

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 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 Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Powell, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Alderman Karhliker and Alderman Royer were not in attendance.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola asked for a motion to appoint Andrew Jarmer as the City's new FOIA Officer. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Mayor Berola asked for a motion to replace Steve Mulvey on the Zoning and Planning Committee with Ron Appelt. A motion was made by Alderman Sheppard, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Mayor Berola told the council that we would like to help the Cemetery Board purchase a new lawn mower. Sloan Implement has a deal for government offices, but the Cemetery Board does not fit the parameters. Mayor Berola checked with Attorney Jarmer to see if it was legal for the City to purchase the lawn mower on behalf of the Cemetery Board and then sell it to the Cemetery Board at the price that the city will pay for it. It will not cost any public funds. Sloan does not have any issue with this deal. The cost will be \$8618.21. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve this purchase and sale, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Visitor's Comments:

Two members of Lincoln Militia were present tonight, Club President George Smith and Club Secretary Troy Curtis. They informed the council that the gentleman who got the club into so much trouble is no longer a part of the motorcycle club. The new president and secretary are trying to fix the problems that were created and they want to change the face of the Lincoln Militia. They are in the process of filling out

paperwork for a liquor license. They sat down with Chief Campbell to discuss what needed to be done to rectify the situation.

Darryl Adcock was present to discuss his being served papers because of the Lincoln Militia. He sold the building to the motorcycle club as a contract-for-deed. He was here to find out why he was involved in this issue. He is still listed as the registered agent, so that is why he was served as well. Mr. Adcock was told he does not have anything to do with it and he does not need to appear in court.

Jay Timm was present tonight to discuss his road, Hogan Road. He first wanted to know if it was a county or city road, and he was told it is a city road. He then said that it is sunken in and needs repairs. Superintendent Henson told him that it was supposed to be rocked and chipped last year, but it needs more repairs than what that will accomplish. Mr. Timm also wanted to know if a streetlight could be put in on their block. Superintendent Henson said he needs to follow up with REA and Mayor Berola said we would need to pass a Resolution. Mr. Timm also asked about the property that he purchased that was zoned agricultural. He wanted to know if the combined parcel could be agriculture for his horses. Mayor Berola told him that it needs to be recommended to the Mayor by the Zoning Board.

City Clerk's Report:

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List for March 6, 2023 to March 17, 2023 for review and approval. A motion was made to approve the Bills List for March 6, 2023 through March 17, 2023 by Alderman Powell, second by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Powell, Hemmerle
NAYES: Garret
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the March 20, 2023 meeting for review only. Alderman Johnson asked about the difference in the water amounts and Office Manager Rathgeber said it is because of the differences in the citizen's payments like budget billing, credits, etc.

Alderman Johnson updated the council on our revenue.

Treasurer Williams also presented the video gaming revenue report.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1527-23 An Ordinance Amending the City Code to Recognize Juneteenth as an Authorized Holiday. A motion was made by Alderman Powell to accept Ordinance 1527-23, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell read Officer Kissel's letter of Resignation. His resignation was effective February 24, 2023. A motion was made to accept Officer Kissel's resignation by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

Chief Campbell mentioned Friday's events with the gas leak and multi-car accident. Everyone did a great job clearing houses, etc. Mayor Berola complimented them on their great work in getting the problem solved without incident.

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson updated the council on the fiber installation. Metro hit a gas line on Friday, March 17, 2023. Houses were filled with gas. They worked hard to evacuate homes, the gas was shut off in 55 minutes, which is a great response time.

Metro has 70,000 feet in the ground now and Royell has 90,000 feet in the ground. Overall it has been going well. Metro hit a water line tonight (Monday, March 20, 2023) and it will be paid for by Metro. Locates are up, very high numbers. The city guys are struggling to keep up and it is wearing on them. TJ complimented all of the city guys on their hard work and dedication. Two more fiber companies want to come into town. The aldermen asked if we could tighten the restrictions on these companies that come into town to install utilities, Attorney Jarmer will write it up. Alderman Johnson asked if we received a bond from Royell since we got one from Metro. He mentioned that we need one from Royell also so they are all on the same playing field and we will continue it for all companies that come into town.

There was a ROW request from CTI to install 26 miles of new fiber cable.

Another ROW request came in from Frontier Communications to install aerial fiber on poles and several miles of cable.

There is a Natural Gas Safety Meeting and Training Exercise planned for April 5, 2023. TJ and John train for the GUA for situations like what happened on Friday. The training will be held here in Auburn and then they will go to Waterloo for another training.

Three guys are committed to the North Street Water Main Replacement project and this will begin on April 10th. Superintendent Henson intends to make this the cleanest project the city has ever completed. He plans to increase the MFT funds and fix a lot of the roads in the city as the citizens deserve nice roads throughout the city.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber updated the council on the ACC furnace. He has two estimates so far and is waiting for two more. He expects to have them by the end of the week and will bring the estimates to the next meeting. There was a problem with the furnace over the weekend, it was freezing in the community center, but the problem was fixed within 10 minutes. The safety switch fell off. We definitely need to replace the furnace as it is 24 years old.

Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell and Office Manager Rathgeber have started working on their budgets for FY 24.

Committee Reports

Administration:

Alderman Johnson set an Admin Budget Meeting for Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm for FY 24 Budget.

Public Works:

No Report

Public Utilities:

Alderman Johnson asked Clerk Sponsler to add Closeout Pay Request for Phase 2 to the next agenda for an outstanding balance.

Health & Safety:

No Report

Health & Housing:

There was discussion about the property at 514 N. 5th Street. After conversations with Attorney Jarmer, it was decided that we are back to square one. We need to declare it a nuisance and being the fines again. After declaring it a nuisance, they will be given a certain number of days to fix it, then fines would begin if it is not fixed. A letter was sent on March 10th, so March 14th would close that window. It was confirmed that the problem had not been abated, so we will invite Ms. Oller and the property owner to attend the next meeting and then the council will determine the fines or we could put a lien on the property. Ms. Oller and the property owner will be required to attend the next council meeting. They will have until March 24th to abate the nuisance. The fines are set at \$250 per day. Chief Campbell needs to check the property on March 24th to verify.

A motion was made to declare 514 N. 5th Street a nuisance with fines set at \$250/day by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

Parks:

No Report.

Economic Development:

Office Manager Rathgeber sent Alderman Garrett an email regarding a grant opportunity through the Tourism and Convention Bureau. They are wanting to paint murals on Route 66 buildings in remembrance of Route 66.

Building Committee:

There will be an informal meeting Monday at 10:30, attendance is not required, but Veregy will be coming with engineers to talk with Office Manager Rathgeber and Chief Campbell about the floor plans for the new building.

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

