

City of Aurora, Ohio
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2021

The Council of the City of Aurora, Ohio met via Zoom on Monday, January 25, 2021, to hold a regular public meeting. Council President George Horvat called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Present: Reva Barner
Peter French
Kathi Grandillo
Harold Hatridge
George Horvat
Dennis Kovach *arrived at 7:42 p.m.*
John Kudley, Jr.
James Vaca
Scott Wolf

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

Consideration of Minutes

MOTION: Approval of the January 11, 2021 regular meeting minutes
Mr. Vaca moved; Ms. Grandillo seconded. The motion carried on an 8-0 roll call vote.

AYES: Barner, French, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-171

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE APPLICATION OF HERITAGE CAPITAL CORP. TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 16.4 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 600 NORTH AURORA ROAD FROM I-1: MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING AND WHOLESALING DISTRICT TO M-1: MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND REFERRING THE SAME TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, AS IS REQUIRED BY SECTION 13.04 OF THE CITY OF AURORA CHARTER

There were no comments.

Award Presentation – Chief Byard

Chief Byard recognized the following:

Kaitlin Orosz – Employee of the Year

Patrick Domos – Officer of the Year

Jennifer Schonauer, Forensics Accountant, Ohio Attorney General’s Office – Citizen of the Year for her

dedication and professionalism in her involvement with the investigation of the VOA.

Various members of Council and the Mayor congratulated the recipients.

Executive Session to Discuss Sale of Property

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G) (1) to discuss the compensation of public employees

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

AYES: Barner, French, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Council entered into executive session at 7:08 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, French, Grandillo, Hatridge, Horvat, Kovach, Kudley, Vaca, Wolf
NAYS: None

Council returned to open session at 8:10 p.m.

Mayor's Report

(Attached)

Mayor Womer Benjamin thanked everyone's consideration for the 2021. She said to mark your calendar for March 3 for the State of the City. She said she is working with the Chamber and the Schools on a modified version of the event. She said she does think much will be remote or live streamed. She said COVID vaccines have become available in Ohio for those 75 and older. She provided information on how to sign up and where you can get the vaccine. She said seniors who need assistance scheduling the vaccine should contact the United Way. She said the EMS employees received their second dose last week. She expressed her condolences to the family of the former Finance Director Robert Paul who passed away January 19.

Mayor Womer Benjamin provided a brief recap of those she met with and functions that she attended since the last meeting of Council.

Law Director's Report

(Attached)

Mr. DePiero did not read his report.

Mr. DePiero said Council should have received the Law Director's Annual Report. He said he is very proud of all they have accomplished this past year.

Mr. Vaca said it was a well-written report; he thank Mr. DePiero for sending it to Council.

Council President's Report

(Attached)

MOTION: To amend the agenda by adding Ordinances 2021-008 thru 2021-012 from the Committee of the Whole.

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

Citizens Comments – Legislation

There were no comments.

Councilman Remarks – Legislation

Ms. Harris Banes introduced Mr. James Galm and Mr. Milind Bhanoo from Layerzero.

Mr. Bhanoo provided background on himself and Mr. Galm. He also spoke of how the company came to be.

Mr. Galm added that they are an organic company that they created on their own.

Mr. Vaca said he is impressed that they started out of garage and hopes when things are different he can tour the facility.

Legislation**Ordinance 2020-171**

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE APPLICATION OF HERITAGE CAPITAL CORP. TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 16.4 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 600 NORTH AURORA ROAD FROM I-1: MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING AND WHOLESALING DISTRICT TO M-1: MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND REFERRING THE SAME TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF AURORA, AS IS REQUIRED BY SECTION 13.04 OF THE CITY OF AURORA CHARTER

MOTION: To postpone Ordinance 2020-171

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

Ordinance 2020-187

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021, AS SUBMITTED BY MAYOR ANN WOMER BENJAMIN, AND APPROPRIATING THE FUNDS NECESSITATED BY THE ADOPTION OF THAT BUDGET AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: To amend Ordinance 2020-187 by adding changes provided by the Finance Director

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

Mr. Kudley thanked the Mayor for putting out a very strong budget worked out thoughtfully by her and the Finance Director. He said he is opposed to the increases that are in the ranges of 4% to 7% and he believes them to be excessive; and for that reason, he will vote against the budget.

