

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 18, 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, Alderman Parrish, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Treasurer Williams, Office Manager Rathgeber, and Alderman Sheppard were absent.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola appointed Alderman Parrish as chair of the Public Works Committee. A motion was made by Alderman Hemmerle, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Mayor Berola announced that Dave Miller would like to resign as Chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Mayor Berola appointed Ed Madaus as Chairman of the Zoning and Planning Commission. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Visitor's Comments:

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the December 4, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the December 4, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Treasurer's Report

In Treasurer Williams absence, Alderman Garrett presented the reports. He first presented the bills list from December 4, 2023 to December 15, 2023. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Marquis, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett, Royer

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Alderman Garrett presented the Budget Report as of December 18, 2023 for review only.

Alderman Garrett read the video gaming report, it is at \$95,638.97 for the year.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Resolution 102-23, Approving the Appointment of Mike McCarthy as Water Commissioner. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

The Police Department has been cleaning out the office and would like to get rid of some items such as old cameras, light bars, tires, cages, etc. Attorney Jarmer said that these items cannot be grouped into a bulk surplus. An ordinance is needed.

Chief Campbell presented two officers with Life Saving Awards. On November 4th, Officer Turner gave full CPR for approximately 15 minutes until rescue personnel arrived. Officer Reardon gave CPR and used an AED to save a patient's life. Alderman Royer said the police department has been doing a wonderful job getting to scenes quickly.

Chief Campbell would like to declare the property at 416 W. North Street a nuisance. Letters have been sent since October and they are not complying. They were invited to come to the council meetings to discuss but have never come. They have until December 26 to clean it up and then fines will begin on December 27th. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Royer.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

There was an issue with the health insurance. An officer went to the doctor and was told the insurance was no longer valid. When he called for the new insurance information, he was told that was invalid as well. The office will work on figuring out the issue in the morning.

Superintendent Henson:

No Report

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Not in Attendance

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: No Report

Public Works-

Public Utilities-Johnson:

Regarding the PEPL Settlement/Customer Reimbursement, the method of reimbursement to the customers was discussed and voted on at the committee meeting. It was decided to remove the city differential rate of \$4.55 per dekatherm and will be paid by the settlement monies. The total was \$564,000.68. Legal fees in the amount of \$29,402.99 will be paid out of that money for a total of \$593,403.67. A motion to accept this method of reimbursement was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Royer, Marquis, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

The right of way depth limits were discussed. Superintendent Henson provided information regarding the ROW depths and being limited to the top 24 inches. Supt Henson had a meeting in Jacksonville with other cities and attorneys to discuss permits, fines, limits, etc. Bond requirements for sewer taps would be on a case-by-case basis.

New building finances were discussed, loans from banks and grant opportunities will be looked into.

Water billing was discussed. Last year this month was \$63,500 and this year it was at \$81,095.

Health & Safety-Marquis:

There was a meeting on December 6th regarding the starting salary of part time police officers. The committee would like to raise the starting pay for part time officers from \$23 to \$24 an hour and would like to revisit the topic in a year. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Health & Housing: No Report

Parks-Hemmerle:

It was asked if we could change the second basketball court into two more pickleball courts and the grant will allow for that change. The bid opening is tomorrow.

Economic Development-Garrett: No Report

Building Committee-Garrett: No Report

Other Business:

Closed session to review closed session minutes.

Adjournment

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:05 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn out of executive session at 8:13 pm, second by Alderman Parrish. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Alderman Royer made a motion to come back to regular session at 8:14 pm, second by Alderman Crissey. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Sheppard