

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 20, 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 Garrett, Alderman Royer (left at 8:16 pm), Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Alderman Crissey and Alderman Parrish were absent.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola announced that Alderman Royer would like to resign as the Health and Housing Committee Chair. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis to accept his resignation, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Visitor's Comments:

Brandy Hurley Brown was in attendance to discuss the house at 416 N. 4th Street. She said they are still bringing in a lot of garbage and it is collecting. They often get drunk and cuss at her while she is outside. There is also a tractor trailer blocking the sidewalk. Chief Campbell said he would address it and check on their compliance.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Clerk Sponsler presented the 2024 Council Meeting Dates. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the 2024 Council Meeting Dates, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from November 6, 2023 to November 17, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Johnson.

AYES: Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: Garrett

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the November 6, 2023 meeting for review only. Alderman Johnson discussed some of the numbers. The state income tax and video gaming revenue are doing well. Water and sewer expenses are killing us.

Treasurer Williams presented the video gaming reports as well. October 2023 income was \$14,406.12, which is \$2,212.53 more than a year ago. FY income 6 months in is \$81,663.21.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1535-23, An Ordinance Approving a Pre-Annexation Agreement between Leahy Properties, LLC, and the City of Auburn. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve Ordinance 1535-23, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Tate was accepted into the Part Time Academy and will graduate in April. A few cars will become surplus property.

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson reminded the council of the dump truck chassi purchase that was previously approved. He received a bid from Woody's Municipal Supply to purchase the truck bed in the amount of \$72,025.90. It is an exact duplicate of the truck in the garage. A motion was made by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey

Superintendent Henson provided an update on the IML storm damage. They filed a claim after the first hailstorm. An adjustor came out and sent up a drone to check everything out. They looked at all of the parks and city buildings. He has not received a report yet.

We will be hosting a gas operators meeting on December 14th. A small mutual aid group takes turns hosting the trainings. A guy from ICC and USDI will be in attendance and a meal will be provided. Superintendent Henson invited the council to attend.

At the previous meeting, it was discussed omitting the sidewalk between 4th and 5th streets on the south side of Washington Street from the Safe Routes to School. There was a lot of discussion about the pros and cons of doing this. Alderman Johnson made a motion to omit that block of sidewalk, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

AYES: Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey

Mayor Berola asked TJ if Mike McCarthy was still interested in being the water commissioner. TJ said yes and Mayor Berola said he will double check with Mike.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber received four bids to replace the HVAC at the Auburn Community Center. Snell's bid was \$12,914 with a 5-year warranty, Howard Services' bid was \$11,200 with a 1-year warranty, Rettbergs' bid was \$13,638 with a 10-year warranty, and Top Notch's bid was \$8680, heat pump option at \$9840 with a 10-year warranty. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the bid from Top Notch, second by Alderman Royer.

AYES: Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: Garrett

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey

Office Manager Rathgeber presented bids to replace the server. CDS bid is \$6621.49 and Illini Tech's bid was \$8361.43. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the bid from CDS, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

AYES: Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey, Royer

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: In regard to the city's health insurance plan selection, they are leaning towards Health Alliance. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the employee's selection of Health Alliance as the health insurance provider. The plan numbers are: POS3800 Silver, POS3500 Gold, POS3000 Gold, POS2000 Gold, and POS1500 Gold. Second was made by Alderman Hemmerle.

AYES: Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Parrish, Crissey, Royer

Public Works-

Public Utilities-Johnson: Ted Bailey was in attendance to discuss the electrical plan renewal. The contract is up for renewal in 6 months, June 2024. Prices change daily, and there is a possibility of negotiating prices between companies. Ted recommends another 36-month contract. Alderman Johnson made a motion to authorize Mayor Berola to sign off on a 36-month agreement when the numbers are beneficial to the city. A second was made by Alderman Garrett.

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

Health & Safety-Marquis: They hired two part time police officers. Austin Cronister has worked in Pawnee and Divernon and is currently the chief in Thayer. Jeremy Hall left Taylorville, he is looking for full time, but settled for part time right now.

Jared Leake turned in his resignation effective November 2, 2023. Alderman Marquis made a motion to accept Officer Leake's resignation, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Alderman Marquis would like to schedule a committee meeting in the first part of December. It was decided to schedule it on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Health & Housing- Royer: No Report

Parks-Hemmerle: The Prebid meeting for Union Park will be held on November 28th at 10am.

Economic Development-Garrett: Regarding the tax from Springfield Plastics, IDR has approved the paperwork and the city should be expecting a refund from the past 6 months of taxes.

Building Committee-Garrett: No Report

Other Business:

Military banners around the square: Springfield Plastics will partner with the city of the military banners on the square. The banners will be rotated because there will be many members of the armed services to be honored.

Alderman Garrett made a disclosure on Facebook about the lawsuit settlement. He was seeking opinions from the citizens. Alderman Garrett asked that the city employees respond to him with professionalism.

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm, second by Alderman Marquis.

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