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2020-187 as amended

Mr. Grandillo moved; Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion carried on an 8-1 roll call vote.

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

NAYS: Kudley

Resolution 2021-008

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JEFF CLARK TO MEMBERSHIP ON AURORA'S LANDMARK COMMISSION, FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AS THE CURRENT TERM EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND COUNCIL DESIRES TO CONFIRM THIS REAPPOINTMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE LANDMARK COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 183 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the Council's three reading rule of legislation before taking action

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

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2021-008

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

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

Ordinance 2021-009

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL OF EVERSTREAM FOR \$1,500.00 PER MONTH, FOR 36 MONTHS, TO UPGRADE THE CURRENT CITY INTERNET CONNECTION, TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (#01), WATER FUND (#70), SEWER FUND (#72), PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (#78) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY ACCOMMODATE THE CITY'S INTERNET NEEDS

MOTION: To suspend the Council's three reading rule of legislation before taking action

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

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2021-007

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

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

Ordinance 2021-010

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2021 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE FROM GANLEY CHEVROLET FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AT A COST OF \$28,825.20, WHICH IS LESS THAN THE STATE BID LIST, LESS THE TRADE IN ALLOWANCE OF \$2,500.00 FOR (1) 2010 CHEVROLET IMPALA CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE CITY, FOR A NET COST OF \$26,325.00 TAKING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FROM THE FIRE PARAMEDIC LEVY FUND (#39) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXPEDITE THE PURCHASE OF AN EMERGENCY VEHICLE AND MEET MANUFACTURING DEADLINES

Mr. Hatridge had made a motion to suspend Ordinance 2021-010 in error and then rescinded the motion.

To second reading.

Resolution 2021-011

A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. BRAD DUGUAY TO MEMBERSHIP ON AURORA'S LANDMARK COMMISSION FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, REPLACING TOM SHROUT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AS COUNCIL DESIRES TO CONFIRM THIS APPOINTMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE LANDMARK COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 183 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF AURORA

MOTION: To suspend the Council's three reading rule of legislation before taking action

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

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2021-011

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

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

Ordinance 2021-012

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A TAX ABATEMENT TO BG EQUITY HOLDINGS, LLC (LAYERZERO POWER SYSTEMS) FOR A 100%, 15 YEAR ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

PROVISIONS OF THE CITY'S COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA KNOWN AS CRA I AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO SECURE FINANCING AND PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT

To second reading.

Citizens Comments

There were no comments.

Council member and Committee Remarks

Mr. Vaca thanked Mr. DePiero for coming to his Ward to deal with a situation with a resident. He expressed his condolences to the family of Robert Paul. He said the article Mr. Kudley had in the Advocate was very interesting. He said he took the test and he was a settler.

Mr. Horvat commended Ms. Harris Bane on her work with Lazerzero. He also expressed his condolences to the family of Robert Paul.

Mr. Kudley said because of Mr. Paul, Mr. Clymer had a financially sound city to come into. Mr. Kudley expressed his condolences to the family of Mr. Paul. He said many people do not know that Mr. Paul and his wife were foster parents over the years for many children; and that in its self is a testament to the kind of man he was.

Mr. Hatridge expressed his condolences to the Paul family. He said if Bob was your friend you had a friend forever.

Mr. Kovach expressed his condolence to the Paul family. He said he was a great friend.

Miscellaneous

Liquor Notice – The Aurora Inn

Mr. DePiero said it a request for a new permit from the receiver. He said the main creditor of the business have purchased the property. He said a new license is necessary because some of the issues with some of the issues with the creditors.

Ms. Harris Banes said the new license allows them to apply for the State dollars provided through the government for restaurants and bars. She said they have had some success in the month of December.

Mr. Vaca asked for the number of permits allowed within the city.

Mr. DePiero said he would find out.

Mr. Wolf said the Inn is working very diligently to make a go of it.

There are no objections.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn

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

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

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

George Horvat, Council President

Donna Hawks, Clerk of Council