

**Minutes**  
**Aurora City Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, <sup>DEC</sup>November 12, 2023, 7pm  
City Council Chambers, Aurora City Hall  
21420 Main Street NE, Aurora, OR 97002

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mary Lambert, Finance Officer; Mark Gunter, Public Works Superintendent; Deputy Pete Walker; David James Robinson, City Attorney (Zoom); Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder

**STAFF ABSENT:** NA

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Jan Peel, Joseph Schaefer, Julie Sixkiller, Tina Zech, Aurora; Matt Williams, consultant

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER OF THE AURORA CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**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) – Joined at 7:03pm

**3. AFFIRMATIONS**

Councilor Charles Roper recognized Jan Peel for her help with Aurora Bucks this year and the huge survey response the city received. Mayor Asher thanked the downtown merchants for the wine and chocolate event this year. The tree lighting was also very successful, and there were a lot of generous people in town who supported the giving tree. It was noted the food bank operation was a success and that there were both a lot of people in need as well as volunteers who helped out. Carolers from the Presbyterian Church were out singing this evening.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

a) City Council Minutes—November 14, 2023

b) Planning Commission Minutes—November 7, 2023

c) Parks Committee Minutes—No minutes for last month

d) Historic Review Board Minutes—October 24, 2023

Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely moved to pass the Consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor John Berard and passed.

**5. VISITORS**-No visitor comment.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Land Conservation and Development Commission Initiates Rulemaking for Areas of Cultural Significance: Seeks Volunteers to Serve on Rules Advisory Committee  
Joseph Schaefer provided some context for the Economic Opportunities Analysis and how important the administrative rules that come out of the above-referenced DLCD process. Historic Review Board are welcome to volunteer as are other Aurora residents. There will be three 3-hour daytime meetings held in Salem. Volunteers will need an alternate in case of absence. Julie Sixkiller will consider this opportunity and let Schaefer know tomorrow.
- b) Hubbard Staff Memo to Council on Metro MPA Boundary Expansion  
This information provided to Aurora City Council as context for this land use issue. Mayor Asher noted he has met with the president of the Metro Council about this issue and a few other items, and Metro attorneys are still trying to decipher what this means.
- c) Recreational Immunity Documents  
Provided at the request of the City Attorney based on last month's Council discussion.
- d) 2023 PSU Population Estimate  
This item was presented to Council as an FYI only.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Public Safety Report  
Deputy Walker explained about a graffiti statistic from the previous year and that no reported cases have occurred this year. Walker provided a report on the radar reader board around town, and the machine is sitting in the 25-mph zone on the 99e currently and will be for another couple of days. Requested locations the machine has been located at are Airport Road and Albers Way as well as Liberty and Bobs Avenue. A discussion took place as to how to showcase the statistics provided as additional material with the suggestion of drafting a narrative. The radar reader is available as requested.
- b) Airport Land Use Update  
Nothing additional than provided under Old Business 8 c and Reports below.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Aurora Traffic and Traffic Speed – this item already discussed under Safety Report.
- b) Council Communication w Community: Aurora Bucks Survey Update  
Councilor Charles Roper provided a brief update, indicating the survey was completed last month with a total of 184 responses, all due to the Aurora Bucks incentive. Assuming 75 percent were redeemed, the city would spend about \$2,300. It is unknown at this point how many of the vouchers will be redeemed, but as of now there are \$475 worth of vouchers redeemed. A summary of the data was included in the report as well as results. Many residents are happy with the city newsletter but would prefer a digital version to come more regularly rather than waiting for it in the mail every two months. Less than 1% of respondents currently get city updates via email, but the preference of up to 60% of respondents wanted to get email – so a significant gap from where people get their news

and where they prefer to get it. The first step would be to collect emails from residents and segment what the city sends out based on resident interests. Councilor Veliz noted the need to set up the structure for collecting emails, identify who is going to develop a weekly newsletter, and for investment in the city's website. Veliz requested a summary of survey comments, and Councilor Roper will provide those. Roper noted that with the city's website server being upgraded, there is an opportunity to align the survey and website projects, possibly switching to a new platform.

c) Economic Opportunities Analysis: Buildable Lands Inventory Information  
Joseph Schaefer noted that a buildable lands inventory is the first step or deliverable in conducting an economic opportunities analysis with the whole point of this exercise to identify how much land there is to develop. It was noted that much of the available land along Hwy 99e is not developable due to the steep slope of the land.

