City of Auburn

Council Minutes

July 6, 2015

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

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

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. Stamer appointed Ed Madaus as Ward 3 Alderman filling the vacancy by Clay Davidson. A motion was made by Gillock to affirm the mayor's appointment, second by Barnhill. **AYE: Matt Gillock, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, and Rod Johnson.**

c. Warwick administered the Oath of Office to Ed Madaus.

d. The Library Board has submitted a copy of their budget to the City Council for review.

II. City Clerk's Report – Warwick

a. Warwick presented the 06/15/15 meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Gillock to approve the meeting minutes and destroy the recorded copy, second by Devos. **Voice Vote: AYE: Ed Madaus, Matt Gillock, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, and Rod Johnson. (5-0-3).**

III. City Treasurer's Report - Appelt

a. Appelt presented the Bills List from 06/13/15 to 07/06/15 for the councils review and approval. A motion was made by Gillock to approve the bills list, second by Williams. **Voice Vote: AYE: Ed Madaus, Matt Gillock, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, and Rod Johnson. (5-0-3).**

IV. Attorney – Grischow

a. Grischow reported that we need to review our city's Comprehensive Plan since it has been quite a while since it has been reviewed. Gillock noted that the last plan took care

of doughnut hole properties. Benton and Associates is the City engineer and we can work with them to review the plan.

b. Grischow reported that Janene Menke's property was sold at the end of June, she filed bankruptcy last year. Menke owes the city for utilities from January 2015 to June 2015, and a lien has been placed on the property.

V. Visitors

a. Therese Svetlik and Joanie Weiss came to the meeting as the Auburn Football Moms and the will be decorating the poles in town, in celebration of the 100th year of Auburn Football. If there are any issues please contact them and they will take care of the decoration repairs.

b. Martha Searcy and her son in law Matthew was present to discuss the church she owns at 520 West Jefferson. Searcy read the attached letter aloud to the council.

Martha Searcy Letter.pdf

i. Currently Searcy has 3 people looking at the property. Stamer commented that in 2013 she sent a letter to Searcy about the property and the same story was going on back then. Stamer recommended selling the individual items to raise money for demolition. Searcy countered that she just wants to dispose of the property. If these people do not purchase the property she will put it up for sales to the public. Gillock stated that Searcy needs to put an ad in the paper and get it sold. Appelt noted that the roof has a hole in it. Searcy asked about the fines stated in the letter she received from the City. Searcy had gather information on the cost to demolish and remove the structure. Madaus asked how long is enough time to get the situation remedied. Searcy replied she wants the city to give her a date. Gillock made a motion to completely secure the building, have a contractor set up for demolition or to have the building under contract in 30 days, if not then fines will start from the City, second by Barnhill. **AYE: Ed Madaus, Matt Gillock, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, and Rod Johnson. (5-0-3).**

1. The issue will be reviewed again at the 08/17/15 council meeting. Stamer asked for an update from Searcy at the next council meeting.

c. Jill Talavera was present to discuss the action from the Health and Safety Committee regarding backyard chickens. Gillock stated that the committee met on 06/23/15 and they have reviewed the proposed information but there were too many ramifications of having backyard chickens. The burden would be too restrictive if chickens were allowed

the committee did review but they voted unanimously to not change the ordinance, so chickens would not be allowed. No council action was taken because no changes were being made.

d. Tavis Tipsword and John Fuchs appeared regarding a couch and debris near their 7th Street Apartments. Fuchs reported that he has started to sell his business contract for deed to Tipsword. Tipsword noted that a tenant had died and the family asked to use his dumpster to clean out the apartment, the tenant's family dumped the debris around the dumpster, Tipsword has corrected the issue. Fuchs asked that any future communication from the City go to both he and Tipsword until the deed is paid in full.

    i. Fuchs and Tipsword asked if the city could remedy the following issues.

        1. Clean up 8th Street, the section of street by them is not used and does not connect to anywhere but the grass continues to grow.

        2. A storm drain is needed for Sharp's Trailer Court because water comes into their storage property.

        3. There is a surface drain by Sharp's Trailer Court Unit #6 is not secured and vermin are entering the drain and children could get hurt.

        4. Karhliker noted that when Fuchs built his storage facility, 3 council members met with him and asked him not to build on that location because it is a known flood area. Karhliker will look at the drain and will secure it.

