

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 6, 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, Alderwoman Sheppard.

Also present were Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell, and Attorney Moredock.

Mayor Berola announced the candidate that was chosen for the City Office Manager Position as Wayde Rathgeber. His start date will be September 12, 2022. Mayor Berola asked for the Council's vote to hire Wayde Rathgeber as the new City Office Manager. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

It was brought to Mayor Berola's attention that the building permits say there should be three inspections, initial and two follow up inspections. The building inspector has been going out for three inspections for each one. Mayor Berola asked the Council members to think about how the city should handle this situation.

**Visitors/Public Comments:**

Kendall Clark and Teri McClelland were present at the meeting to ask the advice of the Council on what to do with a property that is shared by them but was relinquished by the City of Auburn in 1978. With the advice of Attorney Moredock, the Council agreed that there was nothing the city could do about the property since the city relinquished the property. The property owners need to handle this situation on their own.

Kim Ladage was present to discuss using the square and gazebo for a school musical performance on October 16, 2022. Mayor Berola said the streets would already be blocked off for an event that evening, so we could block the streets earlier in the day. There was discussion about electricity usage and sound system.

Bob Sons and Eric Shirley were present to seek permission to hold a 90 second to 2-minute firework show at the corner Van Buren and 11<sup>th</sup>. They are both licensed pyrotechnics and will get the necessary permits from the fire department. They wanted to get permission from the city before moving on.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the August 15, 2022, meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. Alderwoman Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from August 16, 2022-September 6, 2022. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the August 2022 Cash Report and Budget Report. She also reported the video gaming reports.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Moredock presented a resolution authorizing TJ Henson as the IMRF Agent. This is a One Reading Emergency Passage as it needed to be assigned before the next payroll was done. Alderman Royer made a motion to authorize TJ Henson as the IMRF Agent, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell deferred his items to Health and Safety.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson presented a bid for a new RD Cable/Line Locator. This was originally planned for the budget in the spring, but due to the amount of work taking place throughout the city due to the fiber being installed, he thought it was important to have the upgrade now. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve the bid of the new locator not to exceed \$7400, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Superintendent Henson informed the Council of the annual service contract with VanDevanter Engineering in the amount of \$6457. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the payment for the annual service contract with VanDevanter Engineering not to exceed \$6500, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Superintendent Henson told the Council that VanDevanter Engineering submitted a new three-year contract for approval, beginning in September of 2023. The amount would increase to \$9520 for the next three years, although the price would be locked in and could not be changed over the next three year. A

motion was made to approve the signing of this new contract by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Superintendent Henson informed the Council that a pump at the Divernon Road Pump Station had broken and needed repair. There was discussion about whether there could be pumps on hand to replace the broken ones or if they needed to be repaired each time. Supt. Henson said that the pumps are different, and it would take a lot of spare pumps to keep them on hand. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the pump repair in the amount of \$8327, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Superintendent Henson gave an update on the city-wide fiber installation. Henson said the companies are at the mercy of the city guys and with so much work being done at once, they are stretched thin. They are moving slow, but they are making progress. Concerns were discussed about the companies doing things correctly and cleaning up after themselves.

#### *Office Manager*

Superintendent Henson spoke as the office manager and presented a bid from CDS for a new server in the amount of \$10,047. There was discussion about whether to approve this now or wait until the new office manager takes over and make the decision with their input. Chief Campbell said he would make a call to CDS to discover why we have multiple contracts with CDS. It was decided that this decision would wait.

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Administration:*

No report.

#### *Public Works:*

Alderman Karhliker

A motion was made to select Benton and Associates for the Safe Routes to School project by Alderwoman Sheppard, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

#### *Public Utilities:*

Alderman Johnson pushed his three items to the next meeting.

*Health & Safety:*

Alderwoman Sheppard presented information from the Health and Safety Committee Meeting from August 23, 2022.

The first topic was the part time police officer pay rate. There was discussion about the pay rates from surrounding communities. It was suggested that the part time police officer pay rate be raised to \$23 per hour. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

The next topic from the committee meeting is Chief Campbell's authority to hire part time police officers. It was determined that Chief will discuss with the mayor and will bring it to the Council when it arises. It will not require a wait until the next meeting.

The last topic from the meeting was a discussion of the new police building/community center. Chief Campbell mentioned that we need to first write up an RFQ, then come up with a plan. There is no location for the building yet, but it was discussed that there needed to be a design for the building first, then find a location that fits.

Chief Campbell requested that we purchase a new police vehicle in the amount of \$36,220. It was said that the purchase amount for the vehicle next year would increase to around \$49,000. A motion was made to purchase a new police vehicle, not to exceed \$37,000 was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Chief Campbell started a discussion about the square not being cleaned up after events by the bars. The bars are not at fault, it is the patrons that leave the mess behind, but the bars should be held responsible for the mess left behind. It was discussed that a reminder should be sent out to the bar owners. It was also discussed that glass bottles are a hazard and glass bottles should not be allowed. Mayor Berola suggested that the application should be fine-tuned to include both subjects.

Alderwoman Sheppard brought up Lincoln Militia serving alcohol without a license. Chief Campbell said that they had been sent a cease-and-desist letter on July 22 to stop serving alcohol. Chief Campbell watched outside the building for about 30 minutes and watched 30-40 people walk out with beer. Chief Campbell asked Attorney Moredock what the next move is since they have been served the notice. Attorney Moredock said ample opportunities were given to them and fines should be started. More discussion was held about how the fines would work, meaning daily vs per incident.

There will be a side-by-side ride from Slauterhouse to Virden and back. They have permission from the Sherriff's office to drive the side by sides down Kennedy.

*Health & Housing:*

514 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street was first declared a nuisance on September 2, 2021. Fines of \$800 have been accrued. The owner was notified that if the property was not cleaned up fines would be accrued at \$100 per day per the city's ordinance.

*Parks:*

No report.

*Economic Development:*

Alderman Garrett's goal is to work with Wayde Rathgeber to bring economic data to the council, so everyone understands the impact of each business and what they mean to the community.

Alderman Royer made a motion to exit regular session and move to executive session at 8:41pm, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion was made to exit executive session at 9:01 pm by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion was made to come back to regular session from executive session at 9:02 pm by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made the motion to elevate office staff member Tami Travous' salary to \$22.50 effective August 15, 2022. Second made by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Alderman Royer made a motion to give office staff member Lori Wilson a stipend of \$100 per month effective August 15, 2022. Second made by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn meeting at 9:04 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None