

City of Aurora, Ohio
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
February 12, 2018

The Committee of the Whole of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 12, 2018 for 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
 Kathi Grandillo
 Harold Hatridge
 Dennis Kovach
 John Kudley, Jr.
 Amy McDougald *arrived at 6:19 p.m.*
 James Vaca
 Scott Wolf

Absent: George Horvat

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor
 Tim Clymer, Finance Director
 Dean DePiero, Law Director
 Kris Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor
 Denis Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building
 Laura Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation
 David Frisbee, Assistant Director of Public Services
 Jack Burge, Director of Economic and Entrepreneurial Development
 David Barnes, Fire Chief
 Brian Byard, Police Chief
 Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council
 April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Approval of the January 22, 2018, Meeting minutes

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Mr. Hatridge abstained.

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Hatridge

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding as item 1 contract for Mr. Jack Burge

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

Appointment of Hearing Examiner to Aurora's Parking Violations Bureau

Mr. DePiero said legislation was passed late in 2016 to set up the Aurora's Parking Violations Bureau due to the fact that in the past the City had administered parking violations in accordance with good procedure and state law. He said the purpose of the Bureau is for folks to pay their tickets and also for an appeals process to be set up according to the Ohio Revised Code. He said legislation is necessary to appoint who would hear anyone who feels a parking ticket was issued in error or would like to appeal it. He said this individual must be an attorney at law or a retired police officer. He said the Mayor has submitted at his recommendation Attorney John Diemer who lives in Walden. He said appeal hearings will be held three or four times a year.

Mr. Hatridge asked if the fee per hearing includes transportation. Mr. DePiero said the hearings will be held in Aurora.

Mr. Vaca asked if this is for someone who challenges a ticket. Mr. DePiero said that is correct.

Mr. Wolf asked if there is a timeframe within which the parking violations when they must be paid and if so, if they appeal is there a stay on that timeframe. Mr. DePiero said someone receives a parking citation it tells them what their appeal rights are; it is very self-explanatory. Mr. Wolf asked if they file the ticket then it will not go to collections. Mr. DePiero said that is correct.

MOTION: To Council's February 20, 2018 agenda

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

Vehicle Purchase – Police Department

Chief Bayard said his request is to purchase three vehicles that will replace three older vehicles in the fleet. He said Lebanon Ford had the lowest price beating the state bid and local dealerships. He said they will trade in the older vehicles.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading

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

Cot Loading System Purchase – Fire Department

Chief Barnes said he is asking approval to purchase a cot loading system for the new squad. He said it is the same system put into the previous squad; it saves on a lot of lifting for the guys and loads the cot in. He said the price is the same as last year.

Mr. Vaca said had an opportunity to see the apparatus in action and it is an amazing piece of equipment.

Mr. Hatridge asked if this is the last cot the city will need. Chief Barnes said no, the city has three squads and this will make the second one that is purchased. Chief Barnes said further down the line when another squad is purchased they will need a third one.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for first reading

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

Donation of 27 used 2003 SCBA's – Fire Department

Chief Barnes said the SCBA's were purchased through a grant in 2003 and were replaced from a grant the department received last year. He said when the grant was written it was stated that the department would donate the used equipment to someone that could use the old air packs. He said they will go to 2 volunteer fire departments and the University of Akron Fire Training Program.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

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

Contract for Plans Examiner – Planning, Zoning & Building Department

Ms. Januska said the contract is a renewal of the contract from last year with Mr. Jeff Skapin. She said the money that he bills on an hourly basis is put back into the building permit and the City gets the money back.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

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

625I Gator Utility Vehicle Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Ms. Holman said the Parks & Recreation Department is asking approval to purchase a Gator 625I Utility Vehicle from Chagrin Pet and Garden Supply. She said this model was not on the State Bid List because it is no longer made. She said they are asking for this model because the older model has features they do not need as well as features they do need.

Mr. Hatridge questioned it being an older model. Ms. Holman explained why she wants the older model. She said the price is a discounted price; if they would get the newer one the price would be higher and they would have features they do not want or need as well as a bigger engine.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

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

Truck Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Mr. Kudley said the administration has not asked for this item to go forward this evening but he has as the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Holman said the new truck will replace one the department currently has which is a 2008. She said they are not going to trade it in; they will try to sell it on Gov. Deals.

Mr. Kudley explained while reading through the description of the vehicle he noticed highlighted in yellow that the estimate only lasts as long as the vehicle is possible to be obtained. He said Chrysler has already stopped making the 2018 vehicles and are going into production of the 2019's, so this truck may not be available as listed. He said the sooner it is purchased the more apt the city is to get the one they want, rather than have to go out for a higher priced vehicle.

Mr. Vaca said every time a new vehicle is purchased he always asks if the seasonal kids are trained on the vehicles. He asked if she will keep an eye on this. Ms. Holman replied yes.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

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

9' Galion 103U Dump Body Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Ms. Holman said the dump body will be going onto an older truck. She said in an evaluation it was decided that they could get more mileage out of the truck itself but the bed has worn through and is not currently usable.

Mr. Vaca asked who will do the work and if they will rehab the frame. Ms. Holman said she cannot recall the name of the person and she said she has not seen anything regarding rehabbing the frame.

She said the dump is a stainless steel bed so it can be taken out and be reused when there is a need to purchase a new vehicle.

