

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 2, 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 Parrish, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Sheppard. Alderman Hemmerle arrived at 7:22 pm.

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

Absent was Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, and Alderman Crissey.

Mayor's Comments:

Visitor's Comments:

Kandace Koen was in attendance to ask questions about the fines on her property at 514 N. 5th Street. She was wondering why she wasn't notified about the vote to assess the fines to her that her previous tenants had racked up. She asked why the utilities were not shut off while the tenants were living there and there was discussion about the stipulations of shutting off utilities while residents are living at the property. She also asked why she was being held liable for the fines when the resident has since moved out. There was a lot of discussion about this topic and Mayor Berola told Ms. Koen that this was the final decision by the City of Auburn. An amount of \$3700 was paid by check at the October 2, 2023 meeting for the fines assessed at 514 N. 5th Street.

Jessica Lance of Bewitching Botanicals was in attendance to discuss her upcoming event, Witches Night Out. She wanted to touch base with the council and make sure we are on the same page with all of the closures and location of trash and port-a-potties. She also asked about advertising it on the sign at the entrance to the city.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the September 18, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Sheppard made a motion to approve the September 18, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Parrish

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Garrett, Royer, Hemmerle

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from September 18, 2023 to September 29, 2023. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Sheppard.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Parrish

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Garrett, Royer, Hemmerle

Treasurer Williams presented the September 2023 Cash Report for review and approval. A motion was made Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the October 2, 2023 meeting for review only.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Resolution 100-23, a Resolution Approving and Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City and the Auburn Community School District #10. Alderman Marquis asked about liability, if it was on the City of Auburn. It was thought that it was on the school district. A motion was made by Alderman Sheppard, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Attorney Jarmer Presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1535-23 Amending the City's Building Permit Fees for Active and Former Members of the United States Armed Services. It was mentioned that if you serve in the Illinois National Guard, you may not get a DD214, it would be a different form. It was asked that the wording be changed and the vote for this ordinance would be tabled until the next meeting. A motion to table the vote until the next meeting was made by Alderman Sheppard, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Ordinance 1536-23, An Ordinance Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property to be sold.

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell announced he found a new full-time officer, Kenny Reardon. He used to work in Girard, Gillespie, and Divernon. His start date is October 3, 2023.

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson provided a few updates. There will be detour signs out as the railroad crossing at 104 would be closed tonight for repairs. There is a backhoe that is down for repairs, and ejector pump is broken. It will be above his threshold of spending, so he will be back with a bid. Two of our guys are headed to Riverton tomorrow for a gas outage with a line that was hit. They will need help relighting pilot lights. Riverton will reimburse for any overtime if necessary.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber sent an email to the council with the new website link. It should be up and running in a few weeks.

Wayde was approached about using a social media archiving service by CivicPlus. Attorney Jarmer said it is not legally necessary. Alderman Johnson and Alderman Marquis do not think it is necessary.

Wayde will go back to the companies that provided bids for the furnace replacement at the Community Center. He will tell them exactly what we need and will come back to the council with bids.

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Bill Karhliker is interested in purchasing his laptop for the price of \$550.

Public Works- There was discussion about the Divernon Road Bridge.

Public Utilities-Johnson: None

Health & Safety-Marquis:

1. There was a committee meeting. At the meeting it was discussed replacing the Dodge truck. They were offered \$28,000 for the truck and a purchase price of \$15,327 for a Durango. They cannot figure out what is wrong with the truck, so the committee decided it was in our best interest to sell the truck. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Parrish, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Garrett, Royer,

2. It was also discussed to transfer the equipment to outfit the new squads. It was decided to use Meado not to exceed the amount of \$7118.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle, Parrish

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Garrett, Royer

Health & Housing- Royer:

201 W. Caldwell: The police were called to this residence. In the residence they found 3 dead dogs, a dead python, and 39 other dogs caged and in terrible conditions. The house is non-inhabitable. Mayor Berola said by ordinance we can placard the property. Attorney will double check. Moving forward, we have to give notice to appear at the next meeting and why it has been declared a nuisance. If not dealt with, we can move forward then.

Parks-Hemmerle: They had a meeting with Benton's regarding the East Park renovations. They had some questions for the committee such as gas or electric, is the public allowed to use the cookshack, do we want lights around the basketball courts? There will be timed lights at the courts. There will be 4 electrical posts for food trucks to use. Dawna Edie of the Auburn Activities Committee was in attendance and had some questions as well. There will be fans under the pavilion, the state will stay and the pavilion will stay the same size, water will still be available throughout the park, There will be electrical outlets on the posts. Dawna asked about park benches as a fundraiser for the AAC. The budget will be very tight as changes might be made.

The playground equipment at Veterans Park has been removed and needs to be replaced by Spring.

Economic Development-Garrett: In regards to Springfield Plastics, the state has been assigned as trustee and Attorney Jarner has been working with the attorney.

Building Committee-Garrett: None

Other Business:

Adjournment

Alderman Parrish made a motion to adjourn from regular session at 8:08 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle, Parrish

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Garrett, Royer