

Village of Aurora Board of Trustees November 20, 2019 Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the Aurora Firehouse Meeting Room at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Bonnie Bennett, Trustees Grace Bates, Matt Bianconi, and Janet Murphy

Absent: Kit Van Orman

Others Present

Village Officials: Clerk Ann Balloni, ZBA member Laura Holland and Historian Dr. Linda Schwab

Members of the Public: Jodi Bennett, G. Alan Clugston, Shirley Egan, Margaret Flowers, and Scott Heinekamp

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the work session on regulating fireworks to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mayor Bennett reminded the Trustees that the moratorium on Fireworks permits ends on December 26, 2019.

Mayor Bennett referred to an addition under section B.2.: **“that no fireworks discharge be within a half (1/2) mile from any livestock operation”** and that no shells **“or other projectiles”** shall be over 2 inches or include aerial salutes to limit height and protect the safety of the environment. The Trustees agreed with the changes.

Mayor Bennett noted that “rapid-fire finales” are not the cause of the concussive effect on animals and, therefore, suggested removing **“that all fireworks be discharged at regular intervals as in the body of the display, and no rapid-firing finales will be permitted”** from section B.2. The Trustees agreed.

The clerk distributed a draft resolution to introduce Local Law #4 of 2019 for the Trustees review.

Call to Order: Mayor Bennett called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Changes to the Agenda: No changes

Approval of Minutes

October 16, 2019: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the October 16, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

October 22, 2019 Work Session on Regulating Solar Arrays: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the October 22, 2019 work session minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

November 5, 2019 Solar Work Session on Regulating Solar Arrays: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the November 5, 2019 work session minutes.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor: Mayor Bennett discussed a highway department shared services plan approved by Cayuga County.

Clerk: Ms. Balloni informed the Board that the quarterly sales tax distribution figures are included in their packets.

Trustee Murphy: Trustee Murphy informed the Board that the Community Band will perform at Christmas in Aurora, Saturday December 7, from 3:30-4:30. Mayor Bennett noted that the lighting of the Village Christmas Tree is scheduled for 5:00 and suggested asking Cathy Mullarney to come and lead the caroling from 4:30-5:00. Ms. Balloni added that the fire department is selling pizza again this year from 4-7.

Trustee Bianconi: Trustee Bianconi relayed an idea that he discussed with President Gibraltar of Wells College to hold a cocktail party for Village Officials and Wells College staff at the Campus Well. Trustee Murphy expressed reservations about potential, perceived favoritism toward Wells College. Trustee Murphy noted that there had been conflicts of interest between Wells College and past Trustees that resulted in a Trustee, so disturbed by the ethical concerns, that he resigned from the Village Board. Mayor Bennett added that a party that included the community would be more appropriate than a gathering with Village Officials and President Gibraltar and his staff.

Trustee Murphy questioned why the idea wasn't brought to the Mayor/Trustees before discussing it with President Gibraltar. Trustee Bianconi explained that he wanted to work toward improving relations with Wells College by having an informal gathering and checked with President Gibraltar for the availability of the Well.

Mayor Bennett reiterated that socializing with Wells staff could be misconstrued but having a get together for Village Officials at the Well was acceptable if the Village was not receiving any favor from Wells College. Trustee Bianconi noted that there would be a cash bar and snacks available for purchase. The Village Board instructed the clerk to send an email invitation to Village Staff and Board Members once a date (December 17 or 20) is finalized.

Visitor Welcome: Mayor Bennett welcomed all visitors and addressed Town of Ledyard Board member, Scott Heinekamp. Mr. Heinekamp explained that he is interested in the Fireworks Law discussion.

Reports

Code Officer: Officer Doyle will submit an End-of-Year Report at the December meeting.

Historian (see attached): Dr. Schwab read her report, noting a new display at the Aurora Historical Society, her continuing grant work and queries, as well as a research project on Peter Fort.

Old Business

Solar Work Session: The Board discussed three possible dates for their next work session: December 3 (3:30), December 5 (4:00), and December 11 (3:30). Mayor Bennett will confer with the Village Attorney on the dates and Trustee Bianconi will contact Trustee Van Orman.

Proposed Taylor House Parking Area: Mayor Bennett noted letters (attached) received from residents on Court St and Orchard Lane concerned about the 15-space parking area, with ingress and egress off of Court St, proposed by the Inns of Aurora as part of the Taylor House Conference Center project. Mayor Bennett also received a letter from the Planning Board Chairperson, Pat Bianconi. Mayor Bennett explained that the Planning Board, not the Village Board, has purview over the project. However, the Village Board discussed possible signage/speed bumps to calm potential increased traffic and Mayor Bennett will confer with the Village DPW.

