

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 6, 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 Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Alderman Garrett was absent.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola informed the council that the school district would like to put in a new scoreboard at the baseball field. Due to in Intergovernmental Agreement with the school district, the council has to vote on it before they can do it. Alderman Hemmerle made a motion for the school district to replace the scoreboard at the baseball field, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Mayor Berola issued a clarification from the previous meeting. Alderman Garrett had brought up the PEPL money at the last meeting. This money is the result of a 3 to 4 year battle with Panhandle over charging transmission rates. That was not a refund of the money from February 2021. These are separate incidents.

Visitor's Comments:

John and Julie Barnhill were in attendance with a zoning variance request to build a garage. A motion was made by Alderman Parrish, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Dawn and Shane Wheat were in attendance to discuss the sidewalk that is planned for their front yard due to the Safe Routes to Schools. The original plan is to build a sidewalk on Washington Street from the railroad tracks to the firehouse. Their concern is that building a sidewalk on the block from 4th to 5th street will eat up a lot of their yard and the sidewalk is not necessarily needed in that block. Supt Henson spoke to Stephanie at Bentons about a couple of options. In order to change this on the plans, the council will need a motion and a vote. This will be included in the next meeting.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the October 16, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the October 16, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Clerk Sponsler added that her Municipal Clerks of Illinois 2024 dues are up for renewal in the amount of \$55, but Mayor Berola said that did not need to be approved, just given to the office.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from October 16, 2023 to November 3, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the October 2023 Cash Report. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Crissey.

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the November 16, 2023 meeting for review only.

Attorney's Report

No Report

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

No Report

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson brought up a tree at 1203 Commanche Road that has been causing some infrastructure issues. It is in the rear yard easement. 10 years ago, there was a water main break where the tree wrapped around it and broke it. Three weeks ago, there was another break due to the roots of the tree. The sewer was full of roots as well. Supt Henson said he felt the only solution is to take out the tree because of the damage the tree continues to do to the water main. He was asking the council if they would be okay with taking the tree out. The council gave their ok.

Superintendent Henson gave an update on the fiber installations. CTI is still installing main line fiber but is confined to the south of 104 currently. They have a new crew on the job, but through the same company. Royell and Metro are currently only doing service taps to homes. Frontier has requested permits, but he has not heard anything since.

Superintendent Henson gave an update on the amount of locates that have been done. Since January 1, 1735 have been done this year so far. There are usually only 300 to 400 per year. Superintendent Henson gave Ricky high praise for the work he has done with this undertaking. In the 1500 gas crossings, only one has gotten hit due to the company and two were hit that were unknown.

Supt Henson said that Right of Way permits will start after the first of the month.

The Pre-K classes at Auburn Elementary are coming to the garage for a field trip tomorrow.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Wayde was approached about Daily Bread requesting to use the community center again to feed seniors. They would like to bring this back to Auburn. If we allow this, they will be using the community center

five days a week from 9 am to 1 pm. They will not be cooking in the center as the food is already prepared off site and brought to the community center. A motion was made by Alderman Hemmerle, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that Crystal Wentzel had put in her resignation effective October 27, 2023. A motion was made to accept her resignation by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Alderman Johnson said he had a discussion with the department heads and they indicated that they will have a recommendation at the next meeting.

An executive session was requested regarding personnel.

Public Works-

Public Utilities-Johnson: Electrical Plan Renewal with Ted Bailey was moved to the next meeting.

Health & Safety-Marquis: No Report

Health & Housing-Royer: Alderman Royer contacted Mayor Berola and he would like to resign as the chair of the Health and Housing Committee. Mayor Berola will take volunteers and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Parks-Hemmerle: Greg Gillis was in attendance with an update on Union Park. Nothing has changed on the grant. The prebid will take place on November 28, 2023. The opening of the bids will take place on December 19, 2023 at 2 pm at City Hall and will come back to the council at the first meeting on January 2, 2024. A motion was made to approve that Bentons move forward with the bidding process by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

Economic Development-Garrett: Attorney Jarmer presented the information since Alderman Garrett was not in attendance. Mayor Berola asked if the taps would be placed while they were trenching, and Supt. Henson said yes. The annexation agreements were finalized, and water main easements were finalized and sent to the county recorder. In regard to the sales tax paperwork, the documents have been completed and finalized so the city can receive income.

Building Committee-Garrett:

Other Business:

Adjournment

Alderman Johnson made a motion to adjourn from public meeting to executive session at 7:41 pm, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Alderman Johnson made a motion to adjourn from executive session at 7:55 pm, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Alderman Sheppard made a motion at 7:56 pm to come back to regular session from executive session, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Alderman Johnson made a motion at 7:56 pm to adjourn, second by Alderman Parrish.

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