

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
July 13, 2020

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, July 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium, 300 Gleed Avenue, East Aurora, NY, for the purpose of holding a work session:

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| Present: | Jolene M. Jeffe | Councilwoman |
| | Susan A. Friess | Councilwoman |
| | Luke Wochensky | Councilman |
| | James J. Bach | Supervisor |
| Absent/Excused: | Charles D. Snyder | Councilman |
| Others Present: | Ronald Bennett | Town Attorney |
| | William Kramer | Code Enforcement Officer |
| | David Gunner | Highway Superintendent |
| | William Kramer | Code Enforcement Officer |
| | Chris Musshafen | Recreation/Aquatics Director |
| | Tony Rosati | Zoning Board Member |
| | Shane Krieger | Chief of Police |

Although this work session was held “in-person”, due to the coronavirus/Covid19 pandemic, it was also live-streamed via Zoom and YouTube in accordance with NYS Executive Order 202.1 – *Suspension of law allowing the attendance of meetings telephonically or similar service: Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such action authorized by the law without permitting public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.*

Supervisor Bach opened the session at 6:00 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and noted the regular meeting would begin immediately after the work session.

1) Sidewalk extension to Reed Hill:

Ed Hutton, 20 Reed Hill Drive, spoke to the Board about the possibility of extending the sidewalk on the south side of Quaker Road, which currently ends at the Post Office, to the Reed Hill subdivision. Mr. Hutton noted that it would involve three jurisdictions: 1) NYSDOT – Quaker Road/Route 20A is a state highway; 2) Erie County – Jewett Holmwood Road is a county road; and 3) Town of Aurora. Mr. Hutton stated he spoke with William Roche from the NYSDOT who said that there is money set aside for pedestrian and bike safety.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked if the money was a grant. Mr. Hutton responded the money is set aside and sometimes unallocated. A request has to be made to the NYSDOT and the more support he can show them, the better.

Supervisor Bach asked if he had circulated or received a petition from the residents in that area. Councilwoman Friess asked if he had spoken to the three property owners on Route 20A that would be affected. Mr. Hutton responded, not yet, to both.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked if this would require a sidewalk district to be formed. Attorney Bennett will research this. Mr. Hutton asked if a letter of support from the Town would require a special district. Councilwoman Jeffe responded that we need to see what the process is first, before issuing any support.

2) Baseball Diamond use:

Wayne Hemmerling, on behalf of the Orchard Park Destroyers baseball team, submitted an application requesting use of Aurora Outfitters Field, a Town of Aurora baseball diamond. The team would like to have practices at the field on 7/13, 7/21, 7/28, 8/3, 8/11, 8/17, and 8/25 from 5-8pm. The East Aurora Baseball and Softball league is not using the fields this season, but requested that the new bases they recently purchased are not to be used. Councilwoman Jeffe noted that the East Aurora group has put money towards the diamond dirt. Chris

Musshafen stated the Destroyers would just use it for practices, no grooming or lining would be required. The fee would be \$20 per use.

3) Pool Rental Agreements:

Chris Musshafen stated that Tri Town Aquatic Club and STAR Swimming Inc., have requested to use Aurora Community Pool for team practice sessions. TTAC would like use of one swim lane from 6-7:30 pm and would pay the Town \$30 per day of use. STAR is requesting use of the pool on Saturdays and Sundays from 7-10:30am and would pay the Town \$437.50 per day of use.

4) 113 King Street Demolition Bid results:

Four bids were received for the demolition project at 113 King Street.

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| Telco Construction | \$14,725 |
| Regional Environmental Demo | \$27,750 |
| Geiter Done of WNY | \$14,700 |
| Apollo Dismantling | \$42,222 |

The Board also discussed the large black walnut tree that is located on this property. Supervisor Bach stated that a decision on what to do with the tree would be deferred until the house is demolished. The opinion of a certified arborist will be a major part of the decision.

5) Blueberry Treehouse Farm – special use permit request:

Ricardo and Jyl Rivera, owners of the property, stated they purchased the u-pick blueberry farm and adjacent residence in 2015. Ricardo Rivera also runs his custom treehouse business from this location that is zoned B2. Jyl Rivera stated that they would like to have after-hours berry picking with (live) music, the ability to serve alcohol (beer, wine) to customers, and to be able to hold special events such as weddings, parties, fund raisers.

The Rivera's noted they have two driveways, one would be an "in" and the other an "out". Jyl stated that at this time, they would be limited to 50 people during the live music times, but there is no limit for the blueberry picking. She stated they are currently using the enter/exit system and are working on signage.

Supervisor Bach asked if any of their events would be at the same time as the West Falls Center for the Arts. Jyl responded, no, because they compare notes.

Councilwoman Jeffe stated she is concerned with the use beyond the blueberry farm, as it is not real defined yet, and noted she is not in a position to vote on this tonight.

Supervisor Bach stated that typically the Board holds a public hearing on special use permit applications.

Councilman Wochensky stated he would like to visit the property

Ricardo stated they would like to have the events and alcohol sales from late spring to late fall, possibly May – October.

Councilwoman Jeffe asked what they had planned for the next couple of weeks. They responded, live music.

The Board also discussed that they would need to know hours of operation, extent of events, parking details – including handicapped parking, and traffic exiting the property onto Davis Road at night.