        5. Gillock recommended that the Public Works committee look at the water issue further.

e. State Senator Sam McCann stopped by the meeting to see if there was anything the council needed. Devos asked if McCann could help with the surface water issue near Sharp's Trailer Court, McCann asked the council to reach out to him at his office and he will work to set a meeting with IDOT to see if the State can help.

f. Dawn Godsil was present to find out the City's decision about her doing an outside café. Grischow noted that she is working on a café ordinance that would allow outside seating at restaurants and bars. Gillock replied that the City would not sell the right of way or land on the east end of her property. He reported that the Administration Committee went to the property and looked it over and how outside furniture with fencing would not work. There are too many utilities under that area and if the City did sell the land it would be an open bid for anyone to buy it and someone could outbid Godsil. Gillock noted that the Zoning Board should not have indicated that the city could not just sell the land. Barnhill asked if the registration fee on the café ordinance was $200 or $250, Grischow stated that those numbers were just place holders.

g. Lori Basiewicz announced to the council that the Auburn Activities Committee will be hosting a Labor Day Parade on 09/05/15 starting at 10:00 AM.

h. A neighbor who lives next to the Searcy church was present and wanted to refute a few of the items that Searcy presented earlier. She has lived next to the church for 10 years. It costs her $1,200 per year for termite control because of the termites at the church. She stated that when it is windy or it storms, shingles blow off of the church and into her yard on the east side of the church. There is a lot of vermin around the church and sometimes go into the church. The back door is not really secured; it is closed by a brick, so if you move the brick you can get in. She would like to sell her house because her family is growing but it will take longer because of the condition of the church.

VI. Department Heads

a. Centko

i. Centko asked if the Zoning Board could review our ordinances on halfway houses/group homes or those with multiple tenants, currently we have no controls in place.

ii. Centko noted that there is proposal for a phone system from Marshall Technologies, one benefit of the phone system is there will be a voice mailbox for each one of the council members.

iii. Centko reported that City will need to approve the payment to the Sangamon County Animal Control.

b. Karhliker

i. Karhliker reported that oil and ship work on the roads will start next Monday 07/13/15 weather permitting. Since the weather has been so wet lately the road work crews have been running behind.

ii. Karhliker reported that the Washington Street railroad crossing is done and pedestrian sidewalk should be done by the end of next week. They will work on the Madison Street pedestrian crossing next. The Jackson Street pedestrian crossing will not be worked on until the spring of 2016.

iii. Karhliker reported on Johnson's behalf, that we can use the USDA grant money for the sidewalks around the square. Ponsler stated that we are waiting to hear back from IDOT on what the exact funding amount will be.

iv. Williams asked about paver stones breaking on the square because of city mowers. Karhliker said the pavers are breaking because of the freeze/thaw

cycle getting underneath the pavers. Stamer stated that the Friends of the Auburn Parks will be paying for the replacement pavers.

c. Ponsler

i. Ponsler asked changing the holiday schedule around the winter holidays. There is very little foot traffic on Christmas Eve where as New Year's Eve is the end of the month and people are trying to get payments in. Currently each day is a half day. Ponsler would like the council to review and possibly make that change.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Administration

i. Information was covered earlier in the meeting.

b. Public Works

i. Information was covered earlier in the meeting.

c. Public Utilities

i. No Report.

d. Health & Safety

i. Information was covered earlier in the meeting.

e. Health & Housing

i. Shane Olsson's property has still not been remedied and he is still being fined. There was a question about him being shut off on the last day of the month or on shut off day. Warwick clarified that he would have until shut off day to pay his fines accrued plus his utilities or he will be shut off on shut off day.

ii. Stamer reported that the yellow house by Subway should be taken down soon. Stamer asked if a demolition permit was needed. The City does not have a demolition permit at this time.

f. Parks

i. Barnhill reported for Hemmerle that the Josh Brooks Memorial Softball Tournament will be held July 31st through August 2nd at Trojan Field and they will be using the concession stand.

ii. The Parks Committee is continuing to discuss the Adopt a Park program.

iii. Barnhill reported that the sign that was destroyed on the square should be moved to another location to maximize exposure of information and a digital sign should be part of the new sign. Gillock felt that putting the sign on Route 104 would be a good spot because of the availability of electricity. Williams noted that a full digital LED could be very expensive, approximately $1,500 for installation and $24,000 for the sign. The committee is still working on the issue.

VIII. Adjournment

a. A motion to adjourn was made by Gillock at 8:42 PM; second by Devos. **Voice Vote: AYE: Ed Madaus, Matt Gillock, Seth Williams, Julie Barnhill, and Vic Devos, Jr. NAY: None. ABSENT: Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, and Rod Johnson. (5-0-3).**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Warwick

City Clerk