

City of Aurora, Ohio
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2018

The Council of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, January 8, 2018 for the purpose of holding a regular public meeting. Council President George Horvat called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

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
 Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
 Justin Czekaj, City Engineer
 Karen Aldredge, Chief of Staff
 Kris Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
 Laura Holman, Director of Park and Recreation
 Jack Burge, Director of Economic and Entrepreneurial Development
 Brian Byard, Chief of Police
 David Barnes, Fire Chief
 Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council
 April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: Approval of the December 18, 2017, meeting minutes

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

AYES: Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: Barner

Mayor's Report

(Attached)

Mayor Womer Benjamin thanked State Representative Sarah LaTourette for conducting the swearing in of city officials and Council members. She also thanked her assistant Ms. Allen for the organizing the event. She said Aurora crews work hard to maintain and clear the roads. She said the Assistant Director of Public Services Mr. Frisbee, is trying to devise new plans to make the clearing as efficient and effective as possible. She said the safety of the residents on the roadways is of paramount importance to her.

Mayor Womer Benjamin asked every to mark their calendars for the State of the City luncheon that will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. at the Bertram Inn and Conference Center.

Law Director's Report

(Attached)

Mr. DePiero did not read his report.

Ms. McDougald asked for an update on the property located on Cobblestone.

Mr. DePiero said he would have an update for her tomorrow.

Council President's Report

(Attached)

MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding Ordinances 2018-010 thru 2018-012

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

Citizens Comments - Legislation

Mr. George Mazzaro, Eldridge Road, commented on Ord. 2017-179 – he said he asked at the last meeting what has been done from the last Master Plan. He said it should be made public. Ord. 2017-180 – he asked the amount of the budgeted appropriations for 2018. Ord. 2018-011 – he asked what the cost will be beyond the design and why is the city paying for it.

Ms. Deb Conti, S. Chillicothe Road, commented on Ord. 2017-177 – she asked if the new proposed guidelines apply to someone wanting to remodel their home or if there was a natural calamity. She questioned how the additional costs will impact businesses. Ord. 2017-178 – she asked how long the \$5,000.00 deposit has been in existence. She commented on other fees of concern to her.

Mr. Bill Beljon, East Pioneer Trail, commented on Ord. 2017-179 – he commented on the information he emailed to Council. He talked about the dangerous section of East Pioneer Trail. He said he proposes the Master Plan includes correcting the dangerous portion of East Pioneer Trail.

Councilman Remarks - Legislation

Mr. Kudley said he would like time to comment on Ord. 2018-006 when Council is at that portion of the agenda.

Legislation

Ordinance 2017-177

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL GUIDELINES, SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO, FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW

To third reading

Ordinance 2017-178

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1110 "SITE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS" OF AURORA'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES AMENDING THE SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TOPOGRAPHIC SITE PLANS

To third reading

Public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance 2017-179

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING A MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AURORA

To third reading

Ordinance 2017-180

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018, AS SUBMITTED BY MAYOR ANN WOMER BENJAMIN, AND APPROPRIATING THE

FUNDS NECESSITATED BY THE ADOPTION OF THAT BUDGET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

To third reading

Resolution 2018-001

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. TIMOTHY CLYMER AS DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VI OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-001

Ms. McDougald moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote4.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-002

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. DENISE JANUSKA AS DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE DIVISION OF PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 142 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-002

Mr. Kovach moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-003

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DAVID BARNES AS FIRE CHIEF FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE DIVISION OF FIRE & EMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.03 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-003

Mr. Kovach moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-004

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. BRIAN BYARD AS POLICE CHIEF FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE

CONTINUITY OF THE DIVISION OF POLICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8.02 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-004

Ms. McDougald moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-005

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. KAREN ALDREDGE AS DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL/CHIEF OF STAFF FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-005

Ms. McDougald moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-006

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MS. LAURA HOLMAN AS DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION, WITH AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$85,000.00, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 153 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a 7-2 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: Kudley, Vaca

Mr. Kudley said the comments he is about to make have been shared with the Mayor and Ms. Holman. He said he has no doubt that Ms. Holman will do a good job in the new position. Mr. Kudley stated he is a person of strong convictions and he stands for what he believes in. He said the Mayor is the Administrator of the City and as a Council person it is not his job to try to usurp any of those powers or authorities she has been given. He said on the other hand the one absolute power of control Council has is to control the City's purse strings. He said the situation with the appointment concerns him because of the process that occurred. He explained the salary that was proposed was not shared with Council at the appropriate time. He said most read about the proposed salary in the Record Courier and a week late in the Aurora Advocate. He said the Mayor talked with Council and said it was an oversight on her part and apologized. He said the process or the way it came out put Council in a predicament; because now the salary has been publically announced and the individual for it. He said Council had not had an opportunity to consider the appointment or the appropriate salary for it. He said had it gone down differently there would not be a public discussion. He said He shared with the Mayor and Ms. Holman the starting salary is too high. He said he received a lot of public comment that there are a lot of individuals in

the community that feel the same way. He said he believes based on the credentials and experience a more appropriate salary would have been \$70,000-\$75,000 ranges. He said after a period of time he would have had no problem reviewing the salary and most likely taking it up to the current position. He said he thinks it is something that should have been done gradually and as a result as the legislation and employees generally are written he cannot support it. Mr. Kudley said he is sure that with time there is no doubt Ms. Holman will perform the job that she is appointed to.

