

City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 4, 2022

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 Mayor Berola, Clerk Warwick, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Powell, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Garrett (arrived at 7:13 PM), Alderman Royer, Alderman Hemmerle (arrived at 7:06 PM), Alderwoman Sheppard, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Johnson, Superintendent Henson, Office Manager Ponsler, Chief Campbell, and Attorney Moredock.

Mayor Berola introduced the new building inspector Ron Appelt to the council.

Steve Hupp was scheduled to appear at the public comments section of the meeting. Mr. Hupp lives at 408 West North Street, Office Manager Ponsler stated that Steve was interested in buying the property next to his and wants to park his semi-tractor trailer on the property. He would keep the semi running overnight to keep items cold or to keep the engine warm during cold weather. The council had reservations about a semi-tractor trailer running overnight, the noise would be a nuisance to the residents and West North Street would not be able to handle the weight of a semi-tractor trailer. Kristy will inform Mr. Hupp.

Clerk Warwick reminded the council that their Statement of Economic Interest was due to the County by May 1, 2022. He stated that there was an article from the Illinois Municipal League that addresses the changes because of major changes to the form.

Clerk Warwick presented the March 21, 2022 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Clerk Warwick announced that due to a conflict with his work he will be stepping down from the city council effective the end of April. Warwick stated it was a pleasure serving the citizens of Auburn since 2005.

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from March 22, 2022, to April 4, 2022, for the council's review and approval. Alderman Powell made a motion to approve the bills list, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented Budget Report through March 31, 2022, for the council's review.

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Resolution 93-22 authorizing the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the City of Auburn to prepare the Sangamon County multi-jurisdictional natural hazards mitigation plan to be considered by the Auburn city council. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve Resolution 93-22, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Garrett

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Ordinance 1512-22 an ordinance approving new building permit fees. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve Ordinance 1512-22, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Garrett

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Resolution 94-22 a resolution approving an RFP for auditing services for the city. The RFP will be open for 30 days, after the RFP is closed the council can approve Resolution 94-22 with the winning RFP. Action will be taken in May 2022

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Ordinance 1513-22 an ordinance revising the city's personnel code pertaining to military leave. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve Ordinance 1513-22, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Garrett

Attorney Moredock asked for a closed session regarding pending litigation.

Chief Campbell reported that the new computers have been installed in the squad cars along with the antennas. Chief Campbell indicated that he needs a meeting soon regarding the police department.

Superintendent Henson reported that the natural gas mock disaster went off great and was well attended. Henson noted that the day after the mock disaster training there was a house explosion in Roodhouse due to natural gas. Henson will need a utility meeting soon. Henson reported that Brent Hupp is back to work. Henson would like to hire a part-time mower to assist with mowing and other duties. Alderman Royer asked about new hire employees coming to the council meeting so the council can meet the new employees. Royer also asked about sending all employees to Springfield Clinic's MOHA for screening to make sure they have the functional strength and the ability to complete work for the city. Henson was not opposed to the idea. Alderman Royer also asked about the construction cones on Route 104, they are still up after the work is completed each day, Karhliker noted that the parking lanes are not set up for constant traffic. Several other council members expressed concerns.

Officer Manager Ponsler reported that she and the other department heads were on a call with Civics Plus to learn about the alert functions of the CivicReady system. Ponsler will be sending over the most current list of residents that have signed up for notifications to be integrated into CivicReady. CivicReady will help with a marketing push to get more residents signed up for the system. There are many options for the system. Alderman Garrett extolled the benefits of CivicReady and its abilities. The CivicReady system will allow the city to go to smaller utility bill postcards.

Office Manager Ponsler reminded the council that the Electronics Recycling Day will be Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Alderman Johnson announced an Administration Committee meeting on April 12, 2022, and Administration and Public Utilities Committee meeting on April 19, 2022, both starting at 6:30 PM at City Hall. Alderwoman Sheppard announced a Health & Safety Committee meeting on April 12, 2022, at 6:00 PM at City Hall.

Alderwoman Sheppard asked if the new payroll system is being used. It is not being used yet because the payroll software team is working on updates, we are not paying for the software at this time.

Alderman Karhliker has received the preliminary costs for the West North Street project. We have received five of the six payments so far, when all payments are received the city will have approximately \$300,000.00 for the project. The Rebuild Illinois funds are only for road work, if we want to do water main replacement, the city will need to cover the funds. If the bid comes in less for the project, we can use the funds on other roads. Once the road is open for work, it makes sense to do the water main work to improve water pressure. A discussion followed about other possible locations and other parts of the project. Bids have not gone out for the West North Street project.

Alderman Johnson indicated that the IEPA reimbursement payment number seven is due. This will be paid from the EPA loan. Johnson made a motion to pay \$197,822.03 for IEPA reimbursement number seven, second by Garrett.

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

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health and Safety committee. Sheppard wanted to give kudos to Chief Campbell for being named a spokesman for the southern district of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health and Housing committee.

Alderman Hemmerle had no report for the Parks committee.

Clerk Warwick reported that we have received data from NextSite for the Economic Development Committee, he will load the data to MS Teams.

Alderman Royer reported on the pricing for a sound system for the park on the city square. Royer met with Sundown One, their quote originally had an enclosure. Royer stated that they can get a box/enclosure from Royell for \$2,300.00. The total cost for the project would not exceed \$15,000.00 for the sound system. The funds would come out of the Buildings and Grounds budget. Royer made a motion to approve the bid from Sundown One and other equipment at a price not to exceed \$15,000.00 for a sound system in the city square park, second by Garrett.

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

Alderman Garrett will have more information at the next meeting regarding sidewalks.

Alderman Garrett reported that 17% of the chicken population has died due to the avian flu, he would like the council to reconsider raising the number of chickens that homeowners can have under the ordinance. Ponsler reported that there are less than five permits for chickens.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard at 7:52 PM to go into executive session regarding pending litigation, second by Alderman Royer. Taken by voice vote.

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

A motion to come back into regular session from the executive session was made by Alderman Royer at 8:12 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 8:13 PM by Alderwoman Sheppard, second by Alderman Marquis. Taken by voice vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick
City Clerk of Auburn