

## **Village of Aurora Board of Trustees March 20, 2024 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**Present:** Mayor James Orman, Trustees Matt Bianconi, L. John Miller, Janet Murphy, and Frank Zimdahl (Zoom)

### **Others Present**

**Village Officials:** Clerk Ann Balloni, Planning Board Chair Pat Bianconi, Treasurer Deborah Brooks, Community Preservation Panel Chair Jim Burkett, and Historian Dr. Linda Schwab

**Aurora Historical Society:** Shirley Egan

**Cayuga County Planning:** Kari Terwilliger and Evan Tuthill

**Inns of Aurora:** Jodi Bennett and Sue Edinger

**Wells College:** President Jonathan Gibraltar

**Members of the Public:** JD Balloni, Marie Dentes, and Jacci & Virgil Farlow

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Orman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and all rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2024: the Waiving of the Tax Levy Limit**

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to open the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2024 at 6:01 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** No comments

Mayor Orman left the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2024 open until discussion under New Business.

Mayor Orman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Changes to the Agenda:** No changes

### **Approval of Minutes**

**February 21, 2024:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the February 21, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**March 5, 2024:** On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the March 5, 2024 special meeting minutes.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Announcements**

### **Mayor:**

- Congratulations to JD Balloni and Janet Murphy on their election to the Board of Trustees
- NYSDOT has entered the procurement process phase for re-paving route 90
- DRI Update: NY State is reviewing candidates submitted by the 3 village mayors to appoint as the local project committee

**Treasurer's Report:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to accept the January Treasurer's Report.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bills**

**General:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the General Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #319-321, 323-333, 337-343, 345, and 346

Total: \$11,220.48

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #319-322, 330, 335, 338, 340, and 344

Total: \$3,915.95

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sewer:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #320-322, 328-331, 334, 340, and 341

Total: \$4,162.16

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Water Improvement Project:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to approve the Water Improvement Project Fund Abstract #10 for payment.

Voucher #340

Total: \$1,283.45

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Reports**

**Historian** (see attached): Dr Schwab reported on queries, collaborations, committee work, and grant applications.

**Old Business:** No Old Business was discussed.

## **New Business**

### **Local Law #1 of 2024: The Village Zoning Law**

Ms. Terwilliger from Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development submitted the amended State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR attached), correcting mistakes in the original SEQR.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to accept the amended SEQR and authorized Mayor Orman to sign it.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Terwilliger noted changes to the law, approved by the Cayuga County 239 Committee at their March 12, 2024 meeting, including adding Aurora Cooks (Tax Map #182.17-1-4.1) and Trader Rose (Tax Map #182.17-1-24) to the Village District.

Ms. Terwilliger recommended that the Community Preservation Panel review the historic designation tables and bring additions/corrections to the Village Board to consider as an amendment following adoption.

RESOLUTION #2024-06

### **ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2024 ADOPTION OF A NEW ZONING LAW FOR THE VILLAGE OF AURORA**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora tasked an Ad-Hoc Committee, with the assistance from Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development, to prepare amendments to the existing zoning law ("Law") which include regulations for new uses including solar energy systems, revising subdivision regulations, revising confusing or contradictory regulations, and clarifying powers and duties of the various boards and approval processes; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 30, 2022 the Village of Aurora contracted with the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development (CCPED) to provide the technical assistance, staffing, and resource commitment to the Village to prepare amendments to the existing Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendments to the existing Law include extensive formatting and organizational changes which necessitate the repeal of the existing Law and adoption of a new Law as its replacement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ad-Hoc Committee held their final meeting on January 26, 2024 and officially recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt said proposed Law; and

**WHEREAS**, Cayuga County GML 239-l, m, & n Committee reviewed the New Zoning Law at a meeting on March 12, 2024 and recommends “approving the action without change”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board of the Village of Aurora conducted a full SEQR on February 21, 2024, amended on March 20, 2024, and issued a negative declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board of Trustees held a Public Hearing on the proposed Law on February 21, 2024, and adjourned the Public Hearing to a special meeting on March 5, 2024, to consider adoption of the Law as Local Law #1 of 2024, taking into consideration comments received from the public during the Public Hearing; and NOW THEREFORE BE IT

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Aurora hereby adopts Local Law #1 of 2024 Adoption of a New Zoning Law for the Village of Aurora; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees hereby repeals all local laws listed in Section 21.02 - Repealer of the now adopted new Zoning Law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is authorized and directed submit a copy of the Law to New York State Department of State for official filing as required; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

On motion by Trustee Zimdahl, seconded by Trustee Murphy, the Village Board voted to adopt Local Law #1 of 2024: The Village Zoning Law.