Mr. Vaca said Ms. Holman's resume is outstanding, but, he does not see much that has to do with parks and recreation. He said he is sure with time she will learn and get into it. He said he feels the same as Mr. Kudley with the purse strings; this was not the way to go. He recommends that publicizing the salary before Council knows about it not be done again. He said he would have had recommended the salary start at \$65,000-70,000. He said he will not go along with the salary because feels Council's position was undermined because they have the authority on the money of the City and it was taken away from them.

Mr. Kovach said he feels the same as Mr. Kudley and Mr. Vaca. He said he feels it should have been brought to Council in a different manner; therefore, he will vote no.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-006

Ms. McDougald moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a 6-3 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: Kudley, Kovach, Vaca

Resolution 2018-007

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. DEAN DEPIERO AS THE CITY'S DIRECTOR OF LAW FOR A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VII OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-007

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-008

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. MARK VERDOVA TO MEMBERSHIP ON AURORA'S ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW, FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AS COUNCIL DESIRES TO APPROVE THIS APPOINTMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 1321 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-008

Ms. Barner moved; Ms. McDougald seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Resolution 2018-009

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MS. TERESE FENNEL TO AURORA'S BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AS COUNCIL DESIRES TO APPROVE THIS REAPPOINTMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 1137 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions
Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2018-009

Mr. Wolf moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Ordinance 2018-010

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH, AND ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF, DEAN DEPIERO AS DIRECTOR OF LAW OF THE CITY OF AURORA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE VII OF THE CHARTER

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions
Mr. Kovach moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2018-010

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Ordinance 2018-011

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GPD GROUP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,540.00 TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE RELOCATION OF A WATERLINE AT THE AURORA COMMONS SHOPPING CENTER, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE WATER CAPITAL FUND (#71) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE DESIGN IMMEDIATELY

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions
Ms. Grandillo moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2018-011

Ms. Grandillo moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 9-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, McDougald, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Ordinance 2018-012

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT "A" TO AURORA CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 161, "EMPLOYEES GENERALLY," TO REFLECT CHANGES IN COMPENSATION FOR THE INDIVIDUALS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AND/OR TO PLACE THOSE NEWLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE ON EXHIBIT "A" AT THE COMPENSATION SPECIFIED FOR THEM, APPROVING

SUCH COMPENSATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (HOLMAN)

MOTION: To suspend the rule requiring an ordinance to be read on three separate occasions
Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a 7-9 roll call vote.

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

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2018-012
Ms. Grandillo moved; Ms. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on a 6-3 roll call vote.

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

Citizens Comments

Mr. George Mazzaro, Eldridge Road, welcomed Ms. Holman to the City and wished her well. He said the City is going through a change and there is a lot of work ahead that has not been done in the past. He said there are many people in the community that care about the city and want to see and hear what is happening.

Councilman and Committee Remarks

Ms. Barner congratulated all of the new directors and the existing directors on doing a phenomenal job. She said she is excited venture into 2018. She said Aurora is the best city in Portage County and she is proud to be a part of Council.

Mr. Kudley said Mr. Horvat has asked him to Chair the ad hoc committee regarding the BZA. He said the first meeting will be January 22 at 5:30 p.m. He said for that meeting Ms. Hawks has secured information from other cities throughout the state and he has asked Ms. Januska to prepare a memo and also attend the meeting to describe the function and the role and how the operation of the BZA goes. He said at the second meeting he will invite the current members of the BZA to attend to share their ideas and thoughts and concerns about the BZA. He said the meetings will be before the COW meetings so there will not be an extra meeting day and time. Mr. Kudley congratulated Ms. Holman and said he looks forward to working with her.

Mr. Hatridge said Council and the Administration accomplished a lot in 2017. He thanked Ms. Januska for always being helpful and doing a great job.

Mr. Vaca asked for an update on the California Street Project and Reminderville. He said GPD is survey the property for the bike/hike trail from East Blvd. to Aurora Lake Road. He asked the status of the signalization project and if there will be a flashing light at CVC on East Blvd. He congratulated all of the appointees including Ms. Holman.

Mayor Womer Benjamin stated she is thrilled with Ms. Holman. She said her salary is less than what Mr. Kraus was making. She said the California Street Project is in Reminderville's hands. She said the issue is they cannot find a place for all of the extra spring water they wanted to dump. Regarding the signalization grant, she said it appears the City is on track for approval but will not be finalized until later in the month.

Ms. McDougald congratulated Ms. Holman and the other directors. She said she is proud with all that has been accomplished in 2017 and looks forward to 2018. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Kovach congratulated all of the staff and thanked everyone for their service.

Mr. Horvat thanked everyone for re-electing him as Council President. He congratulated Mr. Kudley, Mr. Hatridge and Mr. Kovach for being reelected as COW Chair, Vice Chair and Council Vice President.

MISCELLANEOUS

Liquor Notice – Art N Spirits, LLC

There were no objections

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn

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

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

NAYS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

George Horvat, Council President

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council