## 9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

a) Resolution 848, A Resolution for the Expected Expenditure/Purchase of a New Hurco VAC300D Trailer - Diesel

Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely moved to accept Resolution 848, seconded by Councilor Roper and passed.

b) Resolution 849, A Resolution for the Recognition of the North Marion High School Girl's Soccer Team as 2023 Championship Winners

Councilor Wendy Veliz moved to accept Resolution 849, seconded by Councilor Roper, and passed.

c) Resolution 850, A Resolution Accepting Updated 2023 Wastewater Facilities Planning Study (WWFPS)

Councilor Rhoden-Feely moved to accept Resolution 850, seconded by Councilor Roper, and passed.

## 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Asher closed the regular Council meeting at 7:12pm, invited visitors in the Council chambers to exit the room, and entered Executive Session. The Executive Session closed at 7:40pm when Mayor Asher re-opened the regular Council meeting.

## 11. REPORTS

a) Finance Officer

Finance Officer Mary Lambert noted the city is still solvent, and there were no questions.

b) Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Mark Gunter noted a newspaper invitation soliciting bids for demolition of the house (21440 Main Street) next to City Hall. With an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approval, the wastewater treatment project will move forward steadily and more of the federal funds will be spent increasingly quickly

relative to the deadline for doing so. Councilor Rhoden-Feely plans to meet with Superintendent Gunter and Finance Officer Lambert to discuss budgeting bond funds.

c) City Attorney – David James Robinson provided an overview of his report.

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

e) Traffic Safety Liaison - Nothing to add beyond Deputy Walker's presentation.

f) Airport

Joseph Schaefer noted that on a new airport master plan, the Federal Aviation Administration provided approval of a forecast of future flight activity following the review of five drafts of this forecast. There will be another public advisory committee meeting in the next couple of months. The appeal cases have been pretty quiet, but there will be a hearing on January 5. Still no word from the Court of Appeals on the 2012 master plan case. The EOA was discussed earlier in the meeting under Old Business.

g) Planning

Schaefer referenced code amendments with the main item an extension of marijuana business closing hour from 8pm to 10pm. There is also interest in extending the morning opening hour from 10am to 9am to be more in line with the Pub's breakfast hours.

h) Community Outreach

Mayor Asher referenced the community food bank draws more people with each passing month. A couple of additional signs were discussed as well as a possible second monthly food bank event. Mayor Asher would like a boxed food bank blurb in the next newsletter.

i) Community Preparedness

Details were shared about a Shaky Ground Escape Room, April 6-7 for 96 people, and Council and staff are invited to participate. Aurora Emergency Preparedness will seek \$2500 in donations and sponsorships to make the event possible.

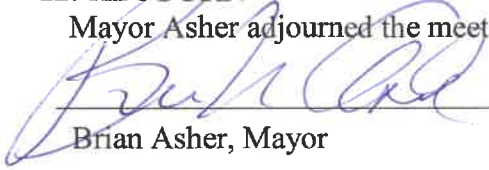
j) Parks Committee – A change is anticipated in the chair position in the near future.

k) Mayors Report

Mayor Asher noted a meeting with US Representative Andrea Salinas and the US Secretary of Agriculture toward overcoming red tape associated with grant applications. There is a bipartisan bill to change the rules for small cities to make soliciting funds easier. Mayor met last week with the state aviation board about changes to how the board operates relative to the problems that have been created by the board in the past. Mayor Asher will be signing the EV contract with PGE shortly. He wished all a safe and happy holiday with families and cautioned to watch speed in traveling and the amount of food folks consume.

**12. ADJOURN**

Mayor Asher adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.



---

Brian Asher, Mayor

ATTEST:



---

Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder

