

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 6, 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 reported that there was a temporary liquor permit submitted by Benderz for the Mistletoe Market on December 12, 2021, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. It will block off Madison Street from 4th Street to 5th Street and 4th Street from Madison Street to Jefferson Street. Alcoholic beverages will be in specially marked glasses. There was concern about open beverages on the street or they leave the area with an open alcoholic beverage. It was noted that we have not had issues in the past. A discussion followed about police presence. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to allow a temporary liquor permit to Benderz for an outside event with police presence to be paid by Benderz, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: Powell

ABSENT: None

Mayor Berola announced there will be a meeting regarding Ordinance 1509-21 regarding updating the liquor code. The liquor establish owners will be invited to the meeting, Chief Campbell and Attorney Moredock will be present on December 9, 2021, at 1:00 PM at City Hall.

Ben Royer requested an easement from his house at 511 North 5th Street to the lot (515 North 5th Street) he now owns. He would like to run CAT5 cable and electricity for cameras to monitor the property. The CAT5 and electricity would cross a city-owned alley. There was no issue from the City Council, Attorney Moredock will present an easement agreement at the next meeting on December 20, 2021.

Clerk Warwick presented the November 15, 2021 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderwoman Johnson.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Clerk Warwick presented the 2022 schedule of meetings for the City Council and Zoning Board for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis to approve the dates, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from November 16, 2021, to December 6, 2021, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

There was a question about when our payments will end to Frontier Communications for services, we have one final payment.

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of ordinance 1508-21 prohibiting large trucks, specifically waste haulers from using the alleyways. A short discussion followed regarding apartment complexes using a dumpster in the alleyway. Attorney Moredock will make corrections and bring the ordinance back at the next meeting on December 20, 2021.

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading of ordinance 1507-21 an ordinance amending the liquor code.

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading of ordinance 1509-21 an ordinance amending the liquor code to add another Class A license. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to table the ordinance indefinitely, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Attorney Moredock reported that NextSite accepted our amendments to the contract, so there will be no further action needed from the council. NextSite will provide quarterly reports to the mayor.

Chief Campbell reported that Officer Yanor submitted his resignation from the police department, he was a part-time officer, and he accepted a full-time position with the City of Bloomington police department. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to accept the resignation effective December 6, 2021, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Chief Campbell discussed updating the tasers used by officers and the need to order additional cartridges.

Alderman Johnson asked about a leaf burning incident on the previous weekend, Chief Campbell reported that a verbal warning was issued. Chief Campbell stated that with the options afforded to citizens they will no longer be issuing verbal warnings. He also noted that a resident dumped leaves at the burn site at the sewer plant after hours. That resident was issued a ticket and will be fined by the city.

Superintendent Henson reported that the burn site has been going well and he intends to leave it open until the end of the year.

Superintendent Henson is working with Attorney Moredock on a right of way permit fee because of the heavy activity in the use of the right of way. It was noted that some contractors leave dirt and debris after they work in the right of way.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that our IMRF rate will go from 16.25% in 2021 to 14.19% in 2022. There was also additional ARPA funding that was received because other municipalities did not apply for the funding, Auburn received an additional \$324.63 in funding. There was a question about a streetlight out of service, Office Manager Ponsler stated that she has called Ameren about the streetlights but will call again. There was a comment that Ameren will sometimes take up to 4 – 6 weeks to repair/replace the streetlights.

Mayor Berola inquired about the payroll software; Office Manager Ponsler stated that the plan is to utilize the payroll software by all departments starting in January 2022.

Applications for part-time office help will be open until tomorrow, December 7, 2021.

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Administration Committee.

Alderman Karhliker reported he met with Superintendent Henson, representatives from Benton & Associates, and Rick Lavin from Ameren regarding the West North Street project and the need to move utility poles. Ameren indicated that the city should get a hold of Frontier to have them co-locate their communications lines to the Ameren poles. There would be no cost to the city. Alderman Karhliker would also like to move and replace the waterline; the approximate cost would be \$590,000.00 and it would make sense to move the waterline while working on the road. There was concern about the movement of the road encroaching on the front property of several homes. A discussion followed about specific locations and project details; more details will be provided closer to the project start date. Benton & Associates will look for grants to help offset the costs for the waterline project.

Alderman Johnson reported on the Phase 1 IEPA Loan (L175701) final cost which is \$2,288,325.71 and will be paid over 20 years. The first installment is due February 8, 2022, for \$37,970.44. In FY2021 which ended April of 2021, we have collected in fees \$77,704.74 to help pay the IEPA loan. For FY2022 year to date, we have collected \$148,823.95 to help pay the IEPA loan. Phase 1 is the more expensive phase of the water main project. The fee on the utility bills will cover the loan payments for both phases. Once the fund is built up, extra payment can be made, and we would prefer to pay the loan off early.

Alderman Royer indicated that Springfield Plastics is still interested in running a water line out to the business at 7300 IL-104. A discussion followed and more details will be covered at the next Public Works committee meeting.

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

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

Alderman Hemmerle reported the person reviewing our OSLAD grant did not have any questions or concerns with our grant so far. There are 152 applications submitted totaling \$48 million, IDNR only has \$28 million to distribute. The presentations to IDNR would be after the first of the year (January 1, 2022) with the grant awards to be distributed in March or April 2022.

Alderman Hemmerle reported that baseball fieldwork has been completed.

Clerk Warwick had no report for the Economic Development Committee.

Alderman Royer would like to use part of the gaming funds to purchase better Christmas decorations for the city so we can have a nice display. Alderman Garrett added that if we had music in the city square it would be a nice addition as well. A short discussion followed. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to use 5% of the annual city gaming revenue towards Christmas decorations, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

There was a discussion about extending the hours of the leaf drop off-site. Alderman Marquis volunteered to work a morning shift on Sunday, December 12, 2021, and Alderman Garrett volunteered to work a morning shift on Saturday 11, 2021.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:48 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