

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 5, 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, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Royer, Alderman Sheppard.

Also present were Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell, and Attorney Andrew Jarmer.

Absent were Alderman Hemmerle and Treasurer Williams.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola asked for the council to appoint Alderman Ben Royer as the Health and Housing Committee Chairman. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Mayor Berola wanted to start a new committee due to the many changes that would be taking place with buildings in the future including a new building and a remodel of the current City Hall. This committee would be named the Building Committee. A motion was made by Alderman Powell, second by Alderman Marquis.

Clerk Sponsler created a new schedule for the 2023 Council Meetings and shared it with the council.

An executive session was needed to discuss personnel.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the November 21, 2022 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Garrett made a motion to pass the November 21, 2022 meeting minutes, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

In Treasurer Williams' absence, Office Manager Rathgeber presented the bills list from November 21 - December 2, 2022 for review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Office Manager presented the November 2022 cash report for review and approval.

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

NAYES: None  
PRESENT: None  
ABSENT: Hemmerle

### **Attorney's Report**

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the first 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.

Office Manager Rathgeber sent Attorney Jarmer and Attorney Hedinger three Republic Service agreements in which the attorneys reviewed and provided comments on.

Mayor Berola and Alderman Garrett called Attorney Jarmer about how much land should be within a tract for an annexation. There isn't a clear-cut answer, the statute doesn't say a specific amount. There is case law that suggests that the longer the tract, the less you will find a strip annexation. Thirty feet seems to be the area that courts will find to still be contiguous.

Up to date on FOIA requests.

The Hergenrother and Lincoln Militia complaints have been drafted, and will be filed once Attorney Hedinger returns from vacation.

### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

There was legislation passed that changed the SAFE-T Act so Chief Campbell is going through about 600 pages to make updates.

Rio Flesch started Monday, Dec. 5 and McDermand will graduate Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Campbell received two packets on the buildings and will go through them once the Building and Grounds Committee has been established.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Christmas lights are up and working. There are timers on them, so if there are any calls about them, let TJ know.

North street project pipes and fittings came in, still short about 700 ft of pipe, but once a permit is received and weather permitting, they should be able to start first of the year.

Mayor Berola asked Superintendent Henson if the apprentices were still going to come dredge the pond and Superintendent Henson said yes, they absolutely want to be a part of that. Henson assumes it will be after the first of the year.

Alderman Garrett asked Superintendent Henson if there was a possibility to let the community know about the future projects like the North Street Project before it begins. Superintendent Henson said that we could do that.

*Office Manager*

Mayor Berola and Office Manager Rathgeber will be closing on the bank property on Thursday. A wire transfer is necessary for anything over \$50,000. This will go to the closing company.

They have gotten quotes from IlliniTek and Matrix Systems and will be presented at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

No offers yet on the Red Bud Park property. Mayor Berola said a letter needs to be mailed to Tony Dobson letting him know the property is going to be sold.

### **Committee Reports**

*Administration:*  
No Report

*Public Works:*  
No Report

*Public Utilities:*  
No Report

*Health & Safety:*  
No Report

*Health & Housing:*  
No Report

*Parks:*  
No Report

#### *Economic Development:*

A decision was made with Springfield Plastics. A tentative agreement was made. Steve Baker would pay for the entire cost up front and will sign an annexation agreement with the city. The city would receive the sales tax monies from Springfield Plastics, we would retain 50K per year and anything over the 50K would be paid back to Springfield Plastics. Once the project is complete, the city would take over the 10-inch water main to the meter and Mr. Baker would retain his water storage tank.

Alderman Garrett and Alderman Karhliker had a meeting with Brad and Greg King. They were on board with the annexation, and they just want a water tap. \*Amended\*

### **Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to exit regular session and move to executive session at 7:46 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion was made to exit executive session at 8:15 pm by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

ABSENT: Hemmerle

A motion was made to come back to regular session from executive session at 8:16 pm by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:16 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Hemmerle