

Aurora, Nebraska
December 10, 2024

A meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Aurora, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 7:30 p.m. on December 10, 2024 at the City Hall. Present were Councilors: Paul Lackore, Wayne Roblee, Daniel Bartling, Mark Dunn, Dick Phillips and Nancy Lohrmeyer. Mayor Marlin Seeman conducted the meeting. City Officials present were City Administrator Eric Melcher, City Attorney Ross Luzum, Chief of Police Paul Graham, Public Works Director Adam Darbro and Clerk/Treasurer Barbra Mikkelsen.

Notice of said meeting was given by publication in the Aurora News Register on December 4, 2024. Notice of meeting was simultaneously given to the Mayor and all members of the Council and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice and the agenda is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda of this meeting was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Mayor Seeman stated "AS PERSCRIBED BY LAW A COPY OF THE NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT IS POSTED BY THE DOUBLE DOORS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS."

MINUTES:

Councilor Dunn moved to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Lohrmeyer and Lackore. Nay: None. The motion carried.

PETITIONS, COMPLAINTS, COMMUNICATIONS:

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, BOARD, COMMITTEES:

Clerk/Treasurer Mikkelsen presented the Expenditures and Clerk/Treasurer reports for the month ending November 30, 2024. Councilor Phillips moved to approve said reports. Councilor Lohrmeyer seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Lohrmeyer, Lackore and Roblee. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Claims Committee Member Lohrmeyer reported the claims presented by the Clerk were in order and moved that said claims be allowed and checks drawn on the various funds for payment of same be approved. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Dunn, Phillips, Lohrmeyer, Lackore, Roblee and Bartling. Nay: None. The motion carried. A listing of said claims is attached to these minutes.

7:30 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Seeman opened the duly advertised public hearing to receive public comments regarding a request to amend Ordinance No. 1110, the Zoning Ordinance to the City of Aurora, Nebraska and to amend the Land Use Plan, a part of the Comprehensive Plan, Ordinance No. 1109, to reflect changes in zoning for the property located on Lot 15, Block 12, Aurora Original Town, City of Aurora, Hamilton County, Nebraska. Request is to change from C-1, Central Business District Designation to R-1, Residential District Designation.

Mayor Seeman asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition of the proposed recommendation and there was no one. He then asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in support of the proposed recommendation. Zoning Administrator Darbro stated the Planning Commission recommended approval. There being no one else present to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed recommendation Mayor Seeman declared the public hearing closed.

City Attorney Luzum read Ordinance No. 1199: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1110, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AURORA, NEBRASKA, ARTICLE FOUR (4), ESTABLISHMENT AND DESIGNATION OF ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 403, THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP, TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT LOT FIFTEEN (15), BLOCK TWELVE (12), AURORA ORIGINAL TOWN, CITY OF AURORA, HAMILTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, BE CHANGED FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT DESIGNATION (C-1) TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION (R-1), AND TO PROVIDE THAT SAID CHANGE SHALL BE ENTERED UPON ZONING MAP AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE FOUR (4), SECTION 404.10, OFFICIAL ZONING MAP CHANGES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS, TO ORDER THE ORDINANCE PUBLISHED IN BOOK, PAMPHLET, OR ELECTRONIC FORM, AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Lackore moved to bring Ordinance No. 1199 before the council and to suspend the statutory three reading rule for consideration of this Ordinance. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Phillips, Lohrmeyer, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling and Dunn. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Dunn moved for final adoption of Ordinance No. 1199. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion. Mayor Seeman then stated the question, "Shall Ordinance No. 1199 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Councilors voted Aye: Lohrmeyer, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn and Phillips. Nay: None.

The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Mayor declared passed and adopted and the Mayor signed and approved said Ordinance and the Clerk attested the passage and approval of same and affixed her signature thereto. Said Ordinance shall be preserved and kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the Ordinance Record of the City of Aurora, Nebraska and same be incorporated herein by reference.

City Attorney Luzum read Ordinance No. 1200: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1109, THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AURORA, NEBRASKA, LAND USE PLAN, TO PROVIDE THAT THE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT LOT FIFTEEN (15), BLOCK TWELVE (12), AURORA ORIGINAL TOWN, CITY OF AURORA, HAMILTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA, BE CHANGED FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT DESIGNATION (C-1) TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT DESIGNATION (R-1) TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS, TO ORDER THE ORDINANCE PUBLISHED IN BOOK, PAMPHLET, OR ELECTRONIC FORM, AND TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Phillips moved to bring Ordinance No. 1200 before the council and to suspend the statutory three reading rule for consideration of this Ordinance. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips and Lohrmeyer. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Lackore moved for final adoption of Ordinance No. 1200. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Mayor Seeman then stated the question, "Shall Ordinance No. 1200 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Councilors voted Aye: Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Lohrmeyer and Lackore.

