

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 1, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Berola with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

Mayor Berola called for the roll. Present were Clerk Warwick, Mayor Berola, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Hemmerle, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Royer, Alderwoman Sheppard. Also present were Attorney Moredock, Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, and Office Manager Ponsler.

Mayor Berola announced that Cleeton Sanitation of Tovey has completed the necessary paperwork to become a waste hauler in Auburn. Mayor Berola congratulated Jessica Lance of Bewitching Botanicals for being named best retail store in the Illinois Times Best of Readers poll. Mayor Berola also announced that Otter Lake Water Commission will be raising their bulk water rates, they will do the rate increase over three years, the increase would be between \$0.05 to \$0.15 per thousand gallons.

Donna Moldenhauer was present to request the closure of West Van Buren Street from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Route 104 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for Trinity Lutheran's live Nativity scene. She also asked if they could get assistance from the police department for traffic control. There was no objection from the council.

Derek Lees was present to request the closure of streets for a Christmas on the Square event scheduled for December 12, 2021. There will be approximately 25 vendors and photos with Santa Claus, and live music. The street closures could include Madison Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and Jefferson Street. There would be alcohol at the event. There was a concern about open alcohol on a public street and in the right of way. There was a concern about open alcohol on the streets and the Slaughterhouse beer garden expanding on to the public right of way. Derek was looking for clarification on the rules and the property lines concerning the public right of way. A discussion followed; Mayor Berola indicated that there will be updates to the current liquor ordinances to modernize them. The liquor establishments will be invited to a meeting to provide input. It was requested of liquor establishments to get their special permit requests in early for their upcoming events.

Clerk Warwick presented the October 18, 2021 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: Royer

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from October 19, 2021, to November 1, 2021, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the bills list, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

AYES: Hemmerle, Johnson, Karhliker, Marquis, Powell, Royer, and Sheppard  
NAYES: Garrett

Alderman Garrett asked if Treasurer Williams if she would review the current interest rates we are receiving on our deposits. She will have the information for the next meeting.

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Ordinance 1506-21 for the annexation of 14250 Dixon Road (Hart). The Zoning Board has no issues with the annexation. There was a question about running a business on the property. When that occurs Mr. Hart would need to subdivide the property and apply for the proper zoning. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve Ordinance 1506-21; second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Chief Campbell was going to discuss liquor control but that was covered earlier in the meeting.

Superintendent Henson asked Jamie Headen from Benton & Associates to give an update on the water main project. Jamie reported that the supply chain and price issues are still present and there is still a shortage of 10-inch PVC pipe. There was a different PVC pipe available, but its cost could be an issue and would need different fittings. Petersburg Plumbing was able to locate enough piping to finish the project, but it would be at a higher price. The price increase would be \$34,675.20 and it would be an EPA eligible expense and we would still be within our contingency budget. The project could be completed by early Spring 2022. Alderman Hemmerle left the chamber before the vote. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve Change Order #1 for \$34,675.20; second by Alderman Powell.

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

Superintendent Henson reported that one of his recent hires, Chad Smith has good carpentry skills, and he would like to have Chad do some cosmetic work to City Hall to improve the overall look. He would do the work over the winter. One item to be repaired is the rear entrance to the Community Center, along with the gutters. There was no objection by the council.

Superintendent Henson also reported that they will work on tree trimming during the winter months, especially in the alleys. A short discussion followed regarding garbage trucks going through the alleys. No action was taken. Alderman Royer reported that the breakers along the square were blown out during the Chili Cook-Off last week, Superintendent Henson will investigate the issue.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that we received our gas refund check for \$7,881.90 and covers August 2020 to July 2021 and. It has been deposited. Mayor Berola asked about our payoff of the Illinois Finance Authority loan we received. Ponsler indicated that there will be an agenda item at the next meeting so the payoff process can begin. Alderman Garrett asked how much money was not collected from the residents that had not moved out before the payoff program began, Ponsler responded that less than \$500.00.

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Administration committee.

Alderman Karhliker reported that he met with Benton and Associates on October 27, 2021 to discuss work on West North Street using the Rebuild Illinois Funds. The work could include road work, water lines, and sidewalks. Ameren would not have an issue with moving power poles, but there might be an issue with the Frontier telephone poles. Karhliker reported that we will get our final payment in 2022. The paved road would be 22 feet wide.

Alderman Johnson reported that there will be a future meeting to discuss the lift station at the Western Acres subdivision. There was a request to have the city's water commission representative at the meeting.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Safety committee. There was a question about a Lincoln Militia motorcycle club on the square handing out alcohol and food for tips. They are also consuming alcohol on the sidewalk. There was a question on whether it was legal for them to hand out alcohol for tips. Attorney Moredock is researching the issue.

A question came up about how Springfield has outdoor drinking and parklets. It was thought some of the parklet permits were based on COVID restrictions. Attorney Moredock will research the issue further.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Housing Committee.

Alderman Hemmerle reported that we are in the next phase of the OSLAD grant for Union Park, we hope to hear something soon on an onsite visit to review the park site.

Clerk Warwick presented a proposal from NextSite for economic development. Attorney Moredock reviewed the proposal and had some questions for NextSite on how they apportion out fees for success bonuses. Clerk Warwick will connect Attorney Moredock with NextSite. There was a question on how often they report progress, Clerk Warwick will get the answer for the council.

Alderman Garrett brought an issue with building permits. At 343 Interurban there is a standalone garage structure in a residential area. Another issue is the building is not completed within the 6-month timeframe as stipulated on city building permits. Specifically, the soffit, fascia, and yard work have not been completed. Building permits would fall under John Edie, Superintendent Henson will have John Edie follow up on the issue. There was additional discussion regarding the value of structure compared to the adjacent structures. Alderman Garrett asked if the building permits can be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:38 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick

City Clerk of Auburn