

Special Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2024

The City Council of Audubon Park held a meeting Monday, June 10, 2024. The following were present Mayor Madeline Bozeman, City Clerk Cecilia Niemann, City Attorney Keith Larson, Councilors Michael Hartman, Pete Becker, Austin Schwenker, Joe Brenner, and Brenda Hartman. Councilor Elyse Shackleton was absent.

Call to Order

The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Public Comments

Laura Kelty explained why commenting on Facebook was turned off. For archiving purposes, the Facebook page will have to be monitored 24/7. The city does not have the staff or resources to accomplish that. The cheapest company found costs \$400.00 per month. Since it is not mandated by the state that the city needs one, it was felt that it was not an expense worth spending.

New Business

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring Municipal Order 2 Series 2024 to the floor. Michael Hartman asked for a motion to raise a question of privilege. They held a discussion. The Mayor asked for a motion to bring Municipal Order 2 Series 2024 the swearing-in of the Ethics Board to the floor. Austin Schwenker made a motion, Joe Brenner seconded. The mayor read the order. They held a discussion. 4 were in favor (Pete Becker, Joe Brenner, Brenda Hartman, and Austin Schwenker), 1 nay (Michael Hartman), and Elyse Shackleton absent.

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring Municipal Order 3 Series 2024, the swearing-in of the Code Enforcement Board to the floor and Oath of Office. Joe Brenner made a motion, Pete Becker seconded. Austin Schwenker read the order. They held a discussion. All were in favor, Elyse Shackleton absent. The mayor administered the oath of office.

Financial Report

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring the May Cash flow and Budget to Actual to the floor. Joe Brenner made a motion, Austin Schwenker seconded. They held a discussion. All were in favor, Elyse Shackleton absent.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring the second reading of Ordinance Number 2 Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 to the floor. Austin Schwenker made a motion, Joe Brenner seconded. Austin Schwenker read the ordinance. The Mayor and Joe Brenner addressed the public about the budget. Michael Hartman asked for a motion to amend the road fund. They held a discussion. The Mayor asked if there was a motion to accept Michael Hartman's proposed amendment. They held a discussion. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the ordinance as Councilman Schwenker read it. Joe Brenner made a motion, Brenda Hartman seconded. 4 were in favor (Pete Becker, Joe Brenner, Brenda Hartman, and Austin Schwenker) 1 nay (Michael Hartman), Elyse Shackleton absent.

Mayor Bozeman introduced the second reading of Ordinance Number 3 Garbage Series 2024. Austin Schwenker read the ordinance. They held a discussion. Michael Hartman asked for a motion to table this ordinance. They held a discussion. Michael Hartman raised a question of privilege and asked if the gallery could interrupt the council. Keith Larson stated that the council was engaging them in discussion so it's not fair to ask the gallery to not speak when the council is talking directly to them. They held a discussion. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept the ordinance as read by Austin Schwenker. They held a discussion. Joe Brenner made a motion, Austin Schwenker seconded. 4 were in favor (Pete Becker, Joe Brenner, Brenda Hartman, and Austin Schwenker) 1 nay (Michael Hartman), Elyse Shackleton absent.

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring the May 13th Town Hall meeting minutes to the floor. Austin Schwenker made a motion, Joe Brenner seconded. They held a discussion. Michael Hartman asked for an amendment to be made to his statement. They held a discussion. The Mayor informed Michael Hartman that he needs a motion to put his statement in the meeting minutes. They held a discussion; no motion was made to put his statement in the meeting minutes. Michael Hartman left the meeting. All were in favor of the Town Hall meeting minutes as presented. Michael Hartman and Elyse Shackleton absent.

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to bring the May 13th Special meeting minutes to the floor. Pete Becker made a motion, Joe Brenner seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor. Michael Hartman and Elyse Shackleton absent.

Code Enforcement Report

Mayor Bozeman noted the written reports for May. There was no discussion. No action was taken.

Police Report

Mayor Bozeman noted the written reports for May. They held a discussion. No action was taken.

Mayors Report

Mayor Bozeman assembled a team to see what can be done with the budget to improve Audubon. She explained the tax rate and budget and the reasons for them. She explained that the appeals to the PVA would change the overall number, and a recall was in place if anyone didn't want to pay the current tax rate. Joe Brenner stated that if the taxpayers didn't want to pay that much, the city would make do. If, however, the rate stays the same at \$0.28, then the city will put the additional revenue where it needs to go. This is the first time the city can make real improvements with the additional revenue. The Mayor acknowledged the team at City Hall with our Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and our City Clerk, who are open to talking with residents despite what is being said. Austin Schwenker stated that, with all the appeals to the PVA and the Homestead Exemptions for the elderly, the dollar amount of revenue put out to the residents will be very much different. The increase is attributable, in part, to the fact that we just signed a new garbage ordinance. With labor costs going up, and the shortage of people with CDL licenses who can drive the garbage trucks, our contract will go up. The city had chosen the most cost-effective and affordable garbage option that existed. That is why residents will have to bring the cans to the front of the house.

Public Comments

A member of the public expressed her reason for staying in Audubon Park. If the police were cut in any way, she would be gone. Another agreed. Joe Brenner assured the public that the council was on the same page.

Nancy Heine expressed her concern regarding Michael Hartman. "I would like him to read this: he was belligerent, he was argumentative, and he contributed to chaos. None of which we should have to live with like that. And if you want to be an effective leader or council member, you should have a certain amount of diplomacy and decorum. Look at what's happening in our Congress right now—their total chaos. Nobody's talking to anybody; they're all just mouthing off, getting a sound bite. That's what he was doing. And if he wants to be effective, if he wants people to listen to him, then he needs to change his approach because his approach was totally off-putting. And I wouldn't have supported a thing that he—if he had something brilliant to say, I probably wouldn't have supported him because he was so belligerent and so ugly."

Peter Conant asked if there was a plan to reduce the tax rate when we don't have anything else to spend it on, or if there were things that could be put off. Joe Brenner explained that just because the higher tax rate with the increased PVA values will bring in more revenue, doesn't mean that everything will be fixed. Austin Schwenker added that no one likes to raise taxes, and this is a great way to increase revenue without increasing taxes. Adding that the city is also a consumer and is being asked to do a lot with a very flat line budget.

The public stated that there should only be one Facebook page for the city because others put out false information.

Joe Brenner again assured the public that the council was focused on protecting the tree canopy, the police force, maintaining the roads, and maintaining a good relationship with the club.

Rebecca Naser thanked the city for all it did. Carrie Gates agreed.

Michael Murdoch mentioned two new speed signs the city will put on Audubon and Cardinal. It will inform drivers how much their speed is over the limit. A member of the public asked him if the police were ticketing people. Murdoch informed her that it was at the officer's discretion. They held a discussion.

A member of the public asked if the city ever considered closing off the entrance at Preston. Mayor Bozeman said they had considered the environmental change for a later date.

Adjournment

Mayor Bozeman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Brenner made a motion to adjourn, Austin Schwenker seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, Michael Hartman and Elyse Shackleton absent.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

Attested  Approved 