Sidewalks: Trustee Bates suggested adding extending the sidewalks to the south end of the Village to next month's agenda. Trustee Bates and Trustee Bianconi noted that they learned of funding for sidewalks at the County training that they attended on November 13. Mayor Bennett added that sidewalk funding could also be applied for through Water Revitalization projects.

New Business

Fireworks Law Resolution:

**VB RESOLUTION 19-28 OF 2019
RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW #4 OF 2019
OF THE VILLAGE OF AURORA TO AMEND ITS ZONING LAW IN ORDER TO REGULATE THE USE OF
FIREWORKS IN THE VILLAGE OF AURORA**

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Village of Aurora ("Village") to maintain a viable land use and zoning law known as the "Village of Aurora Zoning Law" (hereinafter, "Zoning Law"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule and Village Law of New York State, the Village of Aurora Board of Trustees ("Village Board") has the legislative authority to update, amend and enact laws to promote the safety, prosperity and welfare of the Village on behalf of Village residents, property owners, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, it is the Village Board's intent to regulate fireworks displays and usage in the Village of Aurora in order to preserve and protect public safety, tranquility, and property values within the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has identified that the Village's current Zoning Law (Local Law #3 of 2019, as amended) does not contain adequate provisions for the regulation of fireworks and/or fireworks displays in the Village, and the Village Board finds that it is in the best interests of the Village to provide for well-reasoned regulations pertaining to the same; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board is prepared to determine that the amendment(s) to the Village Zoning Law herein described are not subject to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, such that the Village Board will not be required to complete an environmental review pursuant to SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board intends to refer the proposed Local Law #4 of 2019 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law § 239 (l) and (m) review and comment; and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora, County of Cayuga, State of New York, held at the Village Hall, 456 Main Street, Aurora, New York, at 7:00 p.m. on November 20, 2019, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

BONNIE APGAR BENNETT, MAYOR
GRACE BATES
MATTHEW BIANCONI
JANET MURPHY

The instant Resolution came to be heard and considered:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora as follows:

1. The Village Board hereby introduces Proposed Local Law #4 of 2019 in the form annexed hereto for consideration and potential adoption.
2. The Village Board hereby determines that the adoption of the proposed Local Law #4 is not subject to the requirements of SEQRA, pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.2 as the contemplated amendments to the Village Zoning Law will not affect the environment, and thus, the Village Board will not be required to conduct an environmental review of the same.
3. The Village Board shall refer this proposed Local Law #4 of 2019 to the Cayuga County Planning Board for General Municipal Law §239(l) and (m) review and comment.
4. The Village Board of Trustees shall notice a Public Hearing to be held on proposed Local Law #4 of 2019 at Village Hall on December 18, 2019 beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m., and shall ensure the requisite notice is placed in the Village’s designated newspaper(s) of record and also upon the Village's bulletin board and website.

Now upon the Motion of Trustee Bianconi and Seconded by Trustee Bates a roll-call vote is tallied by the Village Clerk as follows:

Trustee Bates: AYE
Trustee Bianconi: AYE
Trustee Murphy: AYE
Trustee Van Orman: ABSENT
Mayor Bennett: AYE

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

Treasurer's Report: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to accept the October Treasurer's Report.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Modifications

General Fund

\$99.94 From A1990.4 Contingent Account

\$99.94 To S1910.4 Unallocated Insurance

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the General Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer Fund

\$27,900.00 From G231 Sewer Repair Reserve Money Market Savings

\$1,565.00 From G9901.9R Transfer to Sewer Reserve Fund

\$29,465.00 To G8130.2R Capital Improvements-Clarifier Unit

On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the Budget Modifications in the Sewer Fund.

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Bills

General: On motion by Trustee Bates, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #200-208, 210-217, 220-223, 225-231, 233, and 236-239

Total: \$24,674.33

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Water: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #6 for payment.

Voucher #204, 210, 214-216, 223-225, 232, and 235

Total: \$6,536.81

AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Sewer: On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #6 for payment.
Voucher #203-206, 208-210, 214-216, 218, 219, 223, 230, 231, and 234
Total: \$39,497.33
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Bates, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
AYES: Bennett, Bates, Bianconi, and Murphy
NAYS: None
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni
Village Clerk