

City of Auburn

Council Minutes

October 7, 2013

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

Present: Barb Stamer, Chris Warwick, Tom Appelt, Matt Gillock, John Tanner, Mark Kessler, Tom Berola, Larry Hemmerle, Clay Davidson, Rod Johnson, Wayde Rathgeber (7:22 PM) and Raylene Grischow.

Absent: None

Department Heads: Bruce Centko, Bill Karhliker (**absent**), and Kristy Ponsler.

I. Mayor's Comments

- a. The Auburn Activities Committee (AAC) will receive a check for \$216.00 from the Electronic Recycling Event held on 09/21/13; the proceeds will go to purchasing Christmas decorations for the Auburn Tree Lighting.
- b. The Oasis will host a Quarter Auction on Monday 10/28/13 with proceeds going towards the purchase of Christmas decorations for the town square.
- c. The City Superintendent and I have located a burn site where citizens can have dried yard waste, not green grass, to be burned. The site will be monitored and has been approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the site location will be formally announced soon.
- d. Mayor Stamer asked that the council approve the removal of a large Sycamore tree on the northwest corner of the square, once the bids have been secured.
- e. Mayor Stamer set the trick or treat hours from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday 10/30/13 and Thursday 10/31/13, residents should have their outside lights on if they want to receive trick or treaters.

II. City Clerk's Report – Warwick

- a. Warwick presented the meeting minutes from the city council meeting on 09/16/13. Ponsler noted that Karhliker was not present but wanted the meeting minutes to reflect that the initial payment for the vacuum truck should have been noted as \$43,000, and not \$20,000. Kessler made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with the corrections, second by Gillock. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Rathgeber (7-0-1)**
- b. Warwick informed the council that new voice recorder was purchased because the old recorder was having problems. There will be an expense report for the purchase at the next council meeting.
- c. Mayor Stamer sent a thank you note to the city for the plant that was sent for the passing of Mayor Stamer's mother Mary Aidich.
- d. Hemmerle made a motion to accept the Mayor's recommendation to set the trick or treat hours from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Wednesday 10/30/13 and Thursday 10/31/13,

second by Davidson. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Rathgeber (7-0-1)**

III. City Treasurer's Report - Appelt

- a. Appelt presented the bills list from 09/17/13 to 09/30/13. A motion was made by Gillock to approve the bills list, second by Hemmerle. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Rathgeber (7-0-1)**

IV. Attorney – Grischow

- a. Grischow presented the First Reading - Ordinance No. 1385-13. An ordinance pertaining to chronic nuisance properties and adding Chapter 18, Article II Offenses against Property.
- b. Grischow presented the First Reading – Ordinance No. 1386-13. Ordinance providing for the issue of \$205,000 limited street and water main improvement bonds, Series 2013, of City of Auburn, Sangamon County, Illinois, and for the levy of direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds.
- c. Grischow presented that Fraternal Order of Police has sent a formal request to the Illinois Labor Relations Board to have the Sargent's position added to the union bargaining unit. This is okay because current Sergeants position does not include more than 50% of the work time in supervisory work.
- d. Grischow updated the council on the Thayer Police Protection agreement; she has e-mailed the village attorney 2 – 3 times with no response. Centko recommended that we stop pursuing the agreement with Thayer until they are ready to reach out to us. The council was agreeable to the Centko's recommendation.
- e. Grischow asked for an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss threatened litigation and a personnel issue.

V. Visitors

- a. Robbin Terry asked that council approve the closing of the street directly in front of the Auburn Haunted Theater at 110 South 5th Street and noise permit issued during their operating hours from 5:30 PM to 12:00 AM. The reason is to protect the patrons of the Auburn Haunted Theater. The dates would be Friday 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 and Saturday 10/12, 10/19, 10/26. The proceeds from the Auburn Haunted Theater is going to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. A motion was made by Davidson to block South 5th Street between Madison and Monroe Street on Friday 10/11, 10/18, 10/25 and Saturday 10/12, 10/19, 10/26 between 5:30 PM to 12:00 AM, second by Gillock. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, and Tanner. NAYS: None. PRESENT: Rathgeber. ABSENT: None (7-0-1-0)**
- b. Kelli Morton and Heather Murdock from the Auburn Activities Committee (AAC) announced they are organizing a Glow Parade with a trunk or treat at the end of the parade. The proposed route would be from Union Park to Save-A-Lot plaza. After further discussion it was recommended and finalized the route would be from the Elementary School to Veteran's Park, down West Maple Street. The date of the Glow Parade will be on Saturday 10/26/13 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The ACC will also be

