

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 20, 2021**

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 Clerk Warwick, Mayor Berola, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Garrett (attended remotely due to illness), Alderman Hemmerle, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Royer (arrived 7:02 PM), Alderwoman Sheppard. Also present were Attorney Moredock, Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, and Office Manager Ponsler.

Alderman Garrett requested to attend remotely due to an illness. A motion was made by Alderman Powell to allow Alderman Garrett to attend the meeting remotely due to an illness, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Martin Pierson from Girard was ticketed for leaf burning. He was helping a relative and was not aware of burning restrictions in Auburn. It was also noted that he put out the burn pile when the police informed him of the ban. A motion was made by Alderman Powell to waive the burning fine because the gentleman was not from Auburn, second Alderman Karhliker.

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

Alderwoman Sheppard reported that Zoning Board met on December 8, 2021, and they have been reviewing the zoning ordinances and will bring changes to the council in 2022.

Mike Canny, the city's auditor will be at the next meeting.

Clerk Warwick presented the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from December 7, 2021, to December 20, 2021, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the bills list, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the November Cash Report for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the November Cash Report, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Treasurer reported that the November 2021 Video Gaming Terminal revenue was \$9,114,62 compared to the November 2020 Video Gaming Terminal revenue was \$4,094.12. The 2020 revenue was less because of the COVID19 shutdown during the November 2020 period. For the fiscal year 2022, so far, the city has collected \$79, 753.16 from May 2021 to November 2021.

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of ordinance 1508-21 prohibiting large trucks, specifically waste haulers from using the alleyways. An adjustment was made to allow the use of waste hauling trucks in alleyways adjacent to properties zoned R-2, R-3, and zoned businesses. There was a question about when the enforcement will start. Attorney Moredock stated that a letter can be sent to the providers with starting enforcement date. The ordinance would be effective after passage. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve Ordinance 1508-21, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of ordinance 1507-21 an ordinance amending the liquor code. There was a meeting on December 9, 2021, in which the business owners were invited to regarding substantial changes to the liquor code. The updates have not been circulated to business owners yet, but he would like the council and the business owners to review the changes. The mayor asked the council to table the ordinance until the next meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to table ordinance 1507-21 until the January 3, 2022 meeting, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Chief Campbell reported that officers were placed at the school on Friday because of social media events regarding active shooter hoaxes. He received a lot of positive feedback because of their action and the actions of the police officers.

Chief Campbell is meeting with Safe Passages on December 21, 2021, regarding people with addiction issues, Safe Passages helps people in the community to get treatment for drug and alcohol addiction.

Superintendent Henson is working on getting a bid for repairs at the sewer plant and he is also working with Attorney Moredock on fees for the right of way ordinance. Henson reported that Petersburg Plumbing is back working on the water main project. Alderman Johnson had a resident ask about the lack of a fire hydrant on Hogan Road, the water line was taken over from Otter Lake Water Commission and the water line is only 2 inches in diameter and would not support a fire hydrant.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that she had eight applicants for the part-time office worker. She intends to interview all the applicants and hopes to have a final candidate in January 2022. The HR software module for payroll will add to our yearly expenses for software, our yearly total will be around \$10,000.00 per year. Alderman Garrett asked how much the HR software module costs, the module is \$4,900.00 it includes the time tracking and payroll functions.

Alderman Johnson indicated that the mayor would sit in on the part-time office worker interviews.

Alderman Karhliker reported that survey work has started on the Divernon Road bridge.

Alderman Johnson presented the IEPA Phase 2 funding request. The requested amount is \$112,907.74; Alderman Johnson made a motion to make a payment request of \$112,907.74; second by Alderman Powell.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

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

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

Alderman Hemmerle reported that the dirt work has been completed at Veterans Park, there was additional work completed so the expense was greater than anticipated. He will have further details at a future meeting.

Clerk Warwick had no report for the Economic Development committee.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:32 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick

City Clerk of Auburn

