

Minutes
Aurora City Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7pm
City Council Chambers, Aurora City Hall
21420 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Gunter, Public Works Superintendent; Deputy Pete Walker; David James Robinson, City Attorney; Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder

STAFF ABSENT: Mary Lambert, Finance Officer

VISITORS PRESENT: Bill Graupp, Jan Peel, Joseph Schaefer, Julie Sixkiller, Richard Goddard, Aurora; Lani Radtke, Marion County Engineer; Bill Rhoades, Superintendent North Marion School District

1. CALL TO ORDER OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Brian Asher called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Brian Asher-Present

Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely-Present

Councilor John Berard-Present

Councilor Charles Roper-Present

Councilor Wendy Veliz-Present (Zoom)

3. AFFIRMATIONS

Mayor Asher noted that the Halloween decorating contest went well with some nice entries for the contest. Asher said no one got hurt, and no problems this year's holiday.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a) City Council Minutes—October 10, 2023

b) Planning Commission Minutes—October 3, 2023

c) Parks Committee Minutes—No minutes for last month

d) Historic Review Board Minutes—September 26, 2023

Mayor Wendy Veliz moved to pass the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Charles Roper and carried.

5. VISITORS-No visitor comment.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Bleicherode, Germany Sister City Update

It was noted that the city received a video introduction from city leaders in Bleicherode as well as a translation of the introduction.

b) Notice Re Starz Networks via Astound TV Services

It was noted that Ronan Feely managed to contact Astound via Facebook Messenger and secured improved internet speed due to replacement of a router, which required scheduling a technician to identify the issue. It was also noted there is a \$75 fee for technician services unless this service is built into the contract.

c) Thursday 11/16 ODOT Open House I-5 Boone Bridge & Bike Pedestrian Facility Replacement Project in Wilsonville

It was noted there is some preliminary money to do a study for a new bridge.

d) Follow-up to Oct. 25 Willamette Valley Commuter Rail Convening

Councilor Charles Roper attended this meeting and noted the need for project funding. Mayor Asher will contact the Woodburn Mayor to get on the list of interested parties.

e) Proposed Metro Metropolitan Area (MPA) Boundary Expansion

See below line item for Council and Marion County conversation.

f) DEQ 1200-C Termination Notice to TLM Oct 2023 - No comment.

g) State Aviation Board Mtg October 5, 2023 – Agenda, Wilsonville Commentary - No comment.

h) Aurora Master Plan Project Survey #1 Summary - No comment.

i) Overflight Database - Additional Information - No comment.

j) Marion County Housing Rehabilitation Loan Information

Mayor Asher said if there is anyone low income, there are low interest, forgivable terms with this type of loan.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Public Safety Report

Deputy Walker noted the deployment of a radar reader board, November 2 through November 8 and November 8 through November 14 with data included in the packet for the first set of dates and the latter set with materials printed for this meeting. Nearly 20,000 vehicles registered speeds on the first set of readings. A lot of the low reads were taken from vehicles turning left from Airport Rd onto Ehlen Rd at low speed. The high speed was 74 mph. The latter dates were speed readings north on the 99e with nearly 19,000 vehicles, with the low speed reads from vehicles entering the highway from Orchard facing Hubbard direction. The radar was picking up speeds from the 55-mph zone. The high speed there was 87 mph. Walker's best guess was that the high speeds were from vehicles late at night or early in the morning. The program is archaic from the early 2000s. Very rarely does Walker pull over the same motorist twice, due more than likely to the sheer volume of traffic on the roads, and he rarely pulls over Aurora residents. While the program is very archaic, Walker notes it does break out weekday

from weekend speeds. The trailer will be charged this evening, and Walker will place it facing northbound traffic to catch the 25-mph zone. Any speed over 50 mph will not display. Walker is open to suggestions for location to place the radar trailer. The next location for placement will be Liberty Street pointing toward Hwy 99e from the city park between Bobs and 4th.

b) Aurora Traffic and Traffic Speed

Nothing additional to the conversation above.

c) School District Report Card Results Including Graduation Rates and Strategic Initiatives – Dr. Bill Rhoades

North Marion School District Board Member Richard Goddard introduced Superintendent Bill Rhoades who narrated a set of slides for Council and community members. Copies of a strategic plan and an integrated plan were shared with Council and included as additional packet materials. Rhoades walks around campus a couple of times a day to see how these plans are being implemented.

Zillow uses GreatSchools.org numbers for North Marion School District as a rating system for house sales. It was noted that this school district lacks the resources for after-school programs of surrounding area districts to accommodate full-time working parents. North Marion is so rural that walkability also is a challenge.

Rhoades is willing to take up a conversation focused on how the City of Aurora and the school district can work together to get the word out as to the good work of local schools. It was noted that there will be new homes built in Aurora in the future with the question of the district being able to manage the volume of new students. Additional students from Aurora would increase the funds the district receives.

It was suggested that the city bring a proclamation forward for the North Marion girls' soccer team as an agenda item – Hubbard and Donald should do the same to start to tell the story of the school district. Rhoades invited Council members to stop by for a tour of the school district, and he suggested a look at the programs offered in Salem at the Career Technical Education Center (CTEC).

d) Proposed Metro Metropolitan Area (MPA) Boundary Expansion

Mayor Asher gave an overview of a meeting he attended last week. Based on impervious surfaces, the US Census has expanded the Metro boundary to include Aurora and Hubbard, changing our town's designation from rural to urban. Lani Radtke, Marion County Engineer, noted she is new to the process of MPA boundary expansion and that this conversation is about funding for transportation planning. Radtke met with Carl Lund, Marion County Traffic Engineer and the county's traffic planner and federal census representatives to learn about the process and see if it could be stopped. The conclusion is the process cannot be stopped. Radtke shared an ODOT Federal Aid Urban Boundary and Functional Classification map. Based on federal rules, the Metropolitan Planning Areas (MPAs) are set to grow along with each decennial census. Within each MPA there can be multiple Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – Portland has two MPOs. The methodology for MPA growth is one-half mile from the last census

MPA, which was triggered by the impervious surfaces at the Aurora State Airport to include Aurora as an urban area as well as Hubbard to the south with a set of “hop” and “jump” factors – both cities now part of the Portland Metropolitan Planning Area. Radtke and her team are trying to figure out what this means for both cities, but it was clarified that there would be no taxes as a result of this new urban designation within an MPA and likely little financial benefit given how small Aurora’s population is. At the last meeting Mayor Asher attended, Radtke noted there would be no taxes at this point, given how far Aurora is away from Metro in the Portland area. Mayor Asher’s understanding is that through Metro’s charter, the line stops at the tri-county area for tax purposes and control. Wilsonville and Canby do not pay because they have their own district for transportation. Mayor Asher noted that this initiative was sitting on the Governor’s desk for years without any action and that this fact could give Aurora a break from being included in an MPA in the next census, seven years from now. Radtke noted the City of Jefferson was initially included, but due to a change of federal rules that city was able to opt out though it chose not to do so. Radtke will follow up on Jefferson’s experience. Metro has indicated that even it does not want to take Aurora into its region. Radtke said that even if Aurora were to belong to Metro’s MPA, it could still apply for funding independently. There has been talk of forming a separate MPO with Woodburn and other north Marion cities. Radtke noted that a question for Aurora is: how does the city want to be at the table or even if it wants to be at the table? The city does not have to be involved, but then the city would not know what is coming down the pike in the next decade. Aurora’s Small City Allotment grant eligibility would not be affected by the MPA boundary, and neither would HUD loans. Radtke will also follow up about Aurora’s ability to go for rural funds based on a question Veliz asked. On a discussion of DEQ stormwater standards applied under a new urban designation and accompanying impact, Joseph Schaefer noted that the airport’s 300 acres is not currently subject to an MS4 permit given the lack of population density. Radtke noted that Marion County attends a Metro Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee once a month, suggesting that Aurora and Hubbard attend these to be looped into the ongoing conversation, and Mayor Asher suggested that Councilor Wendy Veliz get together with Hubbard City Administrator Shawn Waite to take up this issue. Veliz would like to explore an agreement to help protect the City of Aurora. Radtke said she asked US Census and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) about what benefits there are from joining an MPO, and no one could offer any benefit. Even the people who work for MPOs cannot come up with a benefit. There are not a lot of negatives either, though MPO staff indicate they have a lot of reporting requirements. Mayor will reach out to the Metro Council for a conversation. Radtke will reach out to some small cities, including outside of Oregon if needed, to see what their MPA-related impacts are.