Trustee Bianconi - AYE

Trustee Miller - AYE

Trustee Murphy - AYE

Trustee Zimdahl - AYE

Mayor Orman - AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #1 of 2024 is adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Mayor Orman thanked the Zoning Law Committee for all their hard work.

#### **Local Law #2 of 2024: The Waiving of the Tax Levy Limit**

Mayor Orman asked if there were any comments from the public and there were no comments.

On motion by Trustee Bianconi, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to close the Public Hearing for Local Law #2 of 2024 at 6:07 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**VB RESOLUTION #24-07 ENACTING LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2024**

**THE WAIVER OF THE MAXIMUM REAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMIT**

**WHEREAS**, the enactment of Chapter 97 of the Law of 2011 placed limits on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of any local government thereby place a “tax levy limit” on municipalities that is found in General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

**WHEREAS**, subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law § 3-c expressly authorized the Village Board of Trustees to override the tax levy limit by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Village Board of Trustees for one fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, by adoption of this local law, the Village Board of Trustees hereby reserves the right to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Aurora and authorized the Village Board of Trustees to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2024/2025 in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law § 3-c; and

**WHEREAS**, this is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(c) (20 & 27) and is otherwise exempt from environmental review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); 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 456 Main St, Aurora, NY, at 6:00 p.m. on March 20, 2024, the following members of the Village Board of Trustees being present:

Matthew Bianconi  
L. John Miller  
Janet Murphy  
Frank Zimdahl (Zoom)  
James Orman, Mayor

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

1. The Village Board of Trustees hereby adopts Local Law #2 of 2024.
2. The Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that the aforementioned Local Law is a Type II action as defined in 6 NYCRR §617.5(c)(20&27) and accordingly, the Village Board of Trustees expressly determines that this action is not an action that requires review pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Action (“SEQRA”);
3. The Village Board of Trustees has properly noticed a Public Hearing on the Proposed Local Law #2 of 2024 on March 20, 2024 beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m.;

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

Trustee Bianconi - AYE  
Trustee Miller - AYE  
Trustee Murphy - AYE

Trustee Zimdahl - AYE  
Mayor Orman - AYE

At least 3 of the above-named Village Board of Trustee members having voted in the affirmative, Local Law #2 of 2024 is adopted this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

**2024/2025 Tentative Budgets** (attached)

Treasurer Brooks highlighted the changes in the budgets, including: hiring a new employee, replacing the furnace and insulating the roof in the firehouse, creating a new water rate category for commercial properties, and increasing the quarterly water/sewer access fee by \$10/quarter.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Bianconi, the Village Board voted to accept the 2024/2025 Tentative Budgets.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to schedule the public hearing for the 2024/2025 Tentative Budgets on April 3, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Hire Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator:** On motion by Trustee Murphy, seconded by Trustee Zimdahl, the Village Board voted to hire Anthony Filer as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, starting at \$29/hour. Salary is subject to negotiation following a six-month probationary period, beginning May 1, 2024.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**Appoint a Climate Smart Coordinator:**

**RESOLUTION #24-08: EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM TO APPOINT A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Aurora adopted the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge by Resolution on February 16, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village wishes to obtain Certification under the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Program by taking proactive steps towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, a CSC Coordinator is responsible for convening and managing the task force as Chair, serving as a liaison between the CSC task force and the chief executive officer and other officials, and interfacing with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on the CSC program as needed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** I, James Orman, Mayor, do declare that John Wendler, Village resident, be appointed as the Climate Smart Community Coordinator for the Village of Aurora.

FIRST: Trustee Murphy

SECOND: Trustee Bianconi

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Carried unanimously.

**Additional Business:** Mayor Orman thanked Trustee Zimdahl for his service on the Village Board.

**Adjournment:** On motion by Trustee Zimdahl, seconded by Trustee Miller, the Village Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

AYES: Bianconi, Miller, Murphy, Orman, and Zimdahl

NAYS: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Balloni

Village Clerk