children in the neighborhood and those that utilize the park. He suggested that the Council consider putting children at play signs, speed bumps, or a 4-way stop to help control the problem.

John Medlin, residing at 141 W. Cofield, spoke to Council regarding the same traffic concerns as Mr. Harris. His intention was to corroborate the speeding and other concerns regarding Morgan Street and the North Tot Lot.

Chrissy Forrester with Mercy Hospital addressed Council regarding the Mercy Run for Care 5K event and requested that Council waive the Special Event Application fee. As Public Comment cannot be voted or acted upon, City Manager Jon Holmes recommended that Council make a motion to add it to the agenda. Councilman Ferguson made a motion to add the Mercy Run for Care 5K Special Event to the agenda. Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy
NAYES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: Pettit

5. **COUNCIL FORUM**

Council Forum provides an opportunity for Council Members to share information with the rest of the Council regarding communications with constituents, meetings attended,

request items to be put on the agenda, make requests of staff, or direct questions to staff regarding issues that are not on the agenda.

Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger reported that she will be attending the Hospital Board Meeting on Thursday and gave a shout out and thank you to everyone who worked so hard during the storm to keep the public updated on what was going on and where they could go during the storm if needed.

Councilman Kennedy reported that the Bright Futures Meeting had been rescheduled.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed on the 'Consent Agenda' are considered routine and shall be enacted by one motion of the City Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired by a member of the Council, that item will be removed from the 'Consent Agenda' and placed on the regular agenda as a final item under 'New Business'.

6.I *Approval Of Minutes - City Council Special Session September 23, 2021*

6.II *September/October 2021 Appropriations*

Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilman Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

7. OLD BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

Amended Agenda Item: Mercy Run for Care 5K

Community Development Director Carrie Howlett addressed Council regarding a Special Event Application that her department received. She explained that due to some confusion, the application did not make it on this agenda. She further explained the details of this event and what they would like from the city.

Chrissy Forrester spoke on behalf of Mercy explaining that this is the 4th Annual Mercy Run for Care 5K and that they are requesting that the Council waive the Special Event Application fee.

Councilman Ferguson made a motion to approve the Special Event Application Mercy Run for Care 5K and that the Special Event Application fee be waived. Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

8.I Oath Of Office And Pinning

Due to a family emergency, Officer Duarte was unable to attend the meeting.

8.II *Special Event Application - Spooky Movie Night*

Community Development Director Carrie Howlett addressed Council regarding the Special Event Application Spooky Movie Night. Director Howlett explained to Council that the movie night would be held on the sidewalk and that the event may require overflow into the parking spaces in front of the Mustard Seed. Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger made the suggestion that they utilize the gazebo located beside City Hall instead of the sidewalk and possible parking spaces. Director Howlett stated that she would make that suggestion to the applicant.

Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger made a motion to approve the Special Event Application Spooky Movie Night. Councilman Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

8.III *Resolution 2021-1828*

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AURORA, MISSOURI AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO REPLACEMENT PATROL VEHICLES TO BE USED IN THE CITY OF AURORA POLICE DEPARTMENT

City Manager Jon Holmes addressed Council with his concerns regarding the current extended and unknown delivery time from pandemic related issues and recommended to Council that the City place their order for these vehicles now so that they be received in 2022.

Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-1828. Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

8.IV *Resolution 2021-1829*

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF AURORA, MISSOURI AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT MOWER TO BE USED BY THE CITY OF AURORA CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

City Manager Jon Holmes stated to Council that he had the same concerns with unknown delivery time from pandemic related issues and made the recommendation that the City place their order for the replacement mower at this time.

Councilman Kennedy made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-1829. Councilman Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting

aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

8.V First Reading Of Ordinance 2021-3239

AN ORDINANCE authorizing and providing a contract between the CITY of Aurora, Missouri and The Empire District Electric Company, its successors or assigns, for electric service and equipment to light the CITY's streets, alleys, and public ways, electric service for light and power for the CITY's parks, other properties and public places, for a term of years, and specifying the prices to be paid for such lighting and power service, and the terms and conditions of such contract; and in consideration of COMPANY's covenants and obligations contained herein and COMPANY's acceptance of the terms and conditions contained herein for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Company's facilities within the CITY; except providing further that nothing herein shall prohibit the CITY from lawfully collecting an Occupation Tax, License Tax, motor vehicle license fees and any ad valorem tax on the COMPANY's real estate and personal property."

City Manager Holmes addressed Council regarding the agreement between Liberty/Empire Electric. City Manager Holmes explained the purpose behind the agreement and what it is intended for. Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger asked City Attorney Ken Reynolds if he would like to read the agreement before the Council made a decision and a vote. City Attorney Reynolds stated he did not have enough time to read through the whole document tonight but that he did notice that Article 9 should read "to the extent provided by law." Discussion was held between Council, City Manager Holmes and Liberty Representative Bethany Aborn regarding the change to the agreement.

Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger made a motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2021-3239 with the addition of "to the extent provided by law" to Article 9. Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

8.VI Second Reading Of Ordinance 2021-3239

AN ORDINANCE authorizing and providing a contract between the CITY of Aurora, Missouri and The Empire District Electric Company, its successors or assigns, for electric service and equipment to light the CITY's streets, alleys, and public ways, electric service for light and power for the CITY's parks, other properties and public places, for a term of years, and specifying the prices to be paid for such lighting and power service, and the terms and conditions of such contract; and in consideration of COMPANY's covenants and obligations contained herein and COMPANY's acceptance of the terms and conditions contained herein for the establishment, operation and maintenance of the Company's facilities within the CITY; except providing further that nothing herein shall prohibit the CITY from lawfully collecting an Occupation Tax, License Tax, motor vehicle license fees and any ad valorem tax on the COMPANY's real estate and personal property

The Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-3239 was tabled until the recommended changes to the agreement have been made.

