

**City of Aurora, Ohio  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 24, 2020**

The Council of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, February 24, 2020 the purpose, a regular public meeting. Council President George Horvat called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also Present:   Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor  
                  Dean DePiero, Law Director  
                  Tim Clymer, Finance Director  
                  Brian Byard, Police Chief  
                  Karen Pope, Director of Personnel/Chief of Staff  
                  Laura Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation  
                  Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building  
                  Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council  
                  April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

**Consideration of Minutes**

**MOTION:       Approval of the January 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0-1 roll call vote. Ms. Eckard abstained.

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

**MOTION:       Approval of the February 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes**

Mr. Wolf moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a 7-0-2 roll call vote. Ms. Eckard and Mr. Kovach abstained.

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

**Executive Session to Discuss Pending Labor Negotiations**

**MOTION:       To amend they agenda my removing the Executive Session to Discuss Pending Labor Negotiations**

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

**Mayor's Report**

(Attached)

Mayor Womer Benjamin said that on Saturday morning the Fire Department arrived at a local business after one of their machines malfunctioned and released gaseous hydrochloric acid. She said the employees evacuated the building and members of the Portage County HAZMET and the Ohio EPA came to the scene. She said the hazard was controlled and no injuries reported. Assistant Fire Chief McBirney and crew acted quickly and appropriately to mitigate the hazard. Mayor Womer Benjamin said that two weeks ago a pickup truck used by the Parks and Recreation Department caught outside of the Service Department building. She said it was the same truck damaged by a fallen tree last summer and then repaired. She said thanks to quick action by the Fire Department no one was hurt, and the fire was out quickly. She said the insurance company investigated and she is waiting for the final report.

Mayor Womer Benjamin noted with sadness that Mr. George Mazzaro passed away on February 11. She said he was an active citizen at Aurora City Council meetings for many years. She said the community he greatly cared for, will miss him.

Mayor Womer Benjamin provided a brief recap of those she met with and functions that she attended since the last meeting of Council.

Mayor Womer Benjamin read a statement of her concerns and objections to Ordinance 2020-017 amending Chapter 121.03 "Council Rules - Agendas".

**Law Director's Report**

(Attached)

Mr. DePiero he said that he did have an executive session scheduled to discuss a pending matter with the Teamsters and the service workers that has been ongoing for about two years. He said they have not signed the contract and the city has made several good faith generous offers to resolve the issues. He said unfortunately, the union could not agree to the concessions. He said the matter would go to Columbus for a hearing at SERB. He said it is disappointing because the city did act in good faith.

**Council President's Report**

(Attached)

**MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding Ordinance 2020-012 thru 2020-017**

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

Mr. Horvat recognized three scouts in attendance.

**Citizens Comments - Legislation**

There was none.

**Councilman Remarks - Legislation**

Mr. Vaca commented on Ordinance 2020-017 - he said explained why he supports the changes to the rules.

Mr. Wolf commented on Ordinance 2020-01 - he said if the administration or the directors need to get something on the agenda to call him and he would be more than happy to sponsor legislation and get it on the agenda.

**Legislation****Ordinance 2020-005**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION THE WATER LINES, SANITARY SEWER LINES, AND THE ROADWAY FOR BELJON LANE AND CARA COURT, WHICH ARE PART OF THE BELJON PHASE 1

SUBDIVISION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER FOR THE CITY TO BEGIN MAINTAINING THE LINES AND THE ROADWAY

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-005**

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

AYEA: Barner, Eckard, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2020-010**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 121 "COUNCIL RULES" OF AURORA'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE FIRST CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN MARCH, 2020

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Kovach seconded. The motion carried on an 8-1 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Eckard, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca

NAYS: Wolf

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-010**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Kovach seconded. The motion carried on a 7-2 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Eckard, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca

NAYS: Grandillo, Wolf

**Ordinance 2020-011**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO, WITH NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, INC. FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) HOME REPAIR PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING \$185,000.00 FROM THE CHIP RLF FUND (#24) TO FUND THE PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PROGRAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To second reading.

