

**City of Aurora, Ohio
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
May 9, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 9, 2016 the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Dennis Kovach

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approval of the April 25, 2016 meeting minutes

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

Mr. Kudley asked the committee members to support a motion to add None for Under 21 expenses as Item I on the agenda.

MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding as item "I"

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

NEW BUSINESS

Employees Generally

Ms. Aldredge said the city will be replacing a Service Tech Probationary; four drivers were hired for the transportation program and one employee for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Kudley asked if this was summer employment for the Parks and Recreation staff. Ms. Aldredge said yes.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Portage County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Chief Byard said the city is asked to adopt a disaster plan in conjunction with Portage County. He said Chief Barnes and himself read the plan and it is on par with what would happen as a municipality.

Mr. Kudley asked if there was any cost to the city. Chief Byard said no.

Mr. Vaca asked why Council got this in a position where there is a need to suspend and approve right away. Chief Byard said he does not know. Mr. Vaca said he feel this is not acceptable therefore he will not vote to send to Council this evening.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a 7-1 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kudley, McDougald, Wolf

NAYS: Vaca

Engineering for Hartman Property

Mr. Kraus said the engineering is the next step to the Hartman Project. He said GPS Design submitted an engineering proposal. He said the proposal is for the formal engineer drawing for the athletic portion of the project. He said the city also asked for assistance with the bid documents and construction management. He said the money is budgeted as part of the initial \$350,000.00 that has already been approved.

Ms. Barner asked if a playground will be incorporated in the Hartman Complex. Mr. Kraus said there is an area in the conceptual plans for a playground. He said the plan will not design the playground structure but there will be a space for where the playground will eventually go. He said the playground will be part of a future phase of this project.

Mr. Hatridge asked how long the engineering will take. Mr. Kraus said he would guess in a two month range. Mr. Hatridge asked if there would be an opportunity to break ground this year. Mr. Kraus said the city is hopeful.

Mr. Vaca asked what the anticipation is of the house on the property. Mayor Womer Benjamin said no specific plans have been made. She said the house could possibly be a potential leasing opportunity or a potential residence for a caretaker of the property. She said the house is in responsibly good condition so there are some opportunities.

Mr. Kraus said the construction that will be happening will not affect the house or the surrounding area around the house.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Time Warner Internet Upgrade

Mr. Kraus said there has been a concern with the transfer of Council videos. He said the city decided to upgrade the network. He said he received pricing from TimeWarner and Windstream. He said he is recommending going with the 50 megabit upgrade which is the highest connection available. He said now the city is at a 35/5 connection and it will be going to a 50/50.

Mr. Kudley said one of the reason the city is doing this is the difficulty that has been experienced with the transferring of Council meetings. He asked Mr. Kraus to explain how this will take care of the problem.

Mr. Kraus said with the speed being added the city server will be running ten times faster. He explained it is like going from a one lane highway to a ten lane highway. He said there is a problem with the videos transferring the night of the meeting because the server is also backing up information from the data files. He said all servers back up every night. He said increasing this speed will allow transfers to happen quickly.

Mr. Kudley thanked Mr. Kraus for the work he has done to help with the problem. He said he wanted to recognize Ms. Hawks and Ms. Martin for working diligently to try to show Council Meetings publicly in a timely manner.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Connecting Communities Planning Grant

Mr. Trew said after numerous discussions with Mr. Vaca, this is an authorization for the Connection Communities Planning Grant through AMATS. He said if the grant is successful, it would be 80/20 federal funding the city would be eligible to receive. He said the plan is an emergency access drive and pedestrian bicycle trail from Picnic Lake Park to Nautilus Trail. He said it will connect the Aurora Shores area with the Geauga Lake area. He said the project would include the installation of gates and ballards that will collapse to allow fire and police access through the trail and reduce response time to the residents. He said this trail shall also promote a healthy lifestyle and activity for the residents. He said this legislation is needed to apply for the grant that is due May 27, 2016.