participating in the Homecoming Parade, they will be hosting tree lighting ceremony on Sunday 11/24/13 at 6:30 PM and a Holiday Walk on the Square on Friday 12/06/13 from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM and they will be requesting that the roads around the square be closed at that time.

- c. Dale Blankenship from Forsyth Insurance presented the change in rates in health insurance due to the Affordable Care Act. The cities renewal date is usually February 2014, the Affordable Care Act changes that were being suspended for one year are for businesses with over 50 employees, the city has less than 50 employees, so if we renew now we are subject to the 2013 healthcare rules. If the city waited and renewed their current plan (\$9,290.63 per month for all covered, current rates) it would cost the city \$16,436.25 per month for all covered. If the city renews in 2013 the rate per month would be \$9,832.61, this would be an early renewal starting 12/01/13. Berola made a motion to renew the city health insurance effective 12/01/13 at a rate of \$9,832.61, second by Hemmerle. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, Rathgeber, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None (8-0)**
 - i. Berola thanked the Mayor Stamer and Kristy Ponsler for catching this change.
- d. Warwick commented that there is zoning variance being requested by S. Dennis King for a business sign at 3660 State Route 104 in Auburn, Illinois. This is informational only because the property is outside the city limits.

VI. Department Heads

- a. Centko
 - i. Centko commented that the Taser policy is completed and that they are looking for a training date.
- b. Karhliker
 - i. Ponsler presented information in Karhliker's absence. There is a request to close the street in front of the residence of Helen Nardi at 309 North Auburn Street on Monday 11/11/13 for an estate auction; the barricades would be on North Auburn Street from Washington Street to Adams Street.
 - ii. Holy Cross church requested the closure of streets for a church picnic on Sunday 10/20/13 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The streets blocked would be East Washington Street and North Auburn Street directly in front of and to the side of the church.
- c. Ponsler
 - i. Ponsler informed the council that all e-mails being sent to and from the city e-mail addresses (auburnillinois.us) are being kept for records retention purposes.
 - ii. Ponsler asked that council members check their folders in the city office on a weekly basis.
 - iii. Ponsler noted that she is attending the Auburn First Committee meeting on behalf of the city.
 - iv. The tents at the daycare on West Jackson Street/Route 104 have been taken down.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Administration – Berola
 - i. No Report
- b. Public Works – Johnson
 - i. No Report.
- c. Public Utilities – Kessler
 - i. No Report
- d. Health & Safety - Gillock
 - i. No Report
- e. Health & Housing – Stamer
 - i. The garage at 413 North 1st Street has been secured.
 - ii. The weeds and grass on Kennedy Road have been mowed. The city does own the land adjacent to Kennedy Road, Jim McClelland had deeded the land to the city during the Kennedy Road project.
 - iii. A letter is to be hand delivered to Terrence Painter Sr. for the nuisance at 415 West North Street; the debris has not been removed from the property.
- f. Parks – Tanner
 - i. The school district has started on the pavilion at Pohlod Park; they are working on the footings and work should start back up again around 10/15/13.
- g. Library/Technology – Hemmerle
 - i. No report

VIII. Executive Session

- a. A motion was made by Hemmerle at 8:14 PM to enter into Executive Session to discuss threatened litigation and a personnel issue, second by Tanner. **By voice vote - AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, Rathgeber, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None (8-0)**
- b. A motion was made by Berola at 9:23 PM to enter back into open session, second by Kessler. **By voice vote - AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, Rathgeber, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None (8-0)**
- c. Berola made a motion in open session that the city accept the former city office manager's (Connie Powell) retirement request made at the 05/07/13 meeting effective 10/11/13, per city ordinance(s) she will be compensated for 25 vacation days, 5 personal days, 5