

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 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 Crissey, Alderman Hemmerle.

Also present were Chief Campbell and Attorney Andrew Jarmer.

Alderman Royer, Superintendent Henson, and Office Manager Rathgeber were absent.

Mayor's Comments:

Visitor's Comments:

Jessica Smith with the Auburn Activities Committee was present to discuss the Last Call Before Fall. She discussed the closure of the roads for the parade and on Saturday for the event. She invited the council to join us for the festivities.

Sangamon County Auditor Andy Goleman was in attendance to provide an update from his office. His office monitors the internal financial operations of the county and is the accountant of the county. They are in charge of the assets. The budget is up \$32 million dollars. \$5 million went to the county department to help with the pandemic. Once bills are approved, they come to the auditor's office and they scrutinize them and make sure the documents are in place and then move them to payment.

Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon was in attendance to provide an update from his office. He is attending the meetings of every council to open up lines of communication. They are renovating the old SJR building so that the disaster management, autopsy suites, and the morgue will all be in one place. He told the council that fentanyl deaths are up, so they are talking to schools to spread awareness. He would like us to let his office know if we would like them to talk to our schools as well. He gave props to the police department and said they were great to work with when they have had to come to Auburn over the years.

Troy Curtis was in attendance from Lincoln Militia to provide an update on the liquor license procurement. Most is completed, they will get insurance within the next week and IDs have been set up. The next step is to get the state liquor license. They will be starting food drives every month and the food that is collected will go to the Food Pantry. They will also be collecting school supplies for the children in town. Reach out to them for donations to be collected through their Facebook page. He is hoping to get permission in September to use the square for a movie on the square. Alderman Hemmerle asked him to stick around after the meeting to discuss this further.

Two other residents were in attendance: Kyla Buhlig and Brenda Towers.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the July 3, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard

AYES: Karhliker, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from July 3, 2023 through July 14, 2023. Alderman Karhliker made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Karhliker, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Ordinance 1531-23 An Ordinance Amending the City's Personnel Code to Add a Section 19 ¼ -48 Regulating the Use and Disclosure of Confidential Information and Amending Section 19 ¼ -155 Causes for Suspension or Dismissal. This prohibits specific information from being disclosed by non-union employees.

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Resolution 99-23 A Resolution to Adopt the 2022 Sangamon County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (the "Plan") as the City's Multi- Hazard Mitigation Plan. Alderman Johnson made a motion, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Attorney Jarmer introduced Alexandra Pyle who was in attendance. She is entering her final year at SIU School of Law in Carbondale and was at the meeting to see what Municipal Law was like.

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell said the new assistant is doing well in the transition to her new role.

Chief Campbell would like to place three in the part time academy. This would cost about \$6000. Having these three individuals complete the academy means they will be able to step into full time spots faster. The academy is 9 months and costs \$2000 each, hopefully starting in August. It was discussed that we would need to come up with something to hold them accountable. Alderman Marquis made a motion to place three in the part time academy, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Chief Campbell told the council he got bids on a new vehicle, a Dodge Durango at a bid of \$42,723. The Taurus will be placed up for auction. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis to accept the bid, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Chief Campbell would like to rescind the 30-minute response time for officers. This often limits the pool of candidates to hire from. Not many communities have his requirement anymore because it makes it difficult to find candidates. In order to do this, the ordinance would need to be amended. Alderman Garret asked Attorney Jarmer to write this amendment.

Superintendent Henson:
Not in attendance

Office Manager Rathgeber:
Not in attendance

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Alderman Johnson had no update on the budget.

Public Works-Karhliker: Stephanie from Bentons presented a proposal for materials from Beelman Trucking in the amount of \$36,964.50. Alderman Karhliker made a motion to accept this bid, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Stephanie from Bentons presented a proposal for oil and chip from Illinois Road Contractors in the amount of \$116,978. Alderman Karhliker made a motion to accept this bid, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Public Utilities-Johnson: Alderman Johnson has been waiting to hear from Jamie from Bentons. Rod will come up with the numbers and will schedule a committee meeting.

Health & Safety-Marquis: 410 E. Washington was brought up to be considered a nuisance. Kelli Payne was in attendance to discuss the letters she has received. She is trying to clean out their house while trying to move contents from two houses. She said there is no trash, it was clothes and things they are trying to get moved in and moved out. Chief Campbell said there have been complaints about the mess.

At the committee meeting, the storm sirens were discussed. There were complaints that the storm sirens did not go off during the derecho. The reason for this was that it was not a NWS predicted storm. It was discussed sounding the alarms during storms with severely high winds even if it is not a tornado warning. It came and went very fast and there was no time to react without any heads up from NWS. The sirens are meant to be heard outside to alert people to get indoors. The purchase of new police vehicles, the 30 minute distance, and putting personnel into the academy were all discussed at the committee meeting.

Health & Housing- Royer: Not in attendance.

Parks-Hemmerle: No report.

Economic Development-Garrett: Alderman Garrett had an update on the Easement Agreements. One of the trustees that will be signing off is in poor health. The paperwork was not notarized, so the paperwork was sent back out. Attorney Jarmer will continue to reach out.

There will be a meeting on July 20th with local businesses. Slauterhouse, Bewitching Botanicals, Benderz, and two other local businesses want to get together to discuss how to bring new business to town and how to bring Magros back to Auburn.

When the city website is up and running, there will be links to each of the local business's websites.

Building Committee-Garrett: Alderman Garrett brought up the publication of RFQ for the City Utility Office/Council Chambers. Attorney Jarmer sent the final draft last week. Alderman Garrett spoke to the building inspector to cover the terms of the RFQ and how it relates to the city/municipal building. He will bring it to the council for a vote at the next meeting.

Other Business:

Park Funds Allotment: There was a discussion on where the money from the sale of the park property would go. The purchase cost originally came from the general fund in the amount of \$120,000. It was Mayor Berola's understanding that the amount to match the OSLAD grant would be given to the parks department and the rest would go to the general fund. Alderman Marquis suggested that the \$120,000 should be returned to the general fund to reimburse the purchase cost, and the rest be given to parks. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, to reimburse the \$120,000 and the remainder (\$477,473,99) goes to the parks fund. A second was made by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Karhliker, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey

NAYES: Hemmerle

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer

Increases for Elected Officials: Alderman Garrett asked Alderman Johnson to set an Admin meeting to discuss the increases for elected officials.

Trees: Alderman Garrett asked Mayor Berola about the tree that was falling due to the storm. It was actively falling, and Mayor Berola gave the go ahead to have the tree removed before it fell on two houses. Emmons Tree Service did the work and the cost was \$4000. Governor Pritzker signed an Emergency Proclamation and it should be paid for out of that emergency money. Alderman Garrett said he was alerted of two more trees that need to be removed as well. He wanted to ask the council about if the trees are the responsibility of the city. The council agreed we did not need to take care of them.

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Royer