Mr. Vaca said he wanted to thank the administration for moving so quickly on this. He said he brought this up three or four months ago and he thought it would be on next year's budget. He said this will limit traffic and also give the residents an opportunity to walk or bike from one neighborhood to another. He asked Mr. Trew if it looks favorable to receive a grant from AMATS. Mr. Trew said after his initial discussion with AMATS he feels it looks very favorable. He said they are very interested in doing this project since it will connect communities. He said it also connects Portage and Summit Counties.

Mr. Kudley reemphasized this is not a road but a drive that will provide access for emergency vehicles from one part of the community to another.

Ms. Barner said this is fantastic and exciting for the communities.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Renewal of City's Property and Casualty Insurance

Mr. DePiero said in anticipation with the insurance contracts coming up, Mr. Clymer and himself met with Sutton Insurance. He said HCC is the incumbent company the city will be entering in a new contract with. He said he asked the Suttons to go to the market and see what the best price would be. He said the city is satisfied with their findings.

Mr. Clymer said the premium dollars the city is looking at are calculated by risk factor, multiplied by property amounts that are covered. He said last year premiums were \$124,481.00 and this year the proposed amount is \$126,786.00. He said the result of the increase is not associated with a rate increase but the increase in the property values. He said a couple vehicles were added in the past year and the city

expanded variations of coverage they had. He said HCC in the proposal last year gave the city a three year rate lock. He said HCC was willing to reduce that rate this year for the city's renewal.

Mr. Sutton briefly explained and went over the changes and updates in the city's property and casualty insurance. He said he has sources with other insurance carriers that are compared to make sure the pricing is the lowest possible for the City of Aurora. He said he is proposing a continuation of the current program with HCC Insurance Company. He said HCC gave the city a guaranteed rate lock last year for three years. He said this year HCC agreed to lower the actual rate even lower than the rate lock. He said the city made a change in the crime coverage in conjunction with conversations with the Law Director and the Finance Director. He said it was decided to add to the blanket dishonesty coverage from \$200,000.00 to \$500,000.00.

Mayor Womer Benjamin clarified that no new employees have been added. She said the city also included the new Senior Transportation Van and additional properties that the city will be developing.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Renewal of City's CyberEdge Security Insurance

Mr. Sutton said last year was the first year CyberEdge Security was proposed and accepted by Council. He said this is basically if the city is sued or the city has to respond to a release of personal information. He said AIG-Illinois National Insurance is the lowest price available. He said the insurance covers protection for both third party if the city were to get sued and first party expenses for notification cost. He said the premium is the same as last year but he proposed the city add a new coverage extension to the policy. He said cyber extortion situations are coming up more frequently in emails that will lock down your whole computer system. He said this coverage will protect this from happening.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

Planning and Zoning Inspector

Ms. Januska said she is requesting to reinstate a part-time inspector to full-time. She said position was full-time and during the economic down turn, inspections went down so the position was moved to part-time. She said funds are provided in the budget as of July 1, 2016. She said a full-time inspector will help the department to get inspections out in a timely manner.

Mr. Kudley asked if the individual who is currently in the part time position will take the full time position. Ms. Januska said that is what is being planned.

Mr. Vaca asked if the inspection fees help cover his salary. Ms. Januska said yes.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

None for Under 21 Expenses

Chief Byard said Aurora Police Department co-sponsors this event with various agencies in Portage County. He said the program provides alcohol and drug awareness to high school seniors. He said funds for the event are donated from private donation and corporations to the city. He said the funds need to be reallocated so the bill can be paid.

Ms. Barner asked if an alcohol and drug awareness program can be mandatory in the schools for all students to attend. Chief Byard said ultimately it is up to school but he said he made that recommendation to the school. He said this should be a mandatory assembly for all high school students.

MOTION: To recommend to Council

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

John Kudley Jr., Chairman

Colleen Martin, Deputy Clerk of Council