

City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 2, 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, Alderman Royer, Alderman Hemmerle, Alderwoman Sheppard, Alderman Karhliker, and Alderman Johnson. Also present were Superintendent Henson, Office Manager Ponsler, Chief Campbell, and Attorney Moredock.

Mayor Berola asked the council to accept the resignation letter from Clerk Warwick with an effective date of April 29, 2022. Motion made by Alderman Johnson to approve the resignation of Clerk Warwick, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Mayor Berola read aloud a Provider Appreciation Proclamation dedicating May 6, 2022, to those who work in and provide services to children and thanked them for their service especially during these times of the pandemic.

Deputy Clerk Ponsler presented the April 18, 2022, meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the minutes, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from April 19, 2022, to May 2, 2022, for the council's review and approval. Alderman Johnson informed the council that as of the end of the fiscal year an almost 400,000 surplus was available in the general fund, sewer 80,000 surplus, and gas around a 121,000 surplus. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to approve the bills list, second by Alderwoman Johnson.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the March 2022 cash report for the council's review and approval. Motion by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the March 2022 cash, report, second by Royer.

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

Treasurer Williams presented a budget report as of 04/30/22 for the council's review but not further action was needed.

Attorney Moredock requested an Executive Session regarding pending litigation.

Attorney Moredock provided further information on the food truck ordinance that was discussed at the April 18, 2022, meeting. The previous food truck ordinance was discussed in May 2018 but was never passed. At a minimum it was requested by Mayor Berola to ensure they are licensed and insured and those selling items have proper background checks to ensure safety of residents as well. Attorney Moredock was directed to further revise the food truck ordinance and bring forth the new copy at the next council meeting on May 16, 2022.

Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, and Office Manager Ponsler all presented surplus items that they would like to see placed up for auction. Items will be sent to Attorney Moredock to draft an ordinance for the council declaring those items as surplus.

Office Manager Ponsler provided an update on the new alert system. All department heads will be participating in a meeting on May 4th to go over next steps, finalize list of users to move over into the new system, as well as discuss ways to market the system to all users. Information will be posted onto the city website as well as Facebook page. A marketing postcard will be printed to provide to businesses and the public, and the city council chambers will be open extended hours one night the week of May 9th and May 16th to assist residents that may need assistance signing onto the new system.

AAC tables and chairs and council chairs is still in progress and final costs and next steps will be presented at the May 16th council meeting.

Alderman Johnson had a committee meeting on May 2nd, prior to the council meeting, and just an executive session was held to discuss personnel. An executive session will be needed at the end of the council meeting for further discussion on personnel.

Alderman Johnson presented the two bids that were submitted for audit services for the city. All bids were opened up on April 29, 2022. Two firms submitted bids including Eck, Shafer, and Punke with a bid of \$23,500.00 and Sikich with a bid of \$29,900. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Eck, Shafer, and Punke in the amount of \$23,500.00, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Alderman Johnson stated the proposed FY23 budget was in the Teams folder and asked the council members to review the budget for potential approval at the May 16, 2022, council meeting. It will be added for discussion on the next agenda.

Alderman Karhliker reminded the city council there would be a Public Works Committee Meeting on May 16, 2022, at 6:30 pm with Benton and Associates to discuss the North Street project.

Alderman Johnson presented meeting minutes from the April 19, 2022, Public Utilities Committee Meeting.

1.) Facilities Plan Update – Phase 2

- a. Jamie from Benton's provided information regarding the Phase II project timeline. The original contract with Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating was due to expire on April 1, 2022. With delays with pipe supply and purchasing, Petersburg Plumbing is now past their contract date. It was recommended by Benton's that the city extend the contract date to end July 1, 2022. Motion by Alderman Johnson to extend the contract date for Petersburg Plumbing and Excavating for Phase II to July 1, 2022, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

2.) Western Acres Lift Station

- a. A temporary fix on the western acres lift station to repair one of the two pumps is not possible and would overall cost the city \$76,000.00. Lift station is currently gravity flow which means that the solids within the sump need to be manually removed. Remainder of the ARPA funds will be received within the next few months to provide funding for the new lift station construction. The city will work with Benton and Associates on a service agreement to start putting together plans and specifications for the project. The lift station will be constructed in the current city right of way (Option B).

3.) Wastewater Treatment Plant – Update on IEPA Proposed Phosphorus Limit

- a. Benton and Associates provided an update on the new IEPA phosphorus limits on our sanitary effluent discharge. A letter was sent on behalf of the City by Benton and Associates challenging the new phosphorus limit requirements. To date, no response has been received from IEPA.

4.) North Street Opinion of Probable Costs and Options

- a. The committee discussed the construction estimates for North Street. The appropriate course of action would be to replace the water main which mostly runs under North Street prior to improving North Street. Cost estimate to replace water main if paying prevailing wage is \$685,000.00. Cost estimate if the City Public Works employees do the

work is \$371,500.00. Benton and Associates will generate an engineering services proposal for plans and specifications and will present to the City Council for approval.

5.) Water Rates

- a. An ordinance currently exists that allows the City of Auburn to pass along any increases in the wholesale price of water from Otter Lake Water Commission to the water customer. Ordinance 1417-16 approved June 20, 2016, allows for this to occur without additional approval from the council. AS of March 1, 2022, the water rate will increase \$0.25/gallon.

Phase II IEPA Reimbursement #8 – Alderman Johnson presented IEPA Reimbursement Request #8 in the amount of \$123,329.76. The breakdown on that is \$14,408.55 to Benton and Associates and \$108,921.20 to be paid to Petersburg Plumbing. Pay request is one more due to rounding. Motion made by Alderman Johnson to approve IEPA Reimbursement Request #8 in the amount of \$123,329.76, second by Alderman Powell

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

Alderman Sheppard had no report for Health and Safety.

Alderman Sheppard stated that the city office had received a phone call from a local landscaping business inquiring about potentially dumping grass and yard waste from local jobs at the sewer plant. The council agreed that they were not in favor of any business dumping at the sewer plant that has been established for local residents. The business will be contacted.

Alderman Hemmerle scheduled a Parks Committee meeting for May 11, 2022, at 6:00 pm.

Alderman Royer updated the council on the sound system and stated it was almost completed on the square. The enclosure has been placed and Sundown One is almost complete with their work as well.

Mayor Berola informed the council that with the resignation of former Clerk Warwick as the Chairman of Economic Development, he would like to appoint Alderman Garrett as a replacement to that position. Alderwoman Sheppard made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation to appoint Alderman Garrett as the new Chairman for Economic Development, second Alderman Johnson.

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

Other Business: Alderman Garrett provided details on an item that was recently presented to him regarding a property located at 530 S. Kennedy. Driveway is just off South Kennedy. There is believed to be a utility easement in place as there is a water line that runs through the property but is capped.

Questions arose as to whether it was deeded to a previous property owner (Nadalini). By looking at the GIS map it is still a platted road owned by the city. Attorney Moredock stated the city could abandon the roadway, but Alderman Karhliker stated there are utilities there (water and gas).

Alderman Karhliker believed it was recorded in minutes somewhere that states Mr. Nadalini was going to maintain the road. It was believed the current garage that is on the roadway was placed in the 1980s.

Attorney Moredock recommended abandoning the roadway while maintaining the easement. This would warrant the property owners to agree on the property line and both would have to split the area.

Alderman Karhliker will look for the meeting minutes on approval of the garage to be built previously on this property.

Mayor Berola requested an update on the fence constructed on Adams that is over the property line. Attorney Moredock has spoken with the property owner. The owner has contacted the fence company and they are 7 weeks out to correct the fence to be on their property. Attorney Moredock requested verification once the owner has come into the office to complete a new building permit for that portion of the fence to be fixed.

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to go into executive session at 7:58 PM, second by Alderwoman Royer. Taken by voice vote.

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

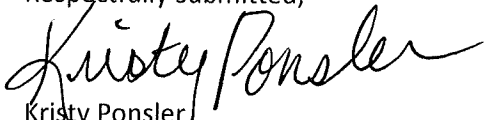
A motion to come back into regular session from the executive session was made by Alderman Royer at 8:29 PM, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 PM by Alderman Royer, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Kristy Ponsler
Deputy Clerk of Auburn