

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 4, 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 Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey (left at 8:16 pm) and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola wanted to give his appreciation to the guys that work at the city garage. Derek Lomelino, Devon Nance, and Ricky Sponsler were in attendance. Mayor Berola said the crew of guys is second to none, and a group of hardworking men. Alderman Parrish mentioned the stack of locates that were brought in to a previous meeting and wanted to acknowledge Ricky and the rest of the guys for their hard work with all of the fiber installations. Alderman Garrett told the guys and the council that he thinks they deserve a catered meal for Christmas to show their appreciation.

Mayor Berola was contacted about the mural that is supposed to go on the Community Center wall and they are ready to move forward. He is meeting with two people on Wednesday from the University of Wisconsin that are in charge. They are looking for ideas to incorporate into the mural such as historic locations or highlights.

**Visitor's Comments:**

There were a few members of CTI in attendance, including the CEO of CTI, Bobbi Dean. Superintendent Henson asked them to attend the meeting to introduce themselves to the council as they will be in town quite often due to the installation of their fiber. There were some questions that were brought up about messes that have been left and equipment being on private property.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the November 20, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the November 20, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from November 20, 2023 to December 1, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the November 2023 Cash Report. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to accept the November 2023 cash report, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report as of December 4, 2023 for review only.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Resolution 102-23, Approving the Appointment of Mike McCarthy as Water Commissioner.

### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

1. 228 W. Harrison St. Property- will be declared a nuisance due to criminal activity.
2. 173 E. Monroe- we need to move forward with this property
3. West Monroe- was declared a nuisance, need to begin accruing fines.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson sent an email to the council regarding the natural gas hits lately. The crew worked quickly to get the gas turned off on houses and took care of the problem before it became a huge problem. He thanked the city guys and showed his appreciation for their hard work.

Superintendent Henson shared a summary of monthly budget reports in his departments.

The inflatable snow globe bounce house was broken during the Holiday Walk and Hallelujah Holiday Lights refunded us the cost of the snow globe.

Superintendent Henson called for a Public Works committee meeting to discuss the construction standards within the city right of way. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber had a meeting about the website. They sat down and went through every page and things that needed fixed. She is working on the fixes. The minutes were sent to her and they should be updated soon.

Top Notch came in and the new HVAC will be installed in the Community Center on Wednesday.

The server should be updated this week.

### **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* Wayde called Alderman Johnson this morning regarding health insurance. There will be a one-month extension on the Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. The Health Alliance Simplete plans take a separate application, so it will take a little bit longer to process.

*Public Works-*

*Public Utilities-Johnson:* The council authorized Mayor Berola to sign off on an attractive rate. Homefield came through on the 21<sup>st</sup> with a 36 month contract at 7.656 cents per kWh starting June 2024.

PEPL Reimbursement for Natural Gas Customers: The court ordered reimbursement came through, and it was higher than initially thought, it was \$593,403.67. There was discussion about how to handle the money. We could pull out and pay back the amount of the legal costs which was \$42,402.99. Looking at \$564,000 left over. Do we reimburse the customers? Do we look forward and prorate their gas usage? The customers would see an instant decrease in their bill with this choice. Many options were discussed and it was pushed to the Public Works meeting next Tuesday.

*Health & Safety-Marquis:* There will be a meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

*Health & Housing:*

*Parks-Hemmerle:* Two local companies showed up to the prebid meeting.

*Economic Development-Garrett:* Alderman Garrett is waiting to hear back from Steve Baker.

*Building Committee-Garrett:* Alderman Garrett would like to have a meeting. They need to go through the RFQ as it needs to be touched up.

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett wanted to make a clarification to the newspaper. We are working under a pre-annexation agreement and not an annexation yet. He also wanted to check on the closure of the office at lunch time (12-1). They close the office at this time due to lunches needed to be taken and not enough staff to cover the office when the rest are gone. He wanted to ask the council about their opinions on keeping it open at lunch time so citizens can stop by on their lunch break.

**Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:24 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn out of executive session at 8:31 pm, second by Alderman Garrett. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Royer made a motion to come back to regular session at 8:32 pm, second by Alderman Garrett. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey