

City of Auburn
Council Minutes
February 17, 2015

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

Present: Barb Stamer, Chris Warwick, Tom Appelt, Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. **Absent:** None.

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

I. Mayor's Comments

- a. Stamer is looking into a grant for Christmas lights from Ameren. More information to follow.
- b. Stamer had a recommendation from a citizen to the Burning Ordinance. Stamer wanted the Health and Safety or the Administration committee to look at it. There is also an Auburn resident that is starting a yard waste pick up business soon.
- c. Stamer asked about the Centennial Time Capsule. Karhliker replied that the capsule has already been dug up about 15 – 20 years ago.

II. City Clerk's Report – Warwick

- a. Warwick presented the meeting minutes from the city council meeting on 02/02/15. Kessler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and destroy the recorded copy, second by Rathgeber. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- b. Warwick recommended that we re-look at the number of committees we have or number of members on each committee before the new council is seated in May. This is because of changes to the Open Meetings Act changes.

III. City Treasurer's Report - Appelt

- a. Appelt presented the Bills List from 02/01/15 to 02/17/15 for the council's approval. A motion was made by Kessler to approve the bills list, second by Davidson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- b. Appelt presented the Financial Statement through 01/31/15. A motion was made by Rathgeber to approve the Financial Statement, second by Gillock. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom**

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

IV. Attorney – Grischow

- a. Grischow reported that she was contacted by the attorney for Hubert Kendal about the city cutting down the diseased branches on his tree. Karhliker checked and the branches are too high for his people to cut them down, even if we wanted to do so. Grischow responded back to the attorney that we will not be taking any action on the tree.
- b. Grischow reviewed the city ordinance about raffles, the city's ordinance closely mirrors the state code with one exception, and businesses cannot hold a raffle according to the city ordinance. The city ordinance was last updated in 1982. There was question about local charity groups holding raffles. Grischow responded that a local group can hold several raffles, like a 50/50 raffle at the football games, the groups could apply for a permit for the entire football season. There is no charge for a raffle permit. Centko commented that the state statute covers the issue. The council did take any action on the issue.
- c. Grischow asked for an Executive Session regarding litigation.

V. Visitors

- a. Dawn Godsil was sick and could not attend the meeting regarding the Sugar Creek addition.
- b. Martha Searcy sent a letter with her plans for the church at 520 West Jefferson Street, she is seeking help to have the building salvaged for historical items and then to be taken down.
- c. Dale and Lloyd Schumacher were present to address concerns about their building at 443 West Jackson Street. The insured value of the building is \$585,000 and an assessed value of \$300,000. Dale recounted that they have been a part of the community since 1975 and they have always being part of the Auburn community. Stamer recommended the Schumacher's reach out to a local realtor such as One Call Realty to get accurate pricing and to see what the building could be priced on the open market.
- d. Mark Cullen and James Hockenyo about the yellow house that is in disrepair at 14470 State Route. Mark stated that they have purchased the house with the plans to tear it down, they had originally spoken with the owner of Subway to split the cost, but they have not heard back from the owner of Subway. Mark also noted that they are working on 2 more tenets for the retail space. They are currently looking for a contractor that can do a small job such as the yellow house, the council recommended Al White Excavating.

- e. Ted Bailey presented the new pricing for the electric contract for the city. The current 24 month contract is set to expire on 06/15/15. Ted noted that the price per kilowatt hour has been going up due to three factors; mergers, regulations, and the lower Liquid Propane gas. He noted that the longest contract available at this time is 36 months. Kessler made motion to allow the Mayor enter in to a contract on behalf of the City with Direct Energy for 36 months with a price not to exceed a price of \$0.054 per kilowatt hour, second by Johnson. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

VI. Department Heads

- a. Centko
- b. Centko requested that the council approve a request for the donation of lost bikes to charity pursuant to Law Enforcement Disposition of Property Act 765 ILCS 1030/0.01 to Methodist Ministries in Chatham. They rehab bikes and donate them to youths. A motion was made by Berola to donate the surplus bikes to Methodist Ministries, second Gillock. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- c. Karhliker
 - i. Johnson made a motion to make the final pay request for the sidewalk outside of the Auburn Community Center to GCS Services in the amount of \$19,280.00; second by Davidson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
 - ii. The bucket truck repairs will be completed by the second week in March 2015.
- d. Ponsler
 - i. Ponsler would like to add a partition for the front of the office between the patrons and the city staff. She is working on cost estimates.
 - ii. Ponsler presented information on the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association; the payment will be due at the next meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Administration – Berola
 - i. No Report.

b. Public Works – Johnson

- i. Johnson presented Change Order #2 for the Hogan Road project. This will reduce the payment by \$5,585.50. The city will complete the seeding and mulch work for the project. A motion was made Johnson to approve Change Order #2; second by Rathgeber. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

c. Public Utilities – Kessler

- i. Kessler reported that after the Public Utilities Committee meeting, water rates would need to be increased to help keep the water fund solvent. Kessler made a motion to increase the water rate per thousand gallons from \$7.00 to \$7.50 effective 03/01/15 and that the rate will automatically increase \$0.10 per thousand gallons every May 1st automatically starting in 2016, second by Davidson. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- ii. Kessler reported that after the Public Utilities Committee meeting, the water meter fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per meter. Berola noted that the meter fee in Virden is \$8.00. A motion was made by Kessler to increase the water meter fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00 effective 03/01/15, second by Berola. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- iii. A motion was made by Kessler to increase the gas meter fee from \$1.00 to \$2.00 effective 03/01/15, second by Davidson. **AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Larry Hemmerle, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: Gillock and Johnson. None. ABSENT: None. (6-2-0).**
- iv. All rates will start on 03/01/15 and will appear on the April 2015 bill.

d. Health & Safety – Gillock

- i. No Report.

e. Health & Housing – Stamer

- i. Covered under the visitors section.

f. Parks – Tanner

- i. Tanner reported that there is no issue with having a Fundraiser Thermometer in the City Square Park.

- ii. The extra dirt for Trojan Field will be delivered in March 2015. Karhliker's staff will spread the dirt.
- g. Library/Technology – Hemmerle
 - i. No Report.
- h. Sesquicentennial Committee
 - i. Stamer made a request to dissolve the ad hoc committee because they are low on funds and the permission needed from Ameren is no longer needed. It was asked what the advantage of disbanding the committee. Stamer replied that as an ad hoc committee they needed to follow the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and that encumbers their communication. One of the aldermen noted that it sound like they want to disband so they do not have to follow the OMA rules. A motion was made by Davidson to disband the Sesquicentennial Committee, second by Tanner. **AYE: Clay Davidson and John Tanner. NAY: Tom Berola, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, and Wayde Rathgeber. ABSENT: None. (2-6-0).**
 - 1. Individual members of the committee may submit letters of resignation if they would like to leave the committee.

VIII. Executive Session

- a. A motion was made by Hemmerle to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation with no action to be taken, second by Kessler. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**
- b. A motion was made by Rathgeber to exit executive session, second by Johnson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

IX. Adjournment

- a. A motion to adjourn was made by Rathgeber at 8:30 PM; second by Davidson. **Voice Vote: AYE: Tom Appelt, Tom Berola, Clay Davidson, Matt Gillock, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Mark Kessler, John Tanner, and Wayde Rathgeber. NAY: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Warwick
City Clerk