**Ordinance 2020-012**

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 **(PT FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC)**

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-012**

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2020-013**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERY SKAPIN, SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO, TO PROVIDE PLAN REVIEW SERVICES TO THE DIVISION OF PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (#01) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF COMMERCIAL PLAN REVIEW FOR THE CITY

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-012**

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2020-014**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2020 FORD ESCAPE FROM LIBERTY FORD FOR USE BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AT A COST OF \$24,890.00, WHICH IS THROUGH THE STATE BID LIST, LESS THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF \$1,500.00 FOR (1) 2008 FORD ESCAPE CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$23,390.00, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#60) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO HAVE IT AVAILABLE FOR THE SPRING SPORTS SEASON

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-014**

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2020-015**

AN ORDINANCE SELECTING THE BID OF AND AWARDED A ONE YEAR CONTRACT TO PERRIN ASPHALT FOR 2020 CONCRETE REPAIR AS THE BEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER PURSUANT TO THE PRICING ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT, AND HAVING THE OPTION TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND AND/OR THIRD YEAR AT THE PRICING SET FORTH ON THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE STREET CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE & REPAIR FUND (#40)

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-015**

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

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

NAYS: None

**Ordinance 2020-016**

AN ORDINANCE SELECTING THE BID OF AND AWARDED A ONE YEAR CONTRACT TO SIGNAL SERVICE COMPANY AS THE BEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, FOR THE 2020 TRAFFIC SIGNAL

MAINTENANCE AND 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE BID PRICING ON THE ATTACHED BID TABULATION, AND HAVING THE OPTION TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE SECOND AND/OR THIRD YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED BID AMOUNTS, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE STREET CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FUND (#40)

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-016**

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

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

NAYS: None

#### **Ordinance 2020-017**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 121.03 "COUNCIL RULES - AGENDAS" OF AURORA'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO BE IN PLACE BEFORE THE FIRST CITY COUNCIL MEETING IN MARCH, 2020

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance read on three separate occasions.**

Mr. Kovach moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a 7-2 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Eckard, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca

NAYS: Eckard, Wolf

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-017**

Mr. Kovach moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a 6-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca,

NAYS: Eckard, Grandillo, Wolf

#### **Citizens Comments**

There was none.

#### **Council member and Committee Remarks**

Mrs. Barner commended Mr. Stark for handling her request to look into the Heinen's parking log. She said she appreciates the immediacy of his response. She expressed her deepest sympathy to the Mazzaro family. She said she would appreciate an update at the next meeting on the summer programs offered this summer by the Parks and Recreation Department. She asked if there is an update on filling the entrepreneur position.

Mr. Vaca said he would miss Mr. Mazzaro. He commented on the appearance of some service vehicles. He suggested that making an effort to make them look better by covering up the rest and make them more appropriate for the city.

Ms. McDougald Eckard said she is very sorry to hear about Mr. Mazzaro. She read a press release regarding her resignation.

Mr. Kudley commented on Ordinance-2020-117 – he said he did not speak previously because he did not want to appear to be confrontational with the administration or fellow Council people. He said with all due respect to the Mayor and Councilman Wolf all that was done was putting into the rules what we currently practice. He said it does not harm anyone. He said the Council Clerk has worked with the Administration's office and the Law Department to get things done in a timely manner even when the

deadlines were not met things always got on the agenda. He said perhaps if he had not been involved in creating the rules there would not have been an issue. He apologized to his fellow council members for being confrontational.

Mr. Hatridge said he is glad that Perrin was awarded the contract for the concrete repairs. He thanked Mr. Wolf for attending the Four Seasons Association presentation. He said commented on the passing of Mr. Mazzaro and said he will miss him. He wished Ms. Eckard well.

Ms. Grandillo commented on Mr. Mazzaro. She said she met him when she was 19 and she is very sorry that he has passed. She wished Ms. Eckard well.

Mr. Kovach wished Ms. Eckard well. He said she is glad she got her tennis courts. He said he attended Mr. Mazzaro's ceremony and enjoyed talking with his family.

Ms. Barner wished Ms. Eckard well.

Mr. Horvat said no one appreciates Mr. Mazzaro more than himself, Mr. Kudley and all of the mayors because he had the habit of picking on us the most. He said he would miss him. He wished Ms. Eckard well. He said March 19 at 6:00 p.m. Council will be interviewing candidates for Ms. Eckard's position. He said that information for application process would be in Wednesday's Advocate.

### **Adjournment**

#### **MOTION: To adjourn**

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

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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George Horvat, Council President

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Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council