

TOWN OF AURORA
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
April 24, 2023

The following members of the Aurora Town Board met on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of holding a work session. The Board met in-person at the Aurora Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, New York. The meeting was streamed via Zoom and YouTube.

Present:	Charles D. Snyder	Councilman
	Luke Wochensky	Councilman
	Joseph McCann	Councilman
	James F. Granville	Councilman (via Zoom)
	James J. Bach	Supervisor
Others Present:	Brigid Maloney	Town Attorney
	Elizabeth Cassidy	Code Enforcement Officer
	David Gunner	Highway Superintendent
	Rod Simeone	Zoning Board Member
	Jeffrey Markello	Town Justice
	Elizabeth Wilber	Live Stream Coordinator

Supervisor Bach opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

1) Social Media Policy:

On April 18, 2023, the Town Board held a special meeting to discuss and update the Social Media Policy draft prepared by Councilman Wochensky. The policy was brought to a final version and is being presented to the Board tonight for consideration to adopt. Two corrections to name spellings on Appendix A are needed – Wilbur to Wilber and Mushafen to Musshafen.

2) Rezoning request for 359 Quaker Road:

Brian Attea, representing PBI Holdings of WNY LLC, spoke to the Board about the request to rezone 359 Quaker Road from C3 (commercial) to R3 (residential). Mr. Attea noted they met with the Planning Board who voted to recommend the rezoning. Should the parcel be rezoned, their proposal is to build two 5-unit apartment houses on the 150' by 200' lot. Mr. Attea stated the proposal will not change the characteristics of the neighborhood; has sidewalks and abuts the Village of East Aurora; is an appropriate use for the property; is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; and the community lacks a choice of housing.

Councilman Snyder stated that he believes this to be the definition of spot zoning as there is industrial zoning on each side of this property and noted that ten apartments in the middle is not a good idea.

Councilman McCann stated his concern is the limited commercial zoning in the Town and he does not want to create future conflict as we do not know what commercial growth there will be in this area.

Councilman Wochensky asked where in the Comprehensive Plan does it say there should be residential use in this area. Mr. Wochensky noted it is difficult to see this as residential, currently it is more commercial use, and he is not in favor of rezoning this parcel.

3) Rural Outreach Center (ROC) Special Event Permit application:

The ROC is requesting a special event permit for their June 8, 2023 opening/dedication and ribbon cutting event for the Scott Beiler Family Foundation Rural Outreach Center building at 730 Olean Road. Part of the request is to use the parking lot at Community Pool from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for overflow parking if needed.

4) West Falls Center for the Arts Temporary Use Permit application – West Falls Park:

Councilman Granville stated that the West Falls Center for the Arts (WFC) is requesting a temporary use permit to be able to host the US Army Band at JP Nicely West Falls Park on July 2, 2023. In addition to the band there will be other performances before the main event, as well as food trucks. No alcohol will be served. Supervisor Bach asked about parking and stated that the Town needs a traffic and parking plan from the WFC to be added to the application.

5) Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 87 Policy:

The Town is required to establish a policy in accordance with GASB Statement No. 87 concerning leases. Kathleen Moffat, Assistant to the Supervisor, is requesting that the Town Board adopt the GASB Policy – Accounting for Leases, which includes a threshold amount of \$30,000 which matches the threshold included in the Town's Capital Asset policy.

6) Request to hire part time Dog Control Officer:

Highway Superintendent Gunner is requesting to hire Roger LeBlanc as a dog control officer RPT at a rate of \$20 per hour.

7) Tree purchase for Aurora Municipal Center:

Councilman Snyder is requesting approval to purchase three columnar tulip trees from Murray Bros. Nursery at a cost of \$2,175.00. The quote includes planting of the trees. The trees will be planted along the north and northeast areas of the parking lot along Oakwood Avenue. Mr. Snyder reached out to several nurseries/garden centers for quotes, but only Murray Bros. responded.

8) AED for Community Pool Park:

Councilman McCann stated that East Aurora Baseball and Softball wants to donate two AED units to the Town. Both are approximately five years old and need new pads and batteries. Mr. McCann noted that for not much more money, the Town can get a state-of-the-art AED, the same kind that is used by the East Aurora Fire Department and Police Department. The AED is proposed to be installed in one of the new restrooms at Community Pool Park. Mr. McCann stated that the AED from Savelives is State contract pricing. The unit, including cabinet and AED sign, is \$1,903.75.

9) Complete Streets Policy:

Councilman Wochensky stated that the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy by the Town is the final item to receive Bronze Status through Climate Smart Communities. Mr. Wochensky noted that the policy is non-binding and that he is working on a draft policy. Councilman Snyder stated he would work with Councilman Wochensky on this.