The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Mayor declared passed and adopted and the Mayor signed and approved said Ordinance and the Clerk attested the passage and approval of same and affixed her signature thereto. Said Ordinance shall be preserved and kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the Ordinance Record of the City of Aurora, Nebraska and same be incorporated herein by reference.

7:35 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Seeman opened the duly advertised public hearing to receive public comments regarding a request for a Permit to keep Animals and/or Fowl at the property located at 309 Mark Street, Aurora, Nebraska. If approved, the issuance of the Permit to Keep Animals and/or Fowl would allow for one raccoon to be kept on the property.

Mayor Seeman asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition to the issuance of the permit and there was no one. He then asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in support of the proposed recommendation. Cheryl Bicknase spoke in favor of the permit. Zoning Administrator Darbro stated the Planning Commission recommended approval and that the state had approved the license. There being no one else present to speak in favor of or opposition to the proposed recommendation Mayor Seeman declared the public hearing closed.

Councilor Lohrmeyer moved to approve a Permit to Keep Animals and/or Fowl to allow one raccoon to be kept on the property at 309 Mark Street, Aurora, Nebraska. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Bartling, Dunn, Lohrmeyer and Lackore. Nay: Phillips and Roblee. The motion carried.

Public Works Director Darbro reviewed Pay Application No. 4 for the 1st Street Project with city share of \$55,708.38. Councilor Roblee moved to approve Pay Application No. 4 for the 1st Street Project with city share of \$55,708.38 payable to Mid-Nebraska Land Developers. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Dunn, Phillips, Lohrmeyer, Lackore, Roblee and Bartling. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Lohrmeyer moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ron Elge to the Aurora Planning Commission. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Phillips, Lohrmeyer, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling and Dunn. Nay: None. The motion carried.

REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

City Attorney Luzum administered the oath of office to the newly elected officials, Mark Dunn, Esther Bergen and Wayne Roblee.

Councilor Roblee nominated Councilor Richard Phillips for Council President. Councilor Roblee moved to cease nominations. Councilor Bartling seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn and Bergen. Abstain: Phillips. Nay: None. The motion carried nominations were ceased and Councilor Phillips was elected Council President for 2025.

Councilor Lackore moved to approve the appointment of Steven A. Parr, Consultant (Class A, License # S-859), from JEO Consulting Group, Inc. as City Street Superintendent with January 1, 2025 beginning appointment date. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips and Lackore. Abstain: Bergen. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Mayor Seeman made the following appointments of City Officials and Department Heads for 2025.

2025 Appointed City Officials and Department Heads

City Administrator	Eric Melcher
City Attorney	Ross Luzum, Powell & Luzum
City Physician	Dr. Mark D. Jobman
City Engineer	JEO Consulting Group, Inc.
City Clerk/Treasurer	Barbra J. Mikkelsen
Deputy Clerk	Di Ana Leininger
Street Superintendent	Steven A. Parr
Public Works Director	Adam Darbro
Zoning Administrator	
Waste Water Plant Superintendent	John Allen
Fire Chief	Thomas D. Cox
EMS Captain	Kirt Smith
Chief of Police	Paul L. Graham
Cemetery Superintendent	Dustin Brandt
Librarian	Janette C. Thomsen
Park Superintendent	Jeremy Cattau
Police Chaplain	Rev. Karl Larson
Police Officers: Ryan Dummer, Lieutenant, Nathan Friesen, Sergeant, Corey Dvorak, Police Officer II, John C. Johnston, Police Officer II, Tyler Hinchey, Police Officer II, Adam Seger, Police Officer II, Cody Barry, Police Officer II, Peyton Ott, Police Officer I, Violet Kluck, Police Officer I	

Councilor Phillips moved to approve the Mayor's appointments of the City Officials/Department Heads as stated for 2025. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Bergen, Lackore and Roblee. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Lackore moved to approve the Council Committee appointments for 2025. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Dunn, Phillips, Bergen, Lackore, Roblee and Bartling. Nay: None. The motion carried. Councilor Committees for 2025 are as follows:

Fees/Claims

Mark Dunn*
Esther Bergen
Dan Bartling

Public Works

Wayne Roblee*
Dick Phillips
Paul Lackore

Public Safety

Dick Phillips*
Dan Bartling
Mark Dunn

Recreation & Facilities

Paul Lackore*
Wayne Roblee
Esther Bergen

*Chairperson

Councilor Lackore moved to designate the Aurora News Register as the Official Newspaper for the City of Aurora. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Phillips, Bergen, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling and Dunn. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Phillips moved to approve the appointment of the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department members. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Bergen, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn and Phillips. Nay: None. The motion carried. The following were appointed as Volunteer Fire Department members:

Alex Briner, Jeremy Cattau, Thomas Cox, Blake Delarm, Brent Dethlefs, Derek Dibbern, George Eberly, Tanner Greenough, Jeremy Hope, Caden Huenefeld, Chris Hyde, Ryder Keller, Kelvin Kreitman, Rennie Love, Randy Maahs, Bobby Meade, Travis Mitchell, Glenn Obermeier, Clinton Roberts, Stephen Saddler, Harlan Schafer, Jeffrey Schneider, Caleb Smith, Eric Smith, Kirt Smith, Phillip Thomas, Spencer Werner and Jeremy White.

Shannon Goltz a representative for Aurora Adopt A Pet reviewed plans for expansion of the animal shelter. Councilor Lackore moved to allow the use of city property located at the Aurora Adopt A Pet, 1212 McCullough Lane, for the purpose of expanding the animal shelter. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips and Bergen. Nay: None. The motion carried.

City Attorney Luzum read Ordinance No. 1201: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF STOP SIGNS ON THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST CORNERS OF THE INTERSECTION OF CAPITAL STREET AND COTTAGE PARK DRIVE; FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF A STOP SIGN ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF GRANT STREET AND BATES STREET, FOR THE INSTALLATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF A STOP SIGN ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF MATSON STREET AND COTTAGE PARK DRIVE, IN THE CITY OF AURORA, NEBRASKA; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SECTIONS; TO ORDER THE ORDINANCE PUBLISHED IN BOOK, PAMPHLET, OR ELECTRONIC FORM; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilor Lackore moved to bring Ordinance No. 1201 before the council and to suspend the statutory three reading rule for consideration of this Ordinance. Councilor Roblee seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Bergen and Lackore. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Phillips moved for final adoption of Ordinance No. 1201. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Mayor Seeman then stated the question, "Shall Ordinance No. 1201 be passed and adopted?" Upon roll call vote, the following Councilors voted Aye: Bartling, Dunn, Phillips, Bergen, Lackore and Roblee. Nay: None.

The passage and adoption of said Ordinance having been concurred in by a majority of all members elected to the Council was by the Mayor declared passed and adopted and the Mayor signed and approved said Ordinance and the Clerk attested the passage and approval of same and affixed her signature thereto. Said Ordinance shall be preserved and kept in a separate and distinct volume known as the Ordinance Record of the City of Aurora, Nebraska and same be incorporated herein by reference.

Councilor Phillips moved to approve the Platte River Valley Mutual Aid District Agreement with Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Buffalo and Merrick County(s), Nebraska. Councilor Dunn seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Dunn, Phillips, Bergen, Lackore, Roblee and Bartling. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Lackore moved to approve the Hamilton County Mutual Aid District Mutual Aid Agreement with the communities and rural fire protection districts of Hamilton County, Nebraska. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Phillips, Bergen, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling and Dunn. Nay: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Roblee moved to approve the reimbursement for the CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program for Façade Improvements for client DTR-#003 for \$28,930.31 subject to receipt of payroll reports from the contractors. Councilor Phillips seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Bergen, Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn and Phillips. Nay: None. The motion carried.

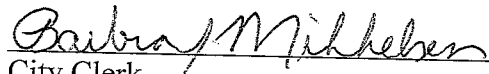
Councilor Dunn moved to approve Draw Request #9 for CDBG Funds for \$28,930.31. Councilor Lackore seconded the motion. Voting Aye: Lackore, Roblee, Bartling, Dunn, Phillips and Bergen. Nay: None. The motion carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS:
ADJOURNMENT:**

Having completed all items on the agenda, and there being no further business to conduct, Mayor Seeman declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22p.m.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