e) Airport Land Use Update

Nothing additional than discussion of the EOA contract below.

f) Approval of the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely motioned to approve the Annual Financial Report which motion was seconded by Councilor Roper and carried.

g) Curbside EV Charging Pilot Agreement
City Councilors were unanimous in support of moving forward with this agreement.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Council Communication w Community: Aurora Bucks Survey Update
Councilor Charles Roper provided a brief update, and surveys will wrap this week.

b) Economic Opportunities Analysis Contract Approval, Process Flow Chart

Councilor Rhoden-Feely moved to execute the Economic Opportunities Analysis contract, seconded by Councilor John Berard, and the motion carried.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS [20-25 min] - NA

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Though referenced in the agenda, there were no executive sessions at this meeting.

11. REPORTS

a) Finance Officer

Finance Officer Mary Lambert was not in attendance, but her report is in the packet.

b) Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Mark Gunter noted nothing additional to add to his report.

c) City Attorney

City Attorney David James Robinson discussed the issue of recreational immunity, summarizing packet materials. CIS provided a document cities can use as a template to self-audit their own assets so that Aurora has a defense in case it gets sued by someone. Robinson will get look for a form support letter to forward on to state legislators toward fixing the statute based on a court of appeals decision in the short session.

d) City Recorder - Nothing additional other than report in packet.

e) Traffic Safety Liaison - Nothing to add beyond conversation with Deputy Walker.

f) Airport

Nothing additional beyond what was already covered about the airport earlier in meeting.

g) Planning

Schaefer referenced code amendments and that the HRB is welcome to add anything needed as these amendments move forward. The main item is the extension of marijuana business hours from 8pm to 10pm, but there is also an interest in extending the morning hours from 10am to 9am to be more in line with the Pub's breakfast hours.

Relative to the Economic Opportunities Analysis, there will be a technical advisory committee for public agency officials from Woodburn and Canby. Some of Aurora's own commission members will be invited to join this committee. Public outreach to other

governments will include the French Prairie Forum, City of Wilsonville, Oregon Aviation Board, Positive Aurora Airport Management (PAAM), Marion County, and Friends of French Prairie. Schaefer will email out an invite list with dates.

h) Community Outreach

Mayor Asher referenced the community food bank with hours tomorrow from 3:30 – 5pm. He heard that the City of Salem opened its food bank today at noon and the line was 2-3 blocks long, demonstrating a significant need.

i) Community Preparedness – Nothing to add.

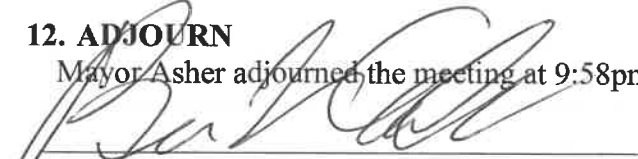
j) Parks Committee – No report this month.

k) Mayors Report

Mayor Asher noted a meeting with a Marion County Commissioner and movement of a water line to a different location. In general, the county is for the city taking over the airport, but they are not going to force the issue. Just today, the League of Oregon Cities got the legislature to commit infrastructure money for increasing low-income housing – and this grant money has to be spent within two years and assumes that engineering is done and cities are ready to go to bid for construction. Discussion followed that Aurora could use these funds to design and build water and sewer lines along Hwy 99e to be ahead of the curve relative to the separate mechanical wastewater treatment plant project. Mayor Asher and the City Recorder will work on an application to submit for funding.

12. ADJOURN

Mayor Asher adjourned the meeting at 9:58pm.



Brian Asher, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder