

**City of Aurora, Ohio  
CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2019**

The Council of the City of Aurora, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, March 11, 2019 for holding a regular public meeting. Council President George Horvat called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also Present:   Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor  
                  Dean DePiero, Law Director  
                  Denise Januska, Director of Planning, Zoning and Building  
                  Kris Allen, Executive Assistant to the Mayor  
                  Karen Aldredge, Chief of Staff  
                  Laura Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation  
                  Harry Stark, Director of Public Services  
                  Jack Burge, Director of Economic and Entrepreneurial Development  
                  Brian Byard, Police Chief  
                  David Barnes, Fire Chief  
                  Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council  
                  April Secura, Deputy Clerk of Council

**Consideration of Minutes**

**MOTION:       Approval of the February 25, 2019 meeting minutes**

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

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

**Cathy Morgan, Branch Manager – Aurora Memorial Library**

Ms. Morgan replaced Mr. Johnathan Harris as Branch Manager of the Aurora Memorial Library. She introduced herself and talked briefly about some of the programs at the library.

**Executive Session for Imminent Litigation**

**MOTION:       To move pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) that Aurora City Council adjourn to Executive Session to discuss imminent litigation**

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

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

Council entered into executive session at 7:04 p.m.

**MOTION: To return to open session**

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

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

NAYS: None

Council returned to open session at 7:19 p.m.

**Mayor's Report**

(Attached)

Mayor Womer Benjamin said the 2018 Annual Report for the City is at the printers, and should go out in the mail next week. She said additional copies would be available at City Hall. Mayor Womer Benjamin said the City is now taking applications for the 2019 STAR program. She said criteria for the program and applications are available on the website, at city hall or by calling 330-995-9116. She said the deadline is June 6 and that it is the last year the City will have the program. She said this week at the Walker building, she would deliver the State of the City to the seniors.

Mayor Womer Benjamin provided a brief recap of those she met with and functions that she attended since the last meeting of Council. She said she wants to note with sadness the passing of longtime residents, veterans and dear friends of hers Mr. Lou Hubach and Mr. Ben Sutton, Sr. She said the community, will miss their vitality and many contributions.

Mayor Womer Benjamin addressed Council on the recent incident in Florida regarding an Aurora police officer.

**Law Director's Report**

(Attached)

Mr. DePiero did not read his report.

**Council President's Report**

(Attached)

**MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding Ordinance 2019-032 thru 2019-041**

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

**Citizens Comments - Legislation**

There were no comments.

**Councilman Remarks - Legislation**

There were no remarks.

**Legislation**

**Ordinance 2019-018**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF (3) 2019 FORD EXPLORER POLICE INTERCEPTORS FROM LIBERTY FORD, AT A COST OF \$87,218.50, LESS THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF \$16,000.00 FOR (3) VEHICLES CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$71,218.50, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#60) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO HOLD PRICING

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-018**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-024**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH, CHAGRIN PET, GARDEN & POWER EQUIPMENT SUPPLY INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,327.31, THROUGH STATE PRICING, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 JOHN DEERE GATOR, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#60), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY SO THE EQUIPMENT CAN BE READY TO USE BY THE SUMMER SEASON

To third reading.

**Ordinance 2019-028**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO, FROM PROGRESSIVE AURORA REAL ESTATE, LLC FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A PORTION OF A SIDEWALK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S CONNECTIVITY PLAN

To second reading.

**Ordinance 2019-029**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 FORD F-150 FROM LIBERTY FORD FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AT A COST OF \$31,773.62, LESS THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF \$2,500.00 FOR (1) 2008 TRUCK CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$29,273.62, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#60) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS DELIVERY USUALLY TAKES 6 WEEKS

To second reading.

**Ordinance 2019-030**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2019 FORD F-350 FROM LIBERTY FORD FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AT A COST OF \$35,271.74, LESS THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF \$2,500.00 FOR (1) TRUCK CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$32,771.74, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#72) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO PURCHASE THE VEHICLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS DELIVERY USUALLY TAKES 6 WEEKS

To second reading

**Ordinance 2019-031**

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONDITIONAL ZONING CERTIFICATE FOR A COMPARABLE USE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 13 NEW HUDSON DRIVE, IN A C-1 ZONING DISTRICT AND R-2 ZONING DISTRICT

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-031**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-032**

