

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 19, 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.

Clerk Sponsler took roll. Present were Mayor Berola, Clerk Sponsler, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Royer, Alderman Sheppard, and Alderman Hemmerle

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola read a statement of gratitude regarding the Make-A-Wish parade on Saturday, December 17, 2022 in honor of June Peden-Stade. The statement can be found at the end of the minutes. Mayor Berola also established a proclamation declaring December 17 as June Peden-Stade Day in Auburn, IL.

Mayor Berola appointed Alderman Sheppard and Alderman Marquis to the Building Committee and appointed Alderman Garrett as Chairman. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve these appointments, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Mayor Berola appointed Alderman Sheppard to the Health and Safety Committee and appointed Alderman Marquis as the head of the Health and Safety Committee. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve these appointments, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Mayor Berola appointed Alderman Sheppard to the Parks Committee. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve this appointment, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

The Roasted Bean, LLC dba Lucky Loot has requested a liquor license for their location at 480 E. Jackson. Mayor Berola mentioned that the way it is structured currently, we would need to amend the ordinance that would add one more liquor license. This would be the first reading and the attorneys would amend the ordinance and the second reading would be at the next meeting. There is a set number of liquor licenses in the city and the ordinance would have to be amended to make any changes to the number of liquor licenses.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Spensler presented the December 5, 2022 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Karhliker mentioned that there was an omission of his attendance at the meeting with Alderman Garrett and the Kings. Alderman Garrett made a motion to pass the December 5, 2022 amended meeting minutes, second by Alderman Karhliker

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from December 5- December 16, 2022 for review and approval. There were questions about a few Visa charges. One was for gas per Dave and the second was for training and lunch for a training in Olney for the city guys. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for December 19, 2022 meeting for review.

Treasurer Williams also presented the video gaming revenue. In regard to video gaming revenue, there was discussion about where the money was being allocated. Ten percent went to the holiday lights, and 25% goes to the Parks.

**Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer was present at the meeting in place of Attorney Hedinger.

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of the Annual Tax Levy Ordinance 1524-22 "An Ordinance Levying Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn, Illinois for the year ending December 31, 22 (payable in 2023)". The only item that is being levied is a Public Park tax in the sum of \$46,000 that is levied and assessed on all properties in the city. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve Ordinance 1524-22, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

The attorneys are drafting the pre-annexation agreement for Springfield Plastics, and this should be ready soon for the mayor's review and approval.

The Lincoln Militia TRO and complaint are being drafted. There have been no violations since October. The attorneys wanted to know what the city wanted them to do in terms of moving forward. They have been told they need to obtain a liquor license and they have not, nor come to any meetings to discuss. They will move forward with the stop.

Regarding the Hergenrother complaint, there have not been any complaints lately. There was discussion about when the property was declared a nuisance. The attorneys have not been able to find the documentation that it was declared a nuisance. The property owners were asked to come to a meeting to

discuss the property, but it was thought it was not officially declared a nuisance. The council will need to start the process over if it needs to be declared a nuisance.

**Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell would like to promote Office Troy Kissel to Sargent effective January 2, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Sheppard, second by Alderman Powell.

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

It was announced that Officer Kissel and his wife recently welcomed their new baby girl!

Chief Campbell announced the resignation of Officer Rio Flesch effective December 13, 2022. Alderman Garrett made the motion to approve Officer Flesch's resignation, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Chief Campbell also announced Officer Mike Lavin's resignation effective December 23, 2022. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Chief Campbell wants to hire Officer Jared Leake full time effective immediately. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Chief Campbell asked for approval to spend money to get the new white Dodge Ram squad truck outfitted. It will cost about \$12,000 to upfit the truck. He has \$10,000 in the budget and \$6,000 left over from the purchase. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve \$12,500 to upfit the new squad truck. Second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson said that he had been approached by multiple citizens wondering if the fiber optic companies could be using the rear easements instead of the front yards. There was discussion about who

has say to use the rear easement. The property owners that have already had their front yards torn up will end up being upset if other homeowners get to have the back yards torn up instead. Mayor Berola asked Attorney Jarmer to do some research on what we can do to move forward with the damage that has already been done to properties.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Officer Manager Rathgeber updated the council that as of 3:15 on December 8, 2022 the city is the owner of two large lots, a one car garage, and a bank building. The electricity has been switched over and insurance is in the works.

The park property is still getting views on Zillow, and he thinks we may have an offer soon.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration:*

No Report

*Public Works:*

No Report

*Public Utilities:*

Alderman Johnson asked Superintendent Henson about the Phase 2 closeout. Henson said that we are still waiting on the waterproof switch.

*Health & Safety:*

The Oller property has already been declared a nuisance. Fines have started again and need to continue. The landlord has been notified that utilities could be shut off, which can result in fees for being turned back on. It was discussed that if the landlord is held responsible maybe the landlord can have an impact on the tenants in terms of keeping the property clean. Mayor Berola spoke to the property owner, and she said that she has offered the tenant a dumpster to help with clean up and was not taken up on the offer. Letters need to be sent to both the property owner and the tenants about the fines that will be acquired.

