

# **AURORA BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
May 16, 2022

## **Board Members Present:**

Mr. Walls, Ms. Horiuchi, Mr. Fryberger, Mr. Sarwal, Ms. Woodson, Mr. Boyd, Ms. Pace, Ms. Reding, Mr. Liles, Ms. Fender. and Mr. Patel

## **Board Members Absent:**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Mike Coffman

**Staff Present:** Elena Vasconez, Andrea Amonick, Nancy Wishmeyer

**Guest Present:** Commander Wright, Trevor Vaughn

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A friendly amendment from Michelle Reding was presented indicating that she did not have an update last meeting, but instead, she was absent.

Mr. Walls calls for a motion to excuse or not excuse Mr. Lyles' absence

Mr. Fryberger makes a motion to excuse Mr. Liles

Ms. Horiuchi, seconds

Mr. Walls indicates that there are no other major changes to the minutes and motions to approve the minutes

None opposed.

Abstention – Ms. Reding

With no objections, April Minutes are approved

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments

## **Mayor Mike Coffman**

- Police Chief: As you know, we have Chief Oates is back. I think it will take six to eight months to go through the process of finding a new permanent chief. I'm just grateful that he's back, obviously, he is going to continue the great work in terms of community outreach and reform, that former Chief Wilson did, but he will also make reducing the crime rate a real priority. I have talked to Council Member Zvonek, the chair of the Public Safety Committee, about reducing the crime rate, but for that, we need to have a fully staffed department because currently, we're taking from every area to go out to patrol. We also have to focus on working with our state legislature, and with the governor's office more effectively, because there have been a number of changes since 2010, such as lessening the prison population and lowering penalties that I think have had the unintended effect of rising or increasing the crime rate.
- Camping Ban – I am going to visit the Day Resource Center at the Anschutz Medical Center, the Salvation Army's safe camping site, and Restoration Christian Fellowship to see if they can

be expanded. Case law requires that we have an alternative shelter option when each campsite is abated.

### **Questions**

**Mr. Walls:** Where are we in the process of looking for a new chief? What's the timeline?

**Mayor Coffman:** I think it could take from six to eight months, but the first thing to do is to select a national search firm, so that will be the next thing we will be doing.

**Mr. Boyd:** Has some cleanup of the camping sites already begun? Or are there any other alternatives?

**Mayor Coffman:** Yes, it's been done but at a slow pace. So right now, for instance, CDOT does it about once every six weeks along it's right-of-way. There are some bad areas, but Mississippi and 225 is probably one of the worst areas. There is a large dirt area that attracts many people and I know some of the businesses around there experience a lot of problems.

**Mr. Patel:** We have a hotel located off the 225 corridor and we have a tremendous amount of break-ins. For guests who are staying at the hotel, we've had to even hire a live security guard, which we cannot afford, but we had to because we don't want to lose our customers. I just hope that whatever action the city takes, is fast and bold, simply because it affects people traveling, if you have crime in one part of the city, people are not going to stay there, they're going to go somewhere else. So, we do not want to stigmatize Aurora as another San Francisco, I just hope that whatever the city decides to do, is bold and fast.

**Mayor Coffman:** We will continue to make the necessary changes, obviously, we're going help these people. But we're not helping them by allowing them to live the way they do right now. We want to get them into areas where we can offer them the necessary services, get them out of drug and alcohol dependency and move toward self-sufficiency.

***ACTION ITEM; no items this month.***

**Commander Steven Wright, Fire Commander** - no updates this month.

***ACTION ITEM; no items this month.***

**Trevor Vaughn** - no updates this month.

***ACTION ITEM; no items this month***

### **City of Aurora Safety and Security Grant – Nancy Wishmeyer – City Controller**

This morning, we launched the City of Aurora Safety and Security grant program. This is a \$3 million program that's funded by ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act dollars. What this money is going to do, is provide grants to Aurora, small businesses, nonprofits, and community groups who need to do safety and security upgrades to their facilities. The types of upgrades or improvements would be things like cameras, lighting, mirrors, windows, shatter-resistant glass, or things that enhance their ability to respond to public safety issues at their facilities. This is a first come first serve basis. It'll be open until all the funds are exhausted or until June of 2023, whichever comes first. There has been some confusion with this \$3 million program. We are setting aside 500,000

just for those small businesses, nonprofits, and community groups that have a presence along the Colfax corridor, between Yosemite and Peoria, and 14th Avenue and 16th Avenue. Two and a half million dollars, though, is available for any eligible small business, nonprofits, and community groups in Aurora.

We are working with Aurora-based contractors who have been vetted by the city of Aurora. So, they have insurance and are not suspended or disbarred, because these are federal dollars that we're utilizing. We are going to align these contractors who will do the work with the grantees that have been approved. Then we are going to have the Aurora Police Department, go out and do a walkthrough of these facilities. The Aurora Police Department will identify those types of improvements and create a checklist of things that need to be done. Once there is an agreement between the entity and the contractor, then the contractor will then start to work. Contractors will be paid directly by the City.

