

**City of Aurora, Ohio**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 28, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, March 28, 2016 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  
                  Timothy Clymer, Finance Director  
                  John Trew, Director of Public Services  
                  Jack Burge, Economic & Entrepreneurial Development Director  
                  Brian Byard, Police Chief  
                  James Kraus, Parks & Recreation Director  
                  Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council  
                  Colleen Martin, Deputy Clerk of Council

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:       Approval of the March 14, 2016 meeting minutes**

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

**FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**(Attached)**

Mr. Clymer said by summer time the city's financial numbers should be below budget. He said the city's Tax Incentive Review Committee (TIRC) met last week and he would present the findings later this evening. He said he would like to convene the Treasury Investment Board to update the city's investment policy. He said what we have in place is dated.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the investment policy has been changed since 1997. Mr. Clymer said ORC (Ohio Revised Code) dictates what the city may or may not invest in. He said municipalities can enact their own policy and he would like to look at other options. Mr. Hatridge stated the city has been doing well and would want to make sure it stays that way. Mayor Womer Benjamin said she asked Mr. Clymer to review all policies within the city. She said more of the city's policies need to be reviewed on a regular basis.

**MOTION: To accept the March 2016 Finance Directors Report**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Service Agreement for Reverse 911 Service**

Chief Byard said the Reverse 911 service provides the city with the ability to make citywide 911 calls in the event of an emergency. He said he was able to renegotiate a contract with Airbus to save over \$4500.00 over

the course of five years. Mr. Kudley wanted to clarify this does not deal with EMS or Fire 911 calls. Chief Byard said no. Mr. Horvat asked if the city already paid for the first year. Chief Byard said yes.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

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

**Tax Abatements Approval**

Mr. Clymer said when the TIRC (Tax Incentive Review Committee) met they found all properties were in compliance with the CRA agreements. He said there was one property whose employment level may come into question so the committee agreed to continue the CRA on that property under the condition a letter is sent requesting more information. Mr. Clymer said he has to provide the state with a report of the TRIC decision by March 31, 2016.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

**Employees Generally**

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the employee generally is to add a part-time backup inspector to the Planning, Zoning and Building Department and a part time recreational bus driver for the seniors.

Mr. Vaca asked if the backup inspector was paid out of permit fees. Mayor Womer Benjamin said yes. Mr. Vaca asked if there were not enough in the fees does the difference get added on to the department's budget. Mayor Womer Benjamin said that is one of the reasons why the fee schedule was updated this year.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Mr. Kovach moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

**Purchase of Dell Computers**

Mr. Kraus said every year the city replaces a certain number of desk top computers as an annual rotation. He said 28 computers would be purchased this year. He said the purchase would be for various departments throughout the city.

Mr. Horvat asked how many computers the city currently has. Mr. Kraus said approximately 105. Mr. Kraus said computers are replaced after approximately four years.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

**Grant for Aurora Tree Arboretum Walk**

Mr. Kraus said former Mayor McGill worked with an Ohio State Representative and received a \$50,000.00 allocation to be used for a particular project. He said over the years the city was working with the commission to figure out what the money could be used for. He said the money was marked through The Ohio Cultural Facility Commission but it was titled under a sports complex. He said with the development of the Hartman Property, the city worked with the commission and determined the Tree Arboretum Walk would qualify. He said the money has to be appropriated by the end of 2016 and the project needs to be completed by November, 2017.

Mr. Kudley asked if this is a matching grant. Mr. Kraus said it is 50% of the grant amount therefore the city would have to match at least \$50,000.00.

Mr. Vaca asked when the project can be started. Mayor Womer Benjamin said the city has a revised plan for the Hartman Complex that is still being worked on. She said the arboretum will not be started this year. She said she is trying to get broad base support from the community. She said the city would like to finish the baseball and soccer fields this year. She said there is \$350,000.000 budgeted this year for the Hartman Complex which is just a portion of the project.

Mr. Vaca asked if the arboretum can be started this year while the big equipment is there for the start of the fields. Mayor Womer Benjamin said this project will be done in stages. She said they do not have the money this year to put towards the arboretum. She said engineering cost is extensive for the project. She said this project would have to go for bid and city workers would not be doing the work.

Ms. McDougald wanted to clarify if any of the budgeted money this year is allocated toward the arboretum. Mayor Womer Benjamin said the money is not specifically allocated other than to the Hartman Project.

Mr. Wolf said no location has been determined for the arboretum yet.

Mr. Vaca said the arboretum should be put next to the nature center on the Hartman property.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said no plans have been approved by Council or Administration. She said this is just the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Recreation Committee. She said the city is trying to accommodate residents in the design.

Mr. Hatridge asked the total acreage of the property. Mr. Kraus said the property is 127 acres. Mr. Hatridge asked how many acres will be dedicated to the arboretum. Mr. Kraus said until the plans are done and approved he will not have a total acreage amount.

Mayor Women Benjamin said the city is trying to plan the Hartman Project carefully. She said she wanted to meet with certain members of Council that could be impacted by this and receive feedback on the project. She said she has already received feedback from the community.

Ms. Barner asked if the feedback has been proactive. She said this will be an amenity to the city. Mayor Womer Benjamin said feedback has been good.

**MOTION: To recommend to Council**

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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John Kudley Jr., Chairman

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Colleen Martin, Deputy Clerk of Council