

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 1, 2023
First Meeting**

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 Karhliker, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Powell, and Alderman Hemmerle.

Alderman Royer arrived late.

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

Mayor's Comments:

Visitor's Comments:

Connie Michelich from South County Publications was in attendance to discuss the volume of the speakers on the square and the disturbances that it causes their office staff throughout the day. They are unable to concentrate in their office when the music is playing loudly. Alderman Marquis asked if the volume could be turned down during the daytime hours or if the specific speaker that points towards their office could be turned down. There was a discussion about the type of music being played, and how to give control to someone else to adjust the volume at certain times. Mayor Berola said he would get it taken care of.

Robert Pierce was in attendance to address the letter he received about debris on his back deck and wanted to let the council know it had been taken care of.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the April 17, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the April 17, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List for April 17, 2023 to April 28, 2023 for review and approval. A motion was made to approve the Bills List for April 17, 2023 through April 28, 2023 by Alderman Garret, second by Alderman Marquis

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

Treasurer Williams presented the April 2023 Cash Report for review and approval. A motion to approve the April 2023 Cash Report was made by Alderman Karhliker, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report as of April 28, 2023 for review only.

Attorney's Report

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell wanted to check with Alderman Johnson regarding the body cameras and if it would be on this budget or next. Alderman Johnson confirmed it would be on this budget. The total cost would be \$23,612.60 for a 5-year deal. This deal also has a \$96/month maintenance fee. They will bring a new camera the next day if one breaks. This includes 8 cameras with docking stations, cloud and home storage as well.

A motion was made by Alderman Marquis to approve the purchase of the body cameras, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Chief Campbell said they would be hiring for an Administrative Assistant. Alderman Johnson suggested that we first advertise the job, then set an hourly rate based on experience.

A motion was made by Alderman Marquis to post the Administrative Assistant for the police department, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson provided the council with an update. The North Street project is going strong, and they are making progress. Gas jobs are in the works, and they have started mowing. The fiber installations have slowed down a bit at this point.

The Bobcat was sold to the school district for \$16,000.

Superintendent Henson asked the council to approve the purchase of the CAT Skid Steer for \$92,000 minus the \$16,000 received for the Bobcat for a total purchase price of \$76,000. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to purchase the CAT Skid Steer, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Superintendent Henson told the council that Ameri-Call came down about \$8000 from the original price on the garage cameras for a total price of \$17,440.35. This includes 4 cameras, one with rotating ability the server and system. We can add cameras and storage later if needed. There is a \$132 per month

maintenance fee for 5 years. A motion was made by Alderman Sheppard to purchase the garage security system from Ameri-Call, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber provided an update on the Redbud Park Property. They extended the contract until May 29 and the banker at Bank of Springfield said she will get with Wayde this week to look at a closing date.

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson:

There was an Admin Committee Meeting on April 26 to discuss the FY24 budget. Alderman Johnson summarized FY23: Three of the four main revenue accounts ended with a surplus, one has been in a deficit for a few years now, the water department. General Revenue had a \$367,000 surplus, sewer had a \$35,000 surplus, gas had a \$196,000 surplus, and water was \$76,000 in the red. Alderman Johnson wants to have a Public Utilities Committee meeting to discuss a water rate increase. There isn't any room to cut anything from the budget, the only increase in the recent past was from Otter Lake and nothing from the city lately. We were waiting to see what the new meters would do for us. The golf cart and the skid steer were purchased with surplus monies.

FY24 summary: Based on FY23 revenues projected and received, projected revenues- General revenue down 3.7%, water down 3.3%, sewer down 7.8%, and gas 15% increase. Wayde is looking at the draft budget and will hopefully have the draft at the next council meeting. Alderman Garrett asked about the sales tax revenue from Springfield Plastics and was told the city would retain \$50,000 of the sales tax revenue and the remaining monies would be rebated to Springfield Plastics.

Public Works-Karhliker:

No Report

Public Utilities-Johnson:

Alderman Johnson asked about the Infrastructure Improvement Phase II Closeout status and asked if we had the paperwork. Mayor Berola signed the paperwork, but the check has not been cut yet. No action is needed at this time.

A Public Utilities Committee Meeting was set for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Health & Safety-Marquis:

No Report

Health & Housing-Royer:

Alderman Royer has been working with Lori to get a spreadsheet going about properties needing attention.

Update on 5th Street Property: Alderman Garrett took pictures of the property this evening and sent them to Chief Campbell. Chief says the condition is still not sufficient. Alderman Garrett asked if anyone has been checking in with Ms. Oller and letting her know what needs to be done still. Chief Campbell said yes, he has been checking in with her. Another letter was sent on Friday outlining the possible consequences of not getting the property cleaned up.

Letters were sent out and property owners have been working on them. A few properties still need to be checked again.

Parks-Hemmerle:
No Report

Economic Development-Garrett:
Springfield Plastics reached out and wanted to know if we would be interested in partnering with them with a “hometown heroes” banner project like Chatham has on their square. This would include armed services members from Auburn

Building Committee-Garrett:
Alderman Garrett is meeting with Senator Tammy Duckworth’s downstate campaign manager on May 9th at 10 am to discuss the \$3.5 million grant we applied for.

Alderman Garrett met with Senator McClure to discuss the procurement process for funds. Chief Campbell did a great job advocating for the use of the funds for the police department. Senator McClure said the City of Auburn has some money sitting for us, just waiting for the paperwork. Alderman Garrett is hopeful we will get state and federal money for the new building.

Other Business:

Alderman Garrett has been asked about a number of individual trees that need to be taken down. There is one on 111 S. Springfield Street where large branches have broken off and damaged fences, etc. There is a concern about another tree where Ameren cut away at the tree to expose the power lines, but now it is leaning heavily on the side where the house is located and they worry about it falling on their house. Alderman Marquis said we should have some criteria to follow when it comes to cutting down trees. We will not take out trees that are live unless they are buckling/damaging the sidewalks. Alderman Garrett will get bids for the tree at 111 S. Springfield Street.

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn to executive session pursuant 5 ilcs 120 c1 to discuss employment compensation at 8:04 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Motion to adjourn out of executive session was made by Alderman Johnson at 8:23 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion to come back in regular meeting from executive session was made by Alderman Johnson at 8:24 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

Pay increases were discussed and the following raises were approved.

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to give Chief Campbell an 8% raise, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to give Superintendent Henson an 8% raise, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to give Office Manager Rathgeber a 5% raise, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to give Office Staff Member Tami Travous a \$2/hour raise, second by Alderman Royer.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to give Office Staff Member Lori Wilson a \$1/hour raise, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Mayor Berola wanted to recognize Alderman Powell for his number of years to the City of Auburn as mayor, alderman, fire chief, and EMS. His dedication to this city is unequal to anyone he knows. He will be missed. Mayor Berola presented Alderman with a plaque for his service as an alderman.

A motion to adjourn at 8:31 pm was made by Alderman Powell, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: None

