

**City of Aurora, Ohio  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 12, 2016**

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, September 12, 2016 the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Committee Chairman John Kudley, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Dennis Kovach  
James Vaca

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: Approval of the August 22, 2016 meeting minutes**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding the 2016 Sherwood Drive Storm Sewer Improvements Project bid award as item "h"**

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

**Accepting Rages and Amounts Determined by Budget Commission for Real estate Tax Rates**

Mr. Clymer said the legislative action is a request to finalize approval of what the county sent back to the city. He said it is in line with what the city requested for the levy millage and tax amounts.

**MOTION: To forward to Council for first reading this evening**

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

**Cleaning of City Buildings Proposal**

Mayor Womer Benjamin said it has been a lengthy process identifying potential cleaners; asking for proposals; and then interviewing people. She said there were issues with the company that provided this service over the past couple of years. She said RKS Management has been selected, they come with very high reviews from Streetsboro and they do a variety of cleaning throughout Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Kudley asked the Mayor to explain why at times it is best to go out for proposals rather than go out for bid.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said under the Charter this could be considered professional services. She said they are in our work quarters three times a week. She said some of the companies are small and if were required to bid for the job they would not be able to come up with the bond and probably not provide a bid.

**MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening**

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

**Moratorium on Granting Permits – Distributed Antenna Systems, Small Cell Technology or Nodes for Communication Purposes**

Mr. DePiero referred to the handout he distributed. He said technology is changing every day; small cities are always trying to keep up with technology. He said many cities are being inundated with requests for additional antennas and equipment from major carriers. He said the idea is for additional equipment to supplement existing antennas that we already have in the community. He said their justification is to increase speed, efficiency and coverage in all the areas of their provided network. He said many of the apparatus is put in the right of way and Ohio law allows us to regulate those areas. He said many communities are looking to rewrite their right of way ordinances in order to regulate the best they can; to allow cities to entertain fees and to encourage colocation on existing antennas. He said the moratorium will allow the city to put the brakes on in order to have the right of way ordinances looked at by an expert and potentially amend them. He said this will allow the city to better regulate this so not have equipment in people's yards and so it is thoughtfully done in the historic district. He said in order to protect the community his thought is not to allow applications and permits for up to 180 days; to have an expert look at the area; to encourage colocation and limiting of the locations.

Mr. Wolf said it is important to make sure the city looks at the esthetics. He said there a number of places where they are obvious and ugly and he does not see a reason why the city cannot dictate manner of their appearances.

Mr. Hatridge asked how high do the systems have to be.

Mr. DePiero said he has seen a tower that is a very tall pole stuck in the right of way that is more than 30ft. He said they come in all shapes and sizes. He said we are preempted in a lot of areas and federal law does not allow the city to act in certain areas. He said the esthetics and height is an area the city will look into.

Mr. Hatridge asked if there will be 3 Or 4 devices on one pole.

Mr. DePiero said the city will encourage colocation to limit the amount of polls. He said the city cannot ban them, they need to regulate them.

Mr. Hatridge said there a lot of them at the fire station and asked where else they are located. Mr. Trew said they are all on city properties, mostly on water towers.

Ms. McDougald asked if this is something that can be handled in house.

Mr. DePiero said it would be smart to pay someone with expertise to handle it.

Mr. Wolf said they will actually put them on buildings as well. He said he does not want them popping up all over the city.

**MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening**

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

**Easements – Sidewalk Connectivity Project**

Mr. DePiero said Ms. Januska, Mr. Trew and Ms. Perces worked very hard over the last couple of years to get the easements. He said the reason we are asking for emergency legislation is to keep the ball rolling on the project. He said a couple of the properties will be sold in the near future and wants to make sure the city does not have to go through the process again with the new owner.

Mr. Hatridge asked how many more easements are left to get.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the city is trying to get as many as they can as far down in a contiguous line on South Chillicothe. She said she does not think they will get as far as Aurora Hudson.

Ms. Barner asked in the future if something happened to the sidewalk in front of a home would the resident be responsible for the repair.

Mr. DePiero said if a major repair is needed to be done it would be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Ms. McDougald asked if the city were not able to obtain an easement would that portion be left undone.

Mr. DePiero said the city would proceed without it.

**MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening**

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

**Emergency Repair – Retaining Wall SR82**

Mr. Trew said the retaining wall is in disrepair. He said if it is not done before the winter he is afraid a part of the hillside will be lost. He said a section in the middle is deteriorating mainly from road salt. He said the city obtained quotes because the bidding process would have taken too long and might have prohibited the work from getting done before the winter.

Mr. Wolf asked if it were possible to ask someone what it would take to replace the entire wall because now there is not enough space to put a sidewalk.

**MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening**

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

**Employees Generally**

Mayor Womer Benjamin said on the employees generally are two part-time employees; a sports manager and a clerk floater. She said the clerk will fill in for the receptionist.

**MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening**

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

**Medical, Dental and Prescription Insurance Renewal**

Ms. Aldredge explained the consultant is in route. She said he will be happy to answer questions prior to Council voting on legislation.

**MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening**

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

**2016 Sherwood Drive Storm Sewer Improvements Project - Bid Award**

Mr. Trew said Woodford Excavating was selected as the best and most responsible bidder. He said the city budgeted for the project. He said the first time the city went out for bid the bids came in over the 10% threshold. He said the engineering firm was asked to go back and redo their estimate. He said the selected bid came in under their estimate. Mr. Trew said he is looking forward to having the project done to correct the culvert issues and flooding in the neighborhood.

Ms. Barner thanked the Mayor and Mr. Trew for moving forward with the project.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the city has done business with Woodford before. Mr. Trew said several surrounding cities have used them and are pleased.

Mr. Horvat asked for clarification on having the engineering firm redo their estimates.

Mr. Trew said there is a public law that says anything over the 10% threshold must be rebid. He said all of the bids were well above that. Mr. Trew said the estimate was based on a job of a much larger scale which reduces the bid amount. Mr. Trew said everything is more accurate now.

Mayor Womer Benjamin thanked Mr. Trew and Mr. Czekaj for working hard to get quick turn-around from the engineering firm and to get the project re-bid so that it would get done this year.

Ms. Barner asked if this work will benefit Hawthorn. Mr. Trew said no.

**MOTION: To Council for consideration this evening**

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

**ADJOURNMENT****MOTION: To adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

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John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

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Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council