

Minutes
Aurora City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 9, 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; Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder

STAFF ABSENT: NA

VISITORS PRESENT: Jan Peel, Joseph Schaefer, Julie Sixkiller, Aurora; Alex Thomas, Oregon Department of Aviation

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 holiday celebrations in town and the start of a new year. He mentioned the fire truck with Santa Claus and 50-60 people going around town collecting food. The Christmas lights were a big hit!

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) City Council Minutes—December 12, 2023
- b) Planning Commission Minutes—December 5, 2023
- c) Parks Committee Minutes—November 21, 2023
- d) Historic Review Board Minutes—December HRB Meeting Cancelled, No Minutes

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) Airport Land Use Update
Joseph Schaefer noted that the state's new master plan for the airport is back in gear. A public advisory meeting will be held Tuesday, January 30, 5pm on Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to review the first three master plan chapters – there have been five drafts so far, and recently approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Second, the

2012 master plan case is still sitting at the court of appeals, no word on this. Third, the EOA was already reviewed by Schaefer. Fourth, the church camp property is pending litigation at the Circuit Court with a motion to dismiss on Friday. There is a contest as to whether there is jurisdiction at Circuit Court, a hurdle in this and all the other cases. The owner has filed a new application for helicopters and drones, an attempt at maneuvering around the reasons for why the last application was denied. This will be the same process as the county went through several years ago with public notice, a hearing before the hearings officer and recommendation to the Marion County Board of Commissioners, a second hearing, and decision. Aurora City Council can discuss in open meeting or in Executive Session following a discussion between Schaefer and the City Attorney. Mayor Asher and Schaefer met with representatives of the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV), including Kenji Sugahara, new ODAV Director appointed by the Governor, and Alex Thomas who is the new ODAV Planning Manager. Thomas has stepped into Heather Pack's role and is very active in the new master plan and airports generally in Oregon. Mayor Asher wanted to make it clear the agreement between the city and airport has been ignored by the airport. The city has not been included as part of a county email list despite various outreach attempts to the County Commissioner's office. Schaefer noted the new ODAV Director is not opposed to the city bringing the airport into its urban growth boundary. Mayor Asher noted there will be a meeting soon with ODAV, city officials, and airport representatives to identify where we are at and how all can work together relative to the church camp property.

b) Aurora Colony Historical Society Letter

There was interest in inviting the Directory of the organization, Jennifer Burns to Council for an update as it has been a while.

c) Aurora State Airport Master Plan PAC Meeting, Tues., Jan. 30, 2024, 5pm-7pm
FYI item only.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Public Safety Report

Deputy Walker not present. It was noted the report was slim this past month, not a lot of tickets written or police activity. Walker's newsletter report was appreciated.

b) Appoint 2024-2025 Budget Officer

Councilor Mercedes Rhoden-Feely nominated Mary Lambert as the 2024-2025 Budget Officer, and all approved.

c) OLCC Liquor License Renewal, Recommendation

There was Council consensus for renewal.

d) Appointment of Andrew Robinson as Parks Committee Chairman

Motion by Councilor Wendy Veliz to appoint Andrew Robinson as Parks Committee Chairman, seconded by Councilor Berard.

8. OLD BUSINESS

a) Council Communication w Community

Of all possible redemptions, 65 of the Aurora Bucks have been redeemed or about half of the total, so about \$1600. Councilor Roper sent the comments out for Council review. Councilors Veliz and Roper will return in February with a summary of the top 10 items for possible follow-up based on raw survey feedback.

b) Economic Opportunities Analysis

Joseph Schaefer noted the first of three technical advisory committee meetings this Thursday at 3pm, open to in-person and virtual attendance. Schaefer also noted 90 percent of a buildable lands inventory has been put together.

c) Aurora Traffic and Traffic Speed

Councilor Berard discussed the historic "Welcome to Aurora" sign based on a recommendation to replace or newly establish such signage from the HRB. The sign at Ehlen Road needs paint, and the Hwy 99e southbound sign needs replacement. There is no current northbound sign on Ehlen Road, and Canby Sign and Graphics has provided an estimate of \$500 for creating two new signs. Berard will confirm an appropriate location with ODOT for a new third sign. Tim Corcoran can help with finials for each of the three signs toward the city project taking on a historic image, and Berard will follow up with Corcoran. There was Council consensus support for this project.

9. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS

a) Resolution 851, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Aurora, Oregon, Amending Resolution No. 838 and Adopting a new Schedule of Fees for Planning and Zoning Applications

There was Council consensus to table this resolution to next month and bring back a red-lined version of the fee schedule.

b) Resolution 852, A Resolution Establishing Business License and Related Fees Following Council and staff discussion, the following motion was made:

Councilor Rhoden-Feely moved to pass Resolution 852 with the following amendments: annual license fee including initial and renewals will be \$50 for all businesses; strike New Sub-Lease and Sub-Lessor Renewal; strike the psilocybin fees; and marijuana business fees will remain at \$2500 for both initial license and renewals annually; otherwise changes accepted as proposed in the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Charles Roper and carried.

In addition, it was determined that Councilor Rhoden-Feely, Joseph Schaefer, and Suzie Corcoran meet tomorrow to discuss resolving the psilocybin application.

c) Resolution 853, A Resolution to Award a Contract for Abatement and Demolition Services

The Public Works Superintendent is satisfied that the lowest bid is also the best bid.

Councilor Rhoden-Feely moved to accept Resolution 853, seconded by Councilor Veliz, and passed.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION-NA

11. REPORTS

a) Finance Officer

Finance Officer Mary Lambert noted there are two vacancies on the Budget Committee from term expirations. Vacant positions will be posted, and Julie Sixkiller expressed interest in one of the positions.

b) Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Mark Gunter had nothing additional to add other than what was already discussed in Resolution 853.

c) City Attorney – David James Robinson provided an overview of his report, including making contact with Verizon from Council directive but without any response from the corporation. Robinson also noted on the psilocybin matter, he and the City Recorder discussed the narrow issue of business license fees including the issue of conditional use permitting. Both issues got mashed together in an unpleasant way for the applicant. Robinson expressed he is still unsure of what the applicant is trying to do considering Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 475A.305 Psilocybin service center operator license; fees; rules, given that a service center appears to not be able to locate in an incorporated city. Robinson said that the business is either going to be a psilocybin service center or health care facility. He has not fully researched this and will do a deep dive to help round out the psilocybin conversation.

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

e) Traffic Safety Liaison - Nothing to add.

f) Airport – Nothing beyond what was already discussed by Joseph Schaefer.

g) Planning – Nothing beyond what was already discussed by Joseph Schaefer.

h) Community Outreach – Mayor Asher thanked a community member for participation in the monthly food bank.

i) Community Preparedness

Councilor Veliz joined the Aurora Emergency Preparedness group at its last week meeting and noted AEP is very busy in preparation for 2024 planning. Veliz will reach out to invite the Marion County Emergency Manager to present at Council on ways that AEP and the city and fire district can partner. One option is to conduct a tabletop exercise either directly in Aurora or observe one at another city.

j) Parks Committee – No updates other than Chair position filled by Andrew Robinson.

k) Mayors Report

Mayor Asher will be at the Oregon State Legislature tomorrow seeking additional funding for infrastructure projects.

12. ADJOURN

Mayor Asher adjourned the meeting at 8:57pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Asher", written over a horizontal line.

Brian Asher, Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart A. Rodgers", written over a horizontal line.
Stuart A. Rodgers, City Recorder