*Health & Housing:*

Alderman Royer wants to meet with Chief Campbell and get a plan together to address problem properties.

*Parks:*

Alderman Hemmerle looked up the correct percentages for video gaming revenue and stated that holiday lights get 10% and parks get 25%.

Alderman Hemmerle mentioned that we can hopefully start to get plans in place and get moving on the park renovation after the first of the year. Alderman Royer said that he spoke with Greg the previous week and he said that they are in the process of surveying the property to make sure their initial plans were correct.

*Economic Development:*

Alderman Garrett said that Jamie from Bentons is working with the Steve Baker about the development of the water main with Springfield Plastics.

Alderman Garrett asked Alderman Marquis and Alderman Sheppard for their availability of the Building Committee members to begin having meetings.

I just want to start this statement out by saying that it may get a little bit long winded but I hope everyone will stay with me until the end. To say that Saturday's parade was a huge success, would be a vast understatement. It has been estimated that over 850 entries participated in the parade and it lasted over 2 hours. June's family has expressed their gratitude and I have no doubt they will fondly remember December 17, 2022 for many many years yet to come.

When we got the call from Make-A-Wish asking us to grant June's wish, I had no idea how the City was going to accomplish a parade in such a short period of time. I had 5 days to put a parade together but there was absolutely no way we were going to let June down or tell her we couldn't do it. Instead, we got to work right away and started making phone calls with the goal of giving her the best parade we could muster as quickly as we could get it put together.

I know from my military service that after every great battle, the general gets the credit for the victory. No general ever fought a major battle by himself and the soldiers that were in the trenches never get any recognition. I am not going to let that happen. Saturday's victory was a group effort so I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to those who made it happen. I would like to thank Alderman Powell and Alderman Garrett who assisted in the planning and execution of the parade. I would like to thank all three departments of the city. Office Manager Wayde Rathgeber and his wife Nancy who assisted in the park coordinating the walking units and recruiting participants, Tami Travous and Lori Wilson who assisted with the planning and Tami who served as my social media coordinator getting important information out to the public so things would run smoothly. Superintendent TJ Henson and all the city streets crew who put up barricades, constructed a float out of a dump truck, and helped with keeping things organized Saturday. Chief Dave Campbell for assisting with getting the word out to some of the agencies who participated in the parade and to his officers for leading the parade and then doubling back to do traffic control. Sangamon County Sheriff Jack Campbell for sending his deputies without hesitation to be in the parade. Chatham Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Joe Bolletta (an Auburn native) for going above and beyond in helping getting the word out to the fire department community that we needed them to respond to this great cause and for making the banner that memorialized they participated and then presenting it to June's family. Chatham Police Department Sergeant Jake Bouldin who assisted in getting the word out to law enforcement participants. My friends from the Illinois Attorney General Police, Investigator Ryan Pearce, Investigator Jared McDermet, Investigator Tom Dart and Bryanna Stevens who assisted with traffic control and assisting the family at their house the day of the parade. My wife Jennifer and my son Tyler who assisted in coordinating the National Guard's participation and helping with collecting donations and guiding people where to go the day of the parade. Ron and Terry Appelt who helped with getting donations, getting the word out to the community and recruiting the car clubs. Retired Macoupin County Deputy Paul Bouldin and his wife Paula for assisting Saturday morning with the parade lineup and stepoff. Dave Moose and Eastland Retirement Community whom without their assistance I would have

had no where to put everyone. Pastor David VanBebber and the Meadowbrook Baptist Church for loaning me their parking lot also.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the actual parade. All the Fire Departments, Police Departments and EMS agencies from all of Central Illinois. The Illinois State Police. All of the businesses who sent their vehicles to be in the parade. Auburn, Chatham, Williamsville, New Berlin, and North Mac High Schools marching bands. All of the High School and Junior High sports teams and cheerleaders. All the area pageant and festival queens. The Boy Scouts. The Illinois National Guard. The American Red Cross who passed out hot chocolate and coffee until they entered the parade. The numerous car clubs. All the people who walked in the parade. All the people who constructed floats and decorated their cars. Everyone who waited patiently for hours for the opportunity to participate in the parade. Everyone who donated money to the family. I could go on and on and I am sure I am missing someone and if I have omitted you I am sorry but please know that you have my never ending gratitude.

Most of all, I want to thank Make-a-wish and the little angel whom God has loaned us, June Peden-Stade. Junie could have wished for anything in the world and she selflessly wished for a parade. The gift she gave our community and Central Illinois is far greater than what we tried to do for her. For at least one day, she brought an entire State together. It didn't matter what your social or economic status is, it didn't matter what your religious or political beliefs are, and it didn't matter what else you had going on in your life. All of Central Illinois dropped what they were doing, forgot their differences and came together in the true spirit of Christmas for a cause greater than themselves. God bless you Junie!

Tom Berola

Mayor

City of Auburn, Illinois