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 **(HILL, TONG, WEIR)**

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance be read on three separate occasions**  
Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-032**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-033**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN FIREWORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 TO PERFORM THE CITY'S JULY 4TH FIREWORKS PROGRAM, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE RECREATION FUND (#78)

To second reading

**Ordinance 2019-034**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JARED DICKEY, SUBSTANTIALLY IN THE FORM ATTACHED HERETO, TO PROVIDE BACK-UP BUILDING OFFICIAL AND PLANS EXAMINER 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 AND INDUSTRIAL PLAN REVIEW FOR THE CITY

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance be read on three separate occasions**  
Ms. Grandillo moved; Mr. Vaca seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-031**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-035**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH AGRI-SLUDGE, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$70,000.00 FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS CAKE BIOSOLIDS REMOVAL PROJECT, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE SEWER FUND (#72) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY SO THE WORK CAN BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

**MOTION: To suspend the rule that requires an ordinance be read on three separate occasions**  
Ms. Grandillo moved; Ms. Barner seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-035**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-036**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE QUOTATION OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOUTHEASTERN EQUIPMENT CO., INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A CASE 621GXT ARTICULATED WHEEL LOADER THE AMOUNT OF \$155,580.77, THROUGH THE STATE TERM SCHEDULE, LESS \$123,500.00 FOR THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF A 2000 621CXT WHEEL LOADER CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$32,080.77, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (#60) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO HAVE THE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR USE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-036**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-037**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH STANTEC, INC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$490,000.00 TO PROVIDE DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE CENTRAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SLUDGE DIGESTION AND STORAGE PROJECT, TAKING \$450,000.00 FROM THE SEWER CAPITAL FUND (#73), WITH AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$40,000.00 FROM THE SEWER CAPITAL FUND (#73) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO BEGIN DESIGN SERVICES IMMEDIATELY TO BE ABLE TO BID THE PROJECT IN 2020

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-037**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-038**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH WERTZ GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 TO PROVIDE BACK-UP ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CITY OPERATIONS FUND (#52) AND THE DEVELOPER'S ESCROW FUND (#80) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO AVOID DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-038**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-039**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH H.R. GRAY & ASSOCIATES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.00 TO PROVIDE BACK-UP ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CITY OPERATIONS FUND (#52) AND THE DEVELOPER'S ESCROW FUND (#80) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO AVOID DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-039**

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

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

**Ordinance 2019-040**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GROUP IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 TO PROVIDE BACK-UP ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE CITY OPERATIONS FUND (#52) AND THE DEVELOPER'S ESCROW FUND (#80) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO AVOID DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

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

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

**MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2019-040**

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

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

**Resolution 2019-041**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO ASSIST THE CITY WITH ELECTRIC UTILITY ISSUES, INCLUDING ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY BY THE CITY OF AURORA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

Mayor Womer Benjamin said she appreciates Councils' consideration of the resolution. She said that as the City addresses First Energy's transmission plans for the City, it has become increasingly evident that the City needs its own electric energy expert to advise and help evaluate First Energy's decisions now and with anticipated litigation. She said as the City considers alternatives and responses to First Energy's transmission plans there is no expert to rely on to help evaluate electricity options other than First Energy. She said that self-interest motivates First Energy with their responses and that will only increase

if litigation commences. She said it is appropriate for the City to retain its own electric energy expert. She said the time is appropriate for the City to consider all options regarding the provision of electric service, including the possibility of setting up their own municipal electric utility as permitted under State law. She said more than 80 cities in Ohio have their own electric utilities. She said it is her belief that as part of the City's due diligence they should explore the feasibility and benefits of this option including cost savings, improved reliability and better customer service. She said the resolution authorizes the issuing of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to potential advisors of these consulting and evaluation services it does not authorize the hiring of anyone or the spending of funds at this point. She said once the RFQ process is completed the responses will be evaluated and a recommendation will be brought back to Council.

**MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2019-041**

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

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

**Citizens Comments**

Mr. Steve Smith introduced himself. He said he is currently sitting as the Magistrate in Portage County Municipal Court. He provided a brief bio on his education, career and accomplishments.

**Council member and Committee Remarks**

Ms. McDougald Eckard wished Ms. Grandillo a happy birthday.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION: To adjourn**

Mr. Vaca moved; Mr. Hatridge seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kudley, McDougald Eckard, Vaca, Wolf  
NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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George Horvat, Council President

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Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council