

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 17, 2023**

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

Clerk Sponsler took roll. Present were Mayor Berola, Clerk Sponsler, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Powell, and Alderman Hemmerle.

Also present were Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, Office Manager Wayde Rathgeber, and Attorney Andrew Jarmer.

Alderman Royer was not in attendance.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola told the council that the residents at 101 W. Jefferson have asked for a noise permit on June 10, 2023 for a block party with a band. The mayor approved this noise permit.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Two members of Lincoln Militia were present tonight, Club President George Smith and Club Secretary Troy Curtis. They came to update the council on their progress on obtaining a liquor license. The Secretary of State told them they had to switch from an LLC to a non-for-profit before getting the liquor license in Auburn. They are currently waiting for their state and federal ID numbers.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the March 20, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Powell made a motion to approve the March 20, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Clerk Sponsler told the council that she found a "Back to Basics" clerk seminar through the Central Illinois Municipal Clerks Organization. This seminar would give her a lot of beneficial information and would help her officially learn the basics of the clerk position. It is being held in Peoria on June 15-16. She asked if the city would pay for the seminar and the hotel room while in Peoria. Alderman Garrett made a motion to cover all expenses while in Peoria for the seminar, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List for March 20, 2023 to April 3, 2023 for review and approval. Alderman Johnson asked for a more detailed list. Alderman Karhliker inquired about the IMTA Membership. This is a membership for the Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association. A motion was made to approve the Bills List for March 20, 2023 through April 3, 2023 by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the March 2023 Cash Report. A motion was made to approve the March 2023 Cash Report, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the April 3, 2023 meeting for review only.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Ordinance 1528-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property. The property is a skid steer. With this ordinance, we can deem it as surplus property. CAT offered a trade-in value, but the school district wants to buy it, plus there was an additional offer to purchase it. It was determined that we would not accept less than \$16,000.

Attorney Jarmer also presented the first reading of Ordinance 1529-23 An Ordinance Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) John Deere Mower.

Attorney Jarmer said he is still working on the language for the Hogan Road 5500 Block Street Light Resolution. Alderman Karhliker is concerned that it is at a private drive, and he does not want to set a precedent that we can install streetlights on private drives.

### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell wants to hire Andrew Morgan as a part time officer. He was full time previously and he would like to be reinstated as a part time officer. Mayor Berola said he left on good terms, and he would be happy to hire him back. His start date is effective April 4, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Sheppard to hire Andrew Morgan as a part time officer, second from Alderman Marquis.

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

Chief Campbell provided an update on the Oller Property at 514 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He said that they are making an effort and progress is being made. Chief Campbell thinks that we should delay the nuisance violation. There was discussion with the tenant and the property owner about the expectations about what is considered clean and what is not. The property owner wanted specifications and Mayor Berola said things needed to be stored in the garage or thrown away. Alderman Johnson asked Attorney Jarmer if the

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber asked four companies for bids on the furnace/AC replacement at the ACC, he received three estimates. Howard Services in Auburn \$9600 with a 1 year warranty, Snell \$13,157 with a 1-year warranty, and Rettbergs \$13,683 with a 10 year warranty. Troy Curtis, Lincoln Militia member who was present in the audience mentioned that he does HVAC work for a living and he said that we need to get a load calculation to see what size we actually need before deciding. It seemed that the options we were given were hard to compare. Alderman Marquis asked if we could get the load calculation and then get specific estimates.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration:*

Alderman Johnson held a Admin Committee Meeting on March 28, 2023 to discuss the FY24 budget. This meeting discussed possible personnel additions including maybe adding a part time or full time person to take care of FOIA requests, maybe an administrative assistant to handle the police FOIAs. It was considered asking a part time employee to move to full time and then hire another part time employee. In the police department body cameras were discussed in the amount of \$47,500 for 5 years. It was also discussed to purchase an ATV or a golf cart for community events. Under Superintendent Henson, the skid steer and dump truck purchases were discussed. The dump truck was discussed for FY 22 and it was estimated at \$135,000 then and that prices has escalated to \$150,000. If we did place an order now, it probably wouldn't be paid out of FY24 as it would likely take 12 to 17 months to get it. TJ mentioned video security cameras to be mounted on the city garage. Ameri-Call will come to the next meeting. Office Manager Rathgeber discussed the GWorks software manager at a cost of \$6552 which would allow the public to have access to utility billing and accounts and eventually would remove the need for the hardware server. The anticipated sales tax from the Springfield Plastics annexation was also discussed. Another meeting will be scheduled.

*Public Works:*

No Report

*Public Utilities:*

Alderman Johnson asked Superintendent Henson if he had talked to Jamie. TJ said that Jamie is on vacation this week so he has not spoken to him.

The Phase 2 Closeout Pay Request was asked to be moved to the next meeting as they do not have the correct forms with Jamie being on vacation this week.

*Health & Safety:*

No Report

*Health & Housing:*

No Report

*Parks:*

No Report.

Health and Housing Chairman can visit the site and evaluate the condition of the property. Attorney Jarmer said yes. It was determined that Alderman Royer was that chairman and the property owner asked someone else could be the person to evaluate the cleanliness of the property since Alderman Royer is their neighbor. Mayor Berola told them that regardless of the weather, it needs to be cleaned up. Chief Campbell said he will be by on Thursday to make a list of what needs to be cleaned and organized. They will get it cleaned up over the weekend and Chief will come back on Monday. Ms. Oller asked if the newspaper can keep these details out of the newspaper, but Mayor Berola said that it is a public meeting, and it can be published.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson asked the council for a pay increase for his part time workers. He mentioned that Jake Sheppard has been doing a great job and is currently taking a class for his water certification. He has shown a lot of motivation and he would like to increase his pay to \$16/hr. Alderman Johnson said this includes what would be proposed for new part time employees to be hired on at. Superintendent Henson clarified that seasonal employees would remain at \$14/hr. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Superintendent Henson also asked to increase the seasonal employees to \$14/hr. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Superintendent Henson asked that part time employee Jake Sheppard be allowed to work over 1000 hours, which in turn means the city would be paying into IMRF for him. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Superintendent Henson asked the council if they would approve a pay increase for Rod Brandt, our seasonal foreman. He would like to increase him to \$18/hr, but Alderman Garrett and Alderman Marquis would like to see him get \$20/hr. A motion was made to increase Rod Brandt's pay to \$20/hr by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

*Economic Development:*

Alderman Garrett spoke to Jamie with Benton's and surveying is being done for the easements on Rt. 104. They will be trying to get these done as soon as possible. Alderman Karhliker will meet with Benton's and the Kings this week.

Alderman Garrett said that Veregy has \$50,000 allocated for the demolition of the UCB building. There is an asbestos test that needs to be done so demolition can be safe for the crew. This will cost less if we do it on our own. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to have Superintendent Henson get the asbestos test done, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

*Building Committee:*

Veregy was in attendance to present their Professional Services Agreement. In attendance was Ellie Blankenship and Gordon Schweitzer. They presented the design phase agreement. This is the preliminary design phase, budget, and floor plans. Upon approval of that, they will finalize the construction document. They are looking at the fall for finalizing plans. There is no upfront cost, if for any reason we walk away, we pay the fees that have been incurred and we walk away with the documents. They are looking into a grant that deals with the Inflation Reduction Act which deals with geothermal and solar power. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve the Professional Services Agreement, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett mentioned the speakers on the square and that they are not being utilized like they should be. He doesn't hear any music coming from the square anymore; we spent a lot of money on the speakers for them to no be used anymore.

Mayor Berola asked the council to consider a pay increase for city officials. There has not been a pay increase for anyone on the city council for the past 16 years that he has been involved with the city. Mayor Berola said we spend a lot of time doing things for the city and our time is valuable. It would be two years before it could be official. This will be added to the next agenda.

**Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 pm, second by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