MOTION: To forward to Council this evening for consideration

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

SCAG Turf Tiger Mower Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Ms. Holman said the new mower will be in addition to the current mower they have which is the preferred mower. She said it is preferred not only because they already have one and know how it operates but also because they are familiar with it for parts and service. She said they are using state pricing and the reason for adding additional equipment is they are anticipating greater need and trying to be more efficient.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

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

Smithco Superstar Infield Groomer Purchase – Parks & Recreation

Ms. Holman said this will be in addition to the equipment that is currently being used. She said they are trying to keep up with increased demand and to improve efficiency. She said government agency pricing was used.

Mr. Hatridge asked Ms. Holman to describe what an infield groomer is. Ms. Holman said it is an attachment that grooms the infield; it takes the dirt and smooths it out preparing it for utilization.

Mr. Wolf said he believes it is more of a rock hound.

MOTION: To Council's February 26, 2018 agenda

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

Retain Legal Services of Fisher Phillips

Mr. DePiero said he will ask Council to discuss this in executive session because it deals with collective bargaining and the strategy with regard to that. He said he would like to withhold his comments until the executive session.

MOTION: To forward to Council for consideration this evening

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

Director of Economic Development and Entrepreneur in Residence Contract

Mayor Womer Benjamin said this will also be discussed in executive session this evening. She said this employment is changing slightly to a contract and it is still part-time employment. She said she can answer questions and describe it in more detail in executive session.

OLD BUSINESS

2018 Master Plan

Mr. Kudley referred to the summary he put together of the Master Plan discussions at the last two Committee of the Whole meetings. He said he tried to drop points of emphasis, some edits that were suggested along with addenda and some additions that the committee would like to see included.

Mr. Kudley said there are three areas the committee considered for passage to Council. He said a point of emphasis in the discussion is that it is the consensus of the committee that the

implementation of an exterior maintenance code be undertaken by the administration and also rental property registration.

Mr. Hatridge asked if rental properties include all rental properties in town or is it strictly homes. Mr. DePiero said he has pooled communities similar to Aurora. Mr. DePiero said it is important to know where rental properties exist, who the owners are, contact information, make sure they are paying appropriate income tax and if they live or work in the city. Mr. DePiero said they may start with single family residence.

Mr. Kudley said under edits there are two things: 1. Clarification - that a statement is included on page XI that the categories are not prioritized. 2. To amend the statement: develop an inventory of all of the historic homes. He said the Landmark Commission already has an inventory of homes that needs to be continuously updated.

Mr. Kudley said regarding additions, the committee all agreed that infrastructure was not emphasized enough. He said continuing replacement and maintenance of the city's aging waterlines is crucial. He said with continued growth and development, maintenance and expansion of the city's water treatment facilities is vital to the community's health and welfare along with storm water control. He said these are areas the administration is looking at adding to the Master Plan.

Mr. Kudley said in the area of economic development, the committee agreed there was emphasis on mixed use but several Council members agreed there were omissions of other parts of the city. He said the corridor of SR43 from Bissell Road to Treat Road was stressed along with the north side of SR82 from SR43 to Bissell Road. He said he would also like to add to that the inclusion of the industrial park.

Mr. Kudley said regarding community facilities, the cemeteries were left out and need to be included; as well as the Aurora Memorial Library and additional recreational amenities. He said although the Master Plan recommends completion of a feasibility study for a community recreation center, additional amenities should be part of that study such as tennis courts and basketball courts.

Mr. Kudley said he also included in the summary the review of the master plan is discussion of other items that would be part of the implementation of the master plan as we move along. He said it includes the placement and relocation of traffic lights and the continuation of connectivity between the Geauga Lake area and the center of town.

Mr. Vaca said something needs to be done at SR43 and E. Blvd. as it is a traffic issue; something needs to be done to make it easier to egress/ingress. He said the road at that point needs widening another four feet. He said he talked with the VFW and they are willing to give the city the necessary easements. Mr. Vaca said he also would like included in the master plan is a light at the school on East Blvd.

Mr. DePiero said when you are dealing with traffic signals and the configuration of traffic he would hesitate including something so specific without a traffic study. He said maybe some language that would say that certain areas could be looked at in connection with the re-signalization project the city just received a grant for.

Ms. Barner asked if the installation of additional street lights on Robinhood and Sherwood can be considered along with connecting into Hawthorn. She said those residents would greatly appreciate it and it would benefit the whole city because you would be connecting two neighborhoods.

Mr. Wolf asked if the City would need to contact the State about flashing lights in a school zone or is that something the City can do. Mr. DePiero said he will check on that.

Mr. Kovach said he would like something added about streetlights on SR306 between Crackle and Treat Roads on the curve.

Mr. DePiero said a streetlight issue might be as simple as having a meeting with First Energy.

Mayor Womer Benjamin said two streetlights on SR306 are in the budget. She said she does not know about East Blvd. but she will look into that. She indicated where the Aurora Memorial Library is discussed in the Master Plan.

Ms. Grandillo said she was asked why there is no flashing light by the high school on East Pioneer.

Mr. Vaca said he is having a terrible time getting streetlights that are burned out fixed. Mayor Womer Benjamin said it is a long process to get them fixed.

Mr. Kudley stated the Administration is working on the additions and edits. He said the plan is to keep the master plan review at the Committee of the Whole until they receive a document back from the Planning and Zoning Department. He said the committee will review the additions and corrections and when they feel ready, will forward them to Council for action.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

John Kudley, Jr., Chairman

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council