

**City of Aurora, Ohio**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 11, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 11, 2016 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:           Reva Barner  
                      Kathi Grandillo  
                      Harold Hatridge  
                      George Horvat  
                      Dennis Kovach  
                      John Kudley, Jr.  
                      Amy McDougald  
                      James Vaca  
                      Scott Wolf

Also Present:   Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor  
                      Dean DePiero, Law Director  
                      Robert Paul, Finance Director  
                      John Trew, Director of Public Services  
                      Denise Januska, Planning, Zoning & Building Director  
                      Karen Aldredge, Chief of Staff  
                      Jack Burge, Economic & Entrepreneurial Development Director  
                      Brian Byard, Police Chief  
                      Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council  
                      Colleen Martin, Deputy Clerk of Council

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:       Approval of the December 21, 2015 meeting minutes**

Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a 7-0-2 roll call vote. Mr. Hatridge and Mr. Horvat abstained.

AYES:            Barner, Grandillo, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf

NAYS:            None

ABSTAIN:        Hatridge, Horvat

Mr. Kudley asked the committee members to support a motion to add Employees Generally as Item B on the agenda.

**MOTION:       To Add Employees Generally as Item B to Agenda**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried unanimous vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**TAX ABATEMENT WITH AKMA DEVELOPMENT LLC**

Mr. Paul said AKMA was present a few months back and requested a tax abatement for an addition they were putting to their existing building. He said it was originally \$450,000.00 and after discussions it was now determined it would be in the \$700,000.00 range. He said the county looks at this from a stand point that they approved the original amount and if they spend more than 10% over that amount they would not receive a tax abatement. He said the city is asked to amend the originally ordinance.

Mr. Burge said AKMA takes in used medical equipment to refurbish, upgrade or strip it down for parts and then sell it all over the world. He along with the Mayor visited AKMA when they said they needed the increase. He said they wanted to get a feel of what AKMA is doing and why they are expanding. He said AKMA has an opportunity to do business on a larger scale than they originally intended.

Mr. Wolf asked if the range of \$700,000.00 is a comfortable amount or will they go over this amount again. Mr. Burge said the range would be \$650,000.00 to \$700,000.00. He said he spoke with their builder and the builder said it was spot on. Mr. Burge said he is very comfortable with the amount. Mr. Paul said the county would follow through with the usual procedures of allowing the 10% leeway because of the fluctuant cost of construction.

Ms. Barner said she is very excited that AKMA wants to grow their business in Aurora.

Mr. Hatridge asked if this was located in the section that is 100% abatement. Mr. Burge said that it is.

Mr. Vaca asked if there would be two abatements running side by side. Mr. Burge said that the first abatement would go away.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**EMPLOYEES GENERALLY**

Ms. Aldredge said the master copy of the annual employee generally has been generated. Mr. Vaca asked if the increases were by contract. Ms. Aldredge said everybody except the non-exempt employees are covered by their collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Vaca asked if this generally runs along the cost of living. Ms. Aldredge said most are a 2.5% increase.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the Lieutenants had a different increase because of how close they are in salary to the Sergeants. Mayor Womer Benjamin said the standard across the marketplace is a 12% differential between Lieutenants and Sergeants therefore their salary has increased to better meet that difference. She said Leah Cellura, Assistant Finance Director, was also increased to bump her up to standards with other Assistant Finance Directors.

Ms. McDougald asked the difference between probationary and vacant probationary. Ms. Aldredge said probationary is when you are in a collective bargaining agreement for the first year that you are employed. She said when you see vacant probationary it is because whoever is brought in will be under those guidelines for the first year of their employment. Ms. McDougald asked if that affects the increase. Ms. Aldredge said when they are probationary they are coming in at the lower rate and they stay that way for a year.

Mr. Horvat asked why the Employees Generally was switched from salary to hourly. Ms. Aldredge said Council is approving an hourly rate not the salary. She said in 2016 there will be 27 pays as opposed to 26 pays. She said salaried employees will be incorrect because they will be having another whole pay for that year. Mr. Horvat said he still would like to see the Employees Generally showing salary. Ms. Aldredge said she has a supplement that she can show Council that will explain the difference between hourly versus a salary rate. Mr. Kudley asked for that to please be emailed to Council.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said in many cases last year employees made a lot more than their annual salary because of overtime. She said that is why the hourly is the most significant because it is what they are targeted to make.

Mr. Wolf said he would approve the actual hourly rate however; he would also like to see what the base salary is for the 40 hour week.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Mr. Hatridge moved; seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0-1 roll call vote. Mr. Kudley abstained.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Kudley

Mr. Kudley said as reminder the deadline for submitting Council Rules changes is next Thursday, January 21. He said they will be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He said should there be any changes that are approved by the Committee of the Whole they will then be forwarded to Council for action.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn**

Mr. Hatridge moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

John Kudley Jr., Chairman

Colleen Martin, Deputy Clerk of Council