**Questions:**

**Ms. Pace:** Is this a reimbursement grant? How long it will take in that process, once the grant is approved?

**Ms. Wishmeyer:** Yes, this is a reimbursable grant or reimbursement based. So, what we would require is after the contractor utilizes that safety and security assessment that's been approved, and signed off on by both the contractor and the small business, the contractor will send the invoices to the city and we will pay the contractor directly for the cost of that improvement up to the dollar amount of the grant agreement, which currently is \$10,000.

**Ms. Pace:** Does the City of Aurora have a policy on how many days they are going to pay, are they going to pay by 30 days or 60 days?

**Ms. Wishmeyer:** We would usually pay within 30 days, that's a standard.

**Mr. Walls:** Would this grant apply also to landlords that were looking for some funding for parking lot lighting, and things that are larger? If there's a large landlord like AMCAP, or like Marty's company or Western Centers, and there's a shopping center that's particularly dark? Would they be eligible to apply as well?

**Ms. Wishmeyer:** They have to be a small business with either 500 or fewer employees, or they have to be defined as a small business in the Small Business Act. So, if they have less than 500, or they're defined as a small business, they can apply.

**Mr. Walls:** Okay, so that becomes difficult with landlords because sometimes the landlord is just a single entity. I just wanted to make sure that we weren't excluding them just because the property management company might be California based and has 6000 employees. That might be an issue.

**Ms. Wishmeyer** We are going to have a study session tonight, and I can clarify that issue.

**Ms. Horiuchi:** We at Havana Motor Mile have 20 auto dealers and 100 parts and service businesses. We have been very challenged with a lot of auto thefts. And many Council Members have shared that this would be an opportunity for some of those dealers to apply. But when I met and talked to Elena, I thought the revenue, as well as the small business criteria, might not be

inclusive of some of those types of industries. I just wanted to echo what Garrett mentioned as well because many of those property owners were told that they would be able to apply for this safety and security grant in January.

**Ms. Wishmeyer:** The Council when they approved this spec in January at the Winter Workshop, did say small business, they really wanted it to be for small business. I again, will clarify and just make sure that everyone is in agreement with that, in Council. I'll ask them that tonight.

***ACTION ITEM; no action items***

### **Arts and Entertainment Venue Study Memo**

**Mr. Walls:** Have you all had a chance to review the draft memo that Shannon typed up that we will be forwarding to City Council for the Arts and Entertainment Venue survey/study? Were there any questions or did you have any suggested amendments? Since this is an official memo and based on our vote last month, I will open the floor for a motion to send the memo to Council.

Ms. Fender makes the motion to approve the memo and send it to Council

Ms. Horiuchi seconds motion

With no objections, the motion is approved

***ACTION ITEM:*** No action items

### **BAB Business Awards updates**

**Mr. Walls:**

- Promotion in water bill has been pushed to June because we did not make the original date. We needed to submit documentation a month in advance of publication.
- The budget has not changed, we are still standing at \$ 8217.
- Elena is coordinating with Julie Patterson and Communications to get the website up to accept nominations.
- Board approves pushing the awards event to December since the event will be aired through AuroraTV
- Xcel Energy Partners would like to create an award for the BAB to give out on behalf of Xcel Energy for a partner in energy or a leading small business that has transformed into low energy consumption. We're still framing up the idea of what this award would look like. But Xcel Energy would be heavily in the process, they would identify, from Xcel's energy usage statistics, candidates for the award, and then it would be our responsibility, just like the other awards, to choose from the nominees an Aurora business that deserves recognition for being an energy leader. We will keep you informed.

### **COUNCIL CONTACTS**

Ms. Reding –CM Combs has responded to my emails but does have updates for BAB

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Mr. Woodson – CM Medina – no updates

Mr. Sarwal – CM Lawson – no updates

Mr. Boyd – CM Zvonek - the red tape committee meets tomorrow morning. And there'll be working on some of the proposed solutions and challenges that were brought forward at the public hearings

Ms. Pace – CM Juan Marcano – no updates

Mr. Fryberger- CM Murillo – no updates

Ms. Horiuchi –CM Jurinsky – She is working with APDS React and a community unit through APDS community relations. She is helping coordinate more community engagement at different levels of the City.

Mr. Liles –CM Bergan – A lot of infrastructure construction occurring in Ward 6.

Mr. Patel – CM Sundberg– No updates just had an introduction meeting and plan to start having regular meetings

Ms. Fender – CM Gardner – no updates

Garrett Walls – Mayor Coffman – encouraged Board Members to attend Council Member’s Town Hall meetings to answer any questions and engage with the community.


Mr. Fryberger – Commented that despite having community support organizations that work to support homeless people. They are having many issues around their office with homeless people. The police department is right across the street from them, and, if there is an issue, it takes them, two or three hours to show up. The problem of homelessness is affecting everyone.

***ACTION ITEM:*** BAB members will continue to reach out to their Council Members and keep them up to date. Please stay in touch and maintain the connection. Staff will help to facilitate board members with new Council Members.

Mr. Walls moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45am.

Mr. Patel seconded

APPROVED:

  
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Garrett Walls, Chairperson