

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

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 Parrish, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey and Alderman Hemmerle.

Also present were Office Manager Rathgeber, Chief Campbell, and Superintendent Henson.

Alderman Royer Attorney Jarmer were absent.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola assigned Alderman Crissey to the Administration and Public Utilities Committees. Alderman Johnson made a motion to accept these assignments. A second was made by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle  
NAYES: None  
PRESENT: None  
ABSENT: Royer

**Visitor's Comments:**

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the February 5, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle  
NAYES: None  
PRESENT: None  
ABSENT: Royer

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from February 5, 2024 to February 16, 2024. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle  
NAYES: Garrett  
PRESENT: None  
ABSENT: Royer

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the February 20, 2024 meeting for review only.

Treasurer Williams presented the Video Gaming Report. January 2024 income was \$12,362.21 which was \$473.31 more than January 2023. FY to date is \$122,540.75.

**Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer was not in attendance due to our meeting being scheduled on a Tuesday and he had a prior commitment.

Mayor Berola read the Attorney Reports in Attorney Jarmer's absence.

Mayor Berola presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1541-24, An Ordinance Amending the City Personnel Code per IL Paid Leave for All Workers Act. Alderman Sheppard made a motion, second by Alderman Marquis. After discussion, Alderman Sheppard withdrew his motion. Alderman Johnson wanted this to be tabled until the next meeting because they did not have time to review it. A second was made by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Mayor Berola presented the first reading of Ordinance 1542-41, An Ordinance Amending the City Licensing Code and Health and Sanitation Code.

### **Department Heads**

#### *Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell informed the council that the FLOCK system should be up and running in the next couple of weeks.

#### *Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson talked with the project Manager with O'Shea Builders. We will be getting insurance money for the roof, but IML has not gotten back to him on the amount. He wants to put a higher-grade steel and replace the entire roof instead of just the bad spots.

The city will be smoke testing the sewer line on North Street between 7<sup>th</sup> street and Redbud on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this is to find leaks so that they can be fixed before they put in the new road.

#### *Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that they are going to start going over the budget at the end of the month and to get him know if there is anything that needs to be added.

Website corrections were finished today. The new website should be up and running now.

### **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* No Report

*Public Works-Parrish:* No Report

#### *Public Utilities-Johnson:*

A Public Utilities meeting was held on February 13, 2024. The committee discussed the following topics:

1. Public utilities administrative assistant- the employee would help with public works and public utilities. They discussed qualifications. The position would be part time, about 4 hours per day, 4 days a week. It was discussed that it might want to wait until FY 25.
2. IEPA Phosphorous Limits- If we go over the limits, we have to implement ways to lower them. There was a planning study done to look at different ways to get us below the maximum amount.
3. Sewer Plant Improvements were discussed.

*Health & Safety-Marquis:* No Report

*Health & Housing:*

*Parks-Hemmerle: No Report*

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

Tax Acquisition: Alderman Garrett spoke with the Department of Revenue and we will be granted access to the revenue website and will be able to see which businesses are giving how much in sales tax. We are not allowed to disclose publicly any specific amount or business.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

RFP/FRQ for Architectural Services- His motion for this was withdrawn.

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett asked about video gaming future revenue. He asked the council to consider putting the revenue into CDs to gain interest. There was discussion and Penny will check into banks and rates.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn from public meeting to executive session at 8:01 pm by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Alderman Parrish made a motion to adjourn out of executive session at 8:39 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Alderman Parrish made a motion to go into regular session from executive session at 8:40 pm, second by Alderman Crissey. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Marquis at 8:41pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer