

City of Aurora, Ohio
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2020

The Council of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, March 23, 2020 the purpose, a special public meeting. Council President George Horvat called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Because of extenuating circumstances and distancing requirements due to COVID-19, Ms. Barner, Mr. Hatridge, Mr. Kovach, Mr. Kudley and Mr. Vaca participated remotely as well as Mr. Clymer, Chief Byard, Ms. Holman, and Ms. Januska.

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor
Dean DePiero, Law Director
Tim Clymer, Finance Director
Karen Pope, Chief of Staff
Laura Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation
Harry Stark, Director of Public Services
Denis Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning & Building
Brian Byard, Police Chief
Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council

Legislation:

Ordinance 2020-030

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE CITY OF AURORA AND ENACTING UNCODIFIED REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO EMPLOYEE PAY AND FRINGE BENEFITS, PUBLIC MEETINGS, AND GENERAL OPERATIONS IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE 2020 covid-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AND DELARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. DePiero said the Attorney General has given an opinion that consistent with the law, it is reasonable to permit members of Council to appear via teleconference. He said the opinion indicates that if there are enough participating, the in-person requirement can be waived. Mr. DePiero said there is a quorum. He said the Attorney General also indicates what the requirements to have the meeting open. He said the meeting is open and the public can hear the deliberations and the votes of the participants. He said the City has provided the proper notice and minutes will be taken of the meeting and will be posted. He submitted Exhibit A sections of the ORC that reference meeting requirements and when it is permissible for those requirements to be relaxed. He submitted as Exhibit B, C, & D the requirements of the City Charter, Codified Ordinances and Council Rules regarding open meeting requirements for the record. He said it is his opinion that the city is permitted to conduct the meeting telephonic because the city is meeting the requirements of the Ohio Open Meetings Act. He said it is reasonable and necessary and in compliance with the spirit of the Ohio law that the city can relax the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and conduct business of Aurora by permitting members to attend remotely, deliberate and vote remotely. He said all the other requirements, notice to the public; present by quorum; public can hear

deliberations; the public can witness and hear votes; and there will be minutes of the meeting are being met. He said these are extraordinary times. He said the General Assembly is to meet this week and may codify what has been discussed.

Mr. DePiero reviewed Ord. 2020-030.

MOTION: To Amend

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

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

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

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-030 as amended

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on a 7-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn

Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: None

The special meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

George Horvat, Council President

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council