

City of Auburn

Council Minutes

June 15, 2015

Mayor Stamer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Barb Stamer, Chris Warwick, Tom Appelt, Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. **Absent:** Matt Gillock.

Department Heads: Bruce Centko, Bill Karhliker, and Kristy Ponsler. **City Attorney:** Raylene Grischow.

I. Mayor's Comments

- a. There was to be recognition for outgoing council member Clay Davidson but he had to work late and another recognition date will be scheduled.
- b. Auburn will host a Zip Code Day along with the Auburn Post Office on 06/26/15, this is a once in a lifetime event. There will be a community picture on the square, special postmarks by the Postal Service, games, and movie on the square.

II. City Clerk's Report – Warwick

- a. Warwick presented the 06/01/15 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Hemmerle to approve the meeting minutes and destroy the recorded copy, second by Johnson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**

III. City Treasurer's Report - Appelt

- a. Appelt presented the Bills List from 06/01/15 to 06/12/15 for the councils review and approval. A motion was made by Hemmerle to approve the bills list, second by Williams. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- b. Appelt presented Financial Statement ending 05/31/15 for the councils review and approval. A motion was made by Hemmerle to approve the Financial Statement ending 05/31/15, second by Johnson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- c. Johnson asked if this year was the last year of the 7th Street Project payments, Ponsler replied there is one more year left.

IV. Attorney – Grischow

- a. Grischow presented for second reading Ordinance 1403-15 regarding the payment of Prevailing Wage. A motion was made by Johnson to approve Ordinance 1403-15, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- b. Grischow presented for second reading Ordinance 1404-15 regarding Budget Appropriations. Warwick noted that there was a Public Hearing on 06/15/15 regarding the Budget Appropriation and there were no public comments for or against the Budget Appropriations for FY2016. A motion was made by Johnson to approve Ordinance 1404-15, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**

V. Visitors

- a. Dennis Ross the General Manager for the Otter Lake Water Commission and Mike McCarthy the Auburn Representative on the Commission were present to discuss the complaints of a musty taste in the drinking water. Dennis offered tours to the council members and those present so people can see what their water plant looks like and how it functions. The musty taste is caused by blue-green algae blooms. When the blue-green algae dies off it causes MIB's which affects the taste, people can pick up taste at 10 ng/L, because of the blue-green algae blooms in April 2015 the finished water measurements were between 66 to 1800 ng/L. Dennis noted that there is not a UV system out there that will handle levels that high. The Otter Lake Water Commission has tried several other treatment options to combat the issue; rain will help the issue and bring the raw levels down. The Commission has also added rip rap along the lake to slow down run off into the lake. The last time the numbers were this high was in 2005. This is an issue with lake feed water systems. It was asked what future upgrades will be made to make improvements, Dennis responded that lake treatments and other technologies are being looked at.
- b. Steve Mulvey from the Zoning Board was present to give an update from the last meeting. Dan Grigsby requested a variance to add on to the back of his garage and to have a variance to reduce the setback for a shed on the west side of his property to 3ft. Mulvey noted that Grigsby's property is in the older part of town so the setbacks will not be out of line because of the size of the lot. The Zoning Board approved both the variance and setback changes.
 - i. A motion was made by Johnson to approve the variance to allow the garage to align with the south side of the house, second Williams. **AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**

- ii. A motion was made by Johnson to approve a 3ft setback for a shed on the west side of property, second by Devos. **AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- c. Dawn Godsil the owner of the Sugar Creek Wine and Cheese Deli was present regarding an outside seating area for her establishment. Grischow noted there are some liability issues with outside seating and there is no current outdoor café ordinance on the books that govern the rules around outdoor seating. A café ordinance would need to come first and the issues would be best handled under the Health & Public Safety committee. A motion was made by Johnson to table the issue and authorize Grischow to start drafting a café ordinance, second by Barnhill. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- d. Mike Spears was present to lodge a complaint about the old church at North 6th Street and West Jefferson Street. Spears stated that last year the building was supposed to come down and nothing has been done. A letter will be sent to Martha Searcy to appear at the next council meeting and notified that she needs to remedy the issue.
- e. Ed Madaus was present, he will be appointed to the open position in Ward 3.

VI. Department Heads

a. Centko

- i. Centko reported that the application process for the new police officer and an animal control officer has been closed; the committee will review the applications.
- ii. Centko reported that the Illinois House and Senate passed a new law regarding body cameras and it is currently waiting on action from the governor.

b. Karhliker

- i. Karhliker had two quotes for tree removal 612 West Maple Avenue, the lowest bid was from Carter Tree Service in the amount of \$300.00. A motion was made by Johnson to approve the bid from Carter Tree Service in the amount of \$300.00; second by Berola. **AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**
- ii. Karhliker reported that we have USDA grant money still available from a previous venture. The money would need to be matched by the city but we could use the money to replace the sidewalks around the square. Karhliker is

having Benton & Associates to evaluate what areas need the most improvement.

- iii. Karhliker mentioned that the Washington Street Railroad project should be completed soon, it was suggested by the council that we pursue damages from the Railroad for the length of the shutdown.

c. Ponsler

- i. Ponsler asked about disposal of old office equipment, she was not sure how we dispose of old electronics. It was recommended that Ponsler reach out to BLH Computers in Springfield.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Administration

- i. Liberty National Insurance offers supplementary life insurance, and they would like to offer the services to the city employees. There is no cost to the city. Berola made a motion to allow the city employees to participate in the program offered by Liberty National Insurance, second by Johnson. **AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr.** **NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**

b. Public Works

- i. There will be a Public Works meeting on 06/22/15 at 7:00 PM.

c. Public Utilities

- i. There was a committee meeting last week but no action was taken.

d. Health & Safety

- i. There will be a Health and Safety meeting on 06/22/15 at 7:30 PM regarding Chickens in residential areas and a café ordinance.

e. Health & Housing

- i. Stamer noted that people are not responding to multiple letters and repeat offenders. Berola noted that if an issue occurs again within a year the Health Officer can declare a nuisance and the resident has 3 days to abate the issue. This is in Section 13-87 of the municipal code. Stamer noted that there are issued with the Painter property at 415 West North Street.
- ii. Stamer noted that 900 Lincoln Street has no utilities, Ponsler noted that owner of the trailers is in the process of evicting the renter.

- iii. Stamer noted that the grass is over 10 inches at 413 North 1st Street. A motion was made by Berola to declare the property a nuisance and give the property owner 3 days to remedy the nuisance or the owner will be fined, second by Johnson. **AYE: Tom Berola, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: Larry Hemmerle. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (5-1-1).**

f. Parks

- i. Williams brought up the idea of an Adopt A Park program. Hemmerle will have a meeting on 06/22/15 immediately following the Health & Safety meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Hemmerle at 8:46 PM; second by Johnson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Matt Gillock. (6-0-1).**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Warwick
City Clerk