

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 15, 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, and Office Manager Ponsler. Superintendent Henson was absent.

Mayor Berola reported that there was a temporary liquor permit submitted by Benderz for December 12, 2021, but it was incomplete. It was requested that it be placed on the December 6, 2021, agenda for further review and passage, if the information is completed.

Clerk Warwick presented the November 1, 2021 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. Alderman Karhliker requested an update to the language on his report for the Rebuild Illinois funds, he had met with Benton & Associates, the meeting minutes state he was going to meet with Benton & Associates. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the meeting minutes with the correction, second by Alderwoman Johnson.

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

Chief Campbell presented an award to Officer Troy Kissel. Officer Kissel performed CPR on a call, saving a life.

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from November 2, 2021, to November 115, 2021, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the October 2021 Cash Report for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve the October 2021 Cash Report, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented for informational purposes the six-month Budget Report.

Treasurer Williams presented for informational purposes the current interest rates; she will try to report these numbers every three months.

Treasurer Williams presented the September 2021 Video Gaming Report, the city's share was \$11,114.47 which was \$2,481.62 more than the September 2020 revenue.

Treasurer Williams presented the October Video Gaming Report, the city's share was \$11,328.03 which was \$2,232.80 more than the October 2020 revenue.

Attorney Moredock presented for First Reading, Ordinance 1507-21, an ordinance amending the liquor code. This is a rough draft and a starting point because of the numerous changes the council is attempting to make to modernize the code. It updates beer garden information and outdated language. There will be a revised version at the first council meeting in December, the information will be presented to the liquor establishment owners for input, it would be passed at the second meeting in December with an effective date of January 1, 2022.

Attorney Moredock presented for First Reading, Ordinance 1508-21, an ordinance amending the city code to prohibit large trucks in alleyways except for the alleys immediately adjacent to the City Square unless the trucks are specifically servicing the business on the City Square. A short discussion followed, and a change will be made to clarify waste haulers are prohibited vehicles.

Attorney Moredock reported that he could not find a specific ordinance for the City of Springfield regarding parklets, he believes it is an administration function. He has a call into the City of Springfield to find out more information. A parklet is a city-owned parking space that is rented from the city to allow businesses to serve food and beverages in front of their business. There was a question on whether we wanted to allow parklets in the City of Auburn and possible opposition. There was concern about a liquor-only establishment having a parklet. Some use of alcohol outside of an establishment can be done via a temporary liquor permit, following the rules laid out in the permit application.

Attorney Moredock spoke with NextSite regarding the agreement, if a business comes in during the contract period NextSite would still be paid.

Chief Campbell reiterated the great work by Officer Kissel. He also reported that the new electronic policies are going out to the officers for their review and completion.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that our software company has released their payroll module and she will be testing it over the next few weeks. She is working with Superintendent Henson and Chief Campbell to get their employee information entered and to have the employees log their time via the computer.

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Administration Committee.

Alderman Karhliker asked for an Executive session related to 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) Personnel Issues. He also reported that on December 2, 2021, at 10:00 AM there will be a meeting with Benton & Associates and Ameren regarding the utility poles on West North Street, the meeting will be at the corner of North 7<sup>th</sup> Street and West North Street. Mayor Berola interjected that he spoke with our representative to the Otter Lake Water Commission (OLWC) and our bulk water rates will be going up by \$0.15 per thousand in Spring 2022 with other increases in the following years. He will share more details when he receives the detailed letter from OLWC.

Alderman Johnson asked Office Manager Ponsler to give details on our payoff on the IFA Loan that was taken out because of the February 2021 price spike in natural gas. Ponsler indicated that she would need the meeting minutes showing the council's approval and payoff date so the final interest can be calculated. Alderman Johnson made a motion to pay off the \$750,000.00 IFA loan plus any owed interest at the earliest date, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Alderman Johnson noted there will be a future meeting regarding the Western Acres Lift Station. Alderman Royer asked to have added to that meeting a discussion about bringing water service to Springfield Plastics. Bringing water services to Springfield Plastics would require easements and annexation of property.

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

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

Alderman Hemmerle reported there was no update on the status of the OSLAD grant application from IDNR. The next step would be an onsite visit to Union Park.

Clerk Warwick presented the NextSite agreement, he noted that the City of Springfield is also working with NextSite. There was a concern about not getting updates from NextSite. It was noted in the contract that they will provide regular updates with an agreed-upon schedule. Another concern was about the acquisition of land by incoming companies. Since NextSite is bringing in corporate and franchise locations they would be more adept at acquiring land. The contract would be \$2,000.00 per year for three years with a \$4,500.00 success fee. The council asked if we could add language if we bring in a locally owned business, we will not pay the success fee. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve the NextSite agreement with the additional language about local businesses, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Alderman Marquis brought up for a vote allowing leaf or grass drop off for burning and or composting, if the items are bagged, they should be compostable or paper bags. The location would be at the Sewer Plant on Jodi Road and would be open weekdays from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. There is electricity at the location if we wanted to add cameras for monitoring later. A short discussion followed. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to open a location at the Sewer Plant weekdays from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM for grass and leaf drop off in paper bags for residential customers, no businesses, and Superintendent Henson would have authority to close the site if needed, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to enter executive session regarding 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) Personnel Issues at 8:12 PM, second by Alderman Royer. Taken by voice vote.

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

A motion to adjourn out of Executive Session was made by Alderman Karhliker at 8:45 PM, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

A motion to come back into the regular meeting was made by Alderman Garrett at 8:45 PM, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:46 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