9. STAFF REPORTS/ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. Board Liaison Reports

Nothing to report at this time.

2. City Manager Report

Police Chief Coatney addressed Council with an update on the radar equipment purchased and with the information he has obtained from Axon regarding the possibility of body cams for the department.

Full City Manager Report Attached.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to RSMo 610.021

1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving public government body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys.

2) Leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor. However, any minutes, vote or public record approving a contract relating to the leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body shall be made public upon execution of the lease, purchase or sale of the real estate;

Mayor Lewis made a motion to move into Closed Session at 6:58 p.m. Councilman Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

Councilman Kennedy made a motion to move into Open Session at 7:51 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

11. ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Chairman Pro Tem Oplinger seconded the motion. Motion passed with the following Council members voting aye:

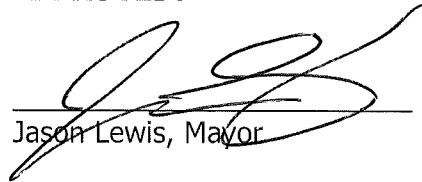
AYES: Lewis, Oplinger, Ferguson, Kennedy

NAYES: 0

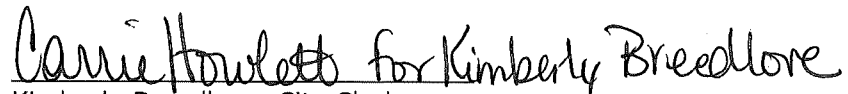
ABSTAIN: 0

ABSENT: Pettit

APPROVED:


Jason Lewis, Mayor

ATTEST:


Carrie Howlett for Kimberly Breedlove
Kimberly Breedlove, City Clerk
Acting City Clerk

To: Mayor Lewis & Aurora City Council
From: Jon Holmes, City Manager, City of Aurora
Re: City Manager Report
Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Dept. Items

- **Police**
 - Chief Coatney will be providing updates for his dept.

- **Fire**
 - Hose Testing complete
 - A water rescue class is scheduled for this weekend

- **Street & Cemetery**
 - Paving – Only remaining areas is in Baldwin Park, Sherri Lane and the dog park parking lot.
 - Crack sealing on streets is continuing
 - Limb and Brush Pickup is next week
 - Tree trimming is being conducted on trees over the streets and ROW

- **Park**
 - Addressing maintenance issues in the parks since mowing has slowed down
 - Completed stump grinding on may trees that have been removed
 - Working for a large tree purchase for cemetery, city hall and the parks
 - Dog Park Fencing is scheduled to begin in about three weeks

- **Stormwater**
 - Nothing to report

- **Wastewater**
 - Oxidation Ditch motor repair completed
 - Annual Water Quality Report submitted to DNR/EPA
 - Design work has begun with our engineers for the South Point Ridge Development

- **Admin. & Finance**
 - Economic Development Report – see separate update
 - ARPA Funding – the first report due date has been rolled back to April of 2022. As stated, we will schedule a special work session to inform the Council what we can use that funding for and discuss items/projects that we have in progress that ARPA funds can be used for if the Council agrees. We have until 2024 to obligate the funds and 2026 is the deadline for all funds to be expended.
 - Grant submitted to the SWMO Solid Waste Council for \$6K to hold an e-waste collection event

- Microsoft Windows 11 – Several of our computers need updating to be able to accept Windows 11 (primarily the PD)
- Working with the Public Works Dept. to schedule the City Hall/Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Budget Items – equipment purchase items requested by the Council to be added into the budget have been added.
- Community Partner Funding Award letters will be going out this week
- Have begun working on bid announcements and Requests for Proposals and Qualifications for FY2022 projects

Human Resources Notes:

- Continuing to advertise for Police Vacancies
- Total Compensation Statement for Employees - we are working on a template for that and intend to provide that to all employees with the last paycheck of the year

• Community Development

- October 21st, Comp Plan Committee Meeting
 - 274 Comp Plan Surveys were received
 - 78 Park Surveys were received
- October 28th, Board of Zoning Adjustment Meeting
- November 2nd, Planning and Zoning Meeting
- Liberty Service Center – Final Inspection completed

Meetings/Events Attended:

- SMCOC Meeting – August 25th
- Aurora/LCESB/Monett 911 Meeting – 25th
- Aurora Chamber Meeting – August 25th
- Park Stake Holder Meetings – August 30th and 31st
- Economic Development Meetings – Carrie and I met with two businesses that are looking to expand their current businesses within the Aurora community.
- Area City manager's Meeting – Nixa September 2nd
- Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting – September 8th
- Republic Recreation Center Tour – September 9th
- Comp Plan meeting - September 16th
- FY2022 Council Budget Work session September 23rd
- MML Conference September 26th – 29th

Upcoming Meetings and Events Attending

- Hospital Board Meeting – Oct. 14th
- GRO Monthly meeting – Oct. 15th
- SMCOC Meeting – Oct. 27th

Tentative Upcoming Agenda Items:

- Procurement Policy Changes
- Urban Forestry Ordinances – Tree City USA

