

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 3, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Berola with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

Mayor Berola called for the roll. Present were Mayor Berola, Clerk Warwick, Alderman Powell, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Hemmerle, Alderwoman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell, and Attorney Moredock. Absent were Treasurer Williams, Alderman Karhliker, and Office Manager Ponsler.

Mayor Berola did not have a candidate for a Building Inspector currently. Alderman Garrett recommended that we look at someone who is a certified inspector, even if we must share one with another governmental agency. Possibilities could be Chatham or Rochester. A short discussion followed. Garrett will reach out to other agencies.

The auditor Mike Canny should be at the next meeting, he is still working through some of the audit details and the process has been delayed because of American Rescue Plan funding and the city's payment plans offered to customers because of the February 2021 polar vortex/gas supply issue.

Clerk Warwick presented the December 20, 2021 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderman Johnson.

AYES: Hemmerle, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, Royer, and Sheppard
NAYES: Garrett
ABSENT: Karhliker

Clerk Warwick presented the bills list from December 20, 2021, to January 3, 2022, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Johnson.

AYES: Hemmerle, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, and Sheppard
NAYES: Royer and Garrett
ABSENT: Karhliker

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of ordinance 1507-21 an ordinance amending the liquor code. He has not received any feedback from the businesses, Office Manager Ponsler sent the updated ordinance to the business owners on December 21, 2021. Alderman Garrett wanted to give the business owners a little more time out of an abundance of caution. Alderman Garret made a motion to table ordinance 1507-21 to the next council meeting, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

AYES: Garrett, Hemmerle, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, Royer, and Sheppard
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Karhliker

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading for an ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the City of Auburn, Illinois for the year ending December 31, 2021 (payable in 2022). This item was missed by the city, the County Clerk's office has asked the city to get the ordinance passed as soon as possible. This levy is for the corporate tax that goes towards parks. Mayor Berola called for a meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 7:00 PM. At that meeting, we will also invite the business owners to provide any additional comments on the updates to the liquor code.

Chief Campbell would like to set up a short committee meeting after January 17, 2022.

Superintendent Henson reported that his current items are tabled, Attorney Moredock is doing more research on the right of way permit fees. He also reported that Petersburg Plumbing has made the lane shift on Route 104. There was a concern from the council the lane shift was very narrow, Henson is monitoring the situation. Henson reported that the sidewalk will be taken out on a two-block area on Route 104 that will be replaced when the project is finished.

There was no report for Office Manager Ponsler in her absence.

Alderman Johnson noted that there was an Executive Session listed regarding the hiring of a part-time office person. Since this is a discussion about the position and not a particular person, no executive session should be needed. A discussion followed regarding Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), hours, and the pay range was discussed of \$16.00 to \$18.00 per hour for the new part-time office person. The final decision will be made when the candidate is found.

There was no Public Works report in Alderman Karhliker's absence.

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Public Utilities committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Safety committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Housing committee.

Alderman Hemmerle had no report for the Parks committee. A question came up about the dirt work on the Trojan field. Hemmerle said most of the bill will be paid by the school or AYBSA. The city amount has been set, any overage would be paid by the school or AYBSA.

Clerk Warwick reported that the countersigned contract has been to NextSite.

Alderman Garrett reported that the council has \$5575 left for tree removal he was seeking input from other council members on trees that could be removed that are on the right of way.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:37 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

AYES: Garrett, Hemmerle, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, Royer, and Sheppard

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Karhliker

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick
City Clerk of Auburn