

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 4, 2024**

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 and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola requested a motion to approve Ed Madaus' resignation from the Zoning Board. Alderman Sheppard made the motion, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Mayor Berola wanted to clear the air after the last council meeting. Last council meeting there was discussion about the city employees that are also on the volunteer fire department and EMTs. It is in the employee's collective bargaining unit that they are allowed to respond to calls during the work day. Mayor Berola believes it is wonderful that they are dedicated and want to help the people of this community when they are in need. Mayor Berola invited the fire department to come and speak if there were any questions from the council. There was discussion about many different topics within this topic. Joe Powell and Bill Atteberry were in attendance from the Fire Department to answer questions.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Jeanie and Mark Landers were in attendance to ask that a street light be placed on Hogan Road.

Derek Porter was in attendance to request permission to build a sidewalk from the front door to the street. This would be a private sidewalk, but it would cross the right of way.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the February 20, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the February 20, 2024 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 February 20, 2024 through March 1, 2024. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the February 2024 Cash Report. A motion was made by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the March 4, 2024 meeting for review only.

Treasurer Williams presented investment rates for CDs. A \$2 million investment at UCB would be 9 months at 5% and 12 months at 4.99%. At INB it would be 5.15%.

#### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of Ordinance 1541-24, An Ordinance Amending the City Personnel Code per IL Paid Leave for All Workers Act. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve Ordinance 1541-24, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of Ordinance 1542-24, An Ordinance Amending the City Licensing Code and Health and Sanitation Code. Alderman Garrett made the motion to approve Ordinance 1542-24, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

#### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

Chief Cambell was not in attendance.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson presented the council with a change order for the Union Park roof pavilion in the amount of \$52,055.00. Alderman Royer made the motion to approve the change order, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Superintendent Henson told the council that there is a stretch of sidewalk that was going to be left as is, but it is in poor condition. He will get a change order to include this sidewalk in the renovation.

Superintendent Henson presented a bid for vacuum truck repairs in the amount of \$9392. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve \$10,000 to get the vac truck looked at/repared, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Superintendent Henson told the council that the smoke test on North Street went wonderfully and was easier than they anticipated. They found three storm drains that are tied directly into sanitary sewers and there were only a few complaints about the smoke. Petersburg Plumbing will be in on Thursday to take a look.

The EPA will be at the shop. Thirty years ago some gas line fuel tanks were removed, monitoring wells were put in, but they had never come back. They are coming Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to reopen the wells and sample the soil.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that the accounting data had been moved to the cloud storage. He spent last week revising the job descriptions and they are posted in Teams. Alderman Johnson asked him to determine which get done monthly and how many hours it might take to complete each task.

## **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* No Report

*Public Works-Parrish:* No Report

*Public Utilities-Johnson:* No Report

*Health & Safety-Marquis:* No Report

*Health & Housing:*

*Parks-Hemmerle:* No Report

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

Springfield Plastics Water Service- The Julie locates have been called in. They will be starting on this project soon.

Accessories Squared Growth Plan- They plan on expanding their operation with a large new building.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

Alderman Garrett presented the RFP Proposal. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve the proposal, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett brought up the Veterans Memorial Flags. Springfield Plastics is willing to pay a portion of this cost. The idea is to have 2 banners per light pole. Alderman Garrett wanted to get the council's opinion on who goes on the banners- active duty, retired, or deceased. Alderman Royer suggested we ask other businesses to help with the cost of adding and replacing banners.

Alderman Garrett wants to find memorabilia specific to Auburn to decorate the new buildings.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Garrett at 8:48 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None