

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-_____

A BILL

FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE CITY CODE
OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO ADD ARTICLE IV,
WHICH WOULD CREATE AND ESTABLISH AN
OIL AND GAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the oil and gas industry has significant impact on the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, City Council further recognizes that oil and gas development and the economic activity it generates are important to our City's continued prosperity and sensible growth; and

WHEREAS, the City's regulations for developing oil and gas resources, together with the extensive regulations established under state law, are among the strictest in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 the City Council appointed citizen representatives to an informal oil and gas advisory committee; and

WHEREAS, the committee's central purpose is to assist City Council in promoting the efficient and equitable development of oil and gas while protecting the City's natural resources and local quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in order to FURTHER define the mission, membership, and procedures of the oil and gas committee, the City Council desires to create a formal Oil and Gas Advisory Committee by ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO:

Section 1. That Chapter 106 of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, is hereby amended by adding an article and sections, to be numbered Article IV and Sections 106-161, 106-162, 106-163, 106-164, and 106-165 which would read as follows:

ARTICLE IV. OIL AND GAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Sec. 106-161. Created.

There is created and established an Oil and Gas Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising City Council on matters relating to oil and gas development in the City.

Sec. 106-162. Functions and Duties.

The Oil and Gas Advisory Committee shall serve the following functions and duties:

- (a) Provide recommendations to the City Council and staff on matters of oil and gas development, including proposed state and local regulations or legislation, and come to consensus on the issues that come before the Committee;
- (b) Provide an educational forum for the oil and gas industry, citizens, surface owners, and other stakeholders, to discuss the benefits and impacts of industry activity within the City;
- (c) Pursue reasonable and legally-enforceable policies that both protect the interests of the public, local businesses and property owners, and promote responsible and efficient exploration and development of oil and natural gas within the City's boundaries; and
- (d) Consistent with these functions and duties, it is not within the Committee's mission or mandate to pursue any ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, or charter amendment that substantially impedes the efficient and equitable development and production of oil and gas within the City.

Sec. 106-163. Membership.

The Oil and Gas Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following members:

- (a) Three citizens. These citizen members shall be citizens of Aurora and shall be appointed by City Council; and
- (b) Three operators. Operators are oil and gas industry representatives actively exploring, drilling, and/or producing oil and/or gas within the City; and
- (c) Three surface owners. Surface owners are property owners that have surface oil and gas permitting and/or production activity taking place on their property.

Sec. 106-164. Terms.

The term of appointment for members of the Oil and Gas Advisory Committee shall be as provided in Section 2-772.

Sec. 106-165. Organization.

The Oil and Gas Advisory Committee shall be organized pursuant to Charter Section 9-1 and Code Section 2-768, and shall make rules of procedure and adopt bylaws to be consistent with the duties listed in this article.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, of the City Code of the City of Aurora, Colorado, in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

Section 3. Pursuant to Section 5-5 of the Charter of the City of Aurora, Colorado, the second publication of this ordinance shall be by reference. Copies of this ordinance are available at the office of the City Clerk.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ORDERED PUBLISHED this _____ day of _____, 2015.

PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED BY REFERENCE this _____ day of _____, 2015.

STEPHEN D. HOGAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

JANICE NAPPER, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DANIEL L. MONEY, Assistant City Attorney