

City of Auburn

Council Minutes

October 20, 2014

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

Present: Barb Stamer, Chris Warwick, Tom Berola (8:05 PM), Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson (7:21 PM), Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. **Absent:** None.

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

I. Mayor's Comments

- a. Mayor Stamer presented a copy of a health survey that was presented at the Auburn Community Center last week. The mayor encouraged all residents to complete it.
- b. Mayor Stamer presented a basketball that was used in the 1965 Auburn Centennial celebration; it was dribbled from Auburn to Mount Olive by 18 auburn citizens.
- c. The Sugar Creek Wine and Cheese Deli will be having their 6 and final outdoor event and they have requested a Temporary Liquor Permit to serve alcohol on the city streets. A motion was made by Gillock to approve the permit, second by Rathgeber. **AYE: Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola and Rod Johnson. (6-0-2).**
- d. The ACC will have a Trunk or Treat event at East Park on Saturday 10/25/14; see the Auburn paper for more details.
- e. Mayor Stamer asked Chief Centko about the Sangamon County Animal Control Intergovernmental agreement, Centko stated that he was still waiting on information from the County Animal Control and that he would have an update at the next meeting.

II. City Clerk's Report – Warwick

- a. Warwick presented the meeting minutes from the city council meeting on 10/06/14. Kessler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and destroy the recorded copy, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola and Rod Johnson. (6-0-2).**

III. City Treasurer's Report - Appelt

- a. Warwick presented the Bills List from 10/01/14 to 10/20/14 for the council's approval. A motion was made by Kessler to approve the bills list, second by Gillock. **Voice Vote:**

AYE: Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola and Rod Johnson. (6-0-2).

IV. Attorney – Grischow

- a. Grischow stated that last week had received an inquiry from a citizen about utility shut off. Mr. Madsen cited the Illinois Administrative Code that a shut off notice needed to be sent out, Grischow noted that the city is not a Public Utility so the rule would not apply. Ponsler added the city was paying between \$400 – 500 per month to send out the shut off notices. Ponsler also noted that shut off reminders about the new policy has been on the bill copies since June. Ponsler stated that in Mr. Madsen's case he paid via his bank's bill pay but the check was not received by the city. Mayor Stamer asked if we could use Group Cast to send out a final notice via Group Cast, alderman felt it was a good idea but logistically difficult for the office staff because a new group would need to be built for each month.
- b. Janene Menke's water was shut off for non-payment and we received a notice from her attorney that she was currently under bankruptcy protection. We previously had received approval to shut off for non-payment, Grischow clarified that Ms. Menke had made a second application for bankruptcy so we need to hold off on shutting off her unpaid water bills. Grischow will file with the court to direct Ms. Menke to make her payments, per direction of the mayor.
- c. Grischow requested an Executive Session at end of the meeting regarding litigation.

V. Visitors

- a. The information for the Zoning Board was not included on the agenda so the pending Zoning Variance could not be granted, it will be taken up at the next council meeting.
 - i. Zoning Variance to reduce setbacks- 1220 Pine Lane - Michael & Denise Verschelden, a covered porch was added to his roof line which reduced the setback, Michael thought his builder had gotten a permit and his builder thought Michael had gotten the permit.
- b. Ray Landers was present to address the issue of garage doors at 413 North 1st Street, Ray indicated that doors were removed and new ones were scheduled to be added, but he has boarded up the garage doors to comply with the notice he received.
 - i. Ray also had an issue with the utilities policy that the city has of charging the landlords or shutting off their utilities if their renters do not pay their bills. Ray thought that the policies would limit the growth of the rental market in Auburn.
- c. Tanner had looked at Hubert Kendal's tree and it is on the city right of way he will contact a few tree services to have them put a bid in for trimming the trees.

VI. Department Heads

a. Centko

- i. Centko is seeking bids for monthly shredding service to properly dispose of documents.
- ii. Centko provided an update on the EMS issue that occurred at the High School Football field that was brought up by Berola earlier in the month and he believes the issue has been resolved.
- iii. Centko would like to attend a 2 ½ day training class on citizen complaints and officer discipline in Urbana, Illinois. The cost would be \$295 for the hotel and \$55 for the hotel. Gillock made a motion to approve Centko to attend the conference at an expense of \$350, second by Davidson. **AYE: Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola. (7-0-1).**

b. Karhliker

- i. The box culvert had to be remade and the work should start around November 6th for Hogan Road.
- ii. The pedestrian railroad crossing at Jefferson Street has been removed since 09/30/14; we have also received the money from railroad.

c. Ponsler

- i. The new utility bills have gone out and there have been some issues with the bills but they have been minor. There is an issue with equalizer payments, the old way did cause high credit balances but the system does not recognize the equalizer program and his causing penalty when the resident does not pay because they have a high credit. Ponsler is having the billing program folks look at it. If this cannot be resolved then citizens would have to come off of the equalizer payments until their balance is closer to \$0.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Administration – Berola

- i. At the 10/16/14 meeting the committee discussed the additional responsibilities that Kristy Ponsler will be taking on for Grant Writing, the committee felt she should be compensated for the additional responsibilities at an amount of \$175.00 per month. Berola made a motion to approve the Administrative Committee recommendation, second by Kessler. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay**

Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).

b. Public Works – Johnson

- i. We have received the payment from the Illinois Railroad Commission for the closing of the pedestrian crossing, that money will be used for ACC Sidewalk repairs. Karhliker will be working on getting the engineer estimate for the sidewalk.

c. Public Utilities – Kessler

- i. No report.

d. Health & Safety – Gillock

- i. Gillock indicated that they are starting to gather names for a hiring pool for and additional police officer. No hiring or posting has started.

e. Health & Housing – Stamer

- i. Beth Scheff's home is still not in compliance and a motion was made Davidson to declare it a nuisance and to have the attorney send her a letter to noting the property needs to be in compliance, second by Tanner. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

f. Parks – Tanner

- i. Batting cages are completed.

g. Library/Technology – Hemmerle

- i. No Report.

VIII. Executive Session

- a. Johnson made a motion to enter into executive session, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- b. Rathgeber made a motion to exit executive session, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

IX. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made by Rathgeber to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM, second by Hemmerle. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, Wayde Rathgeber, and John Tanner. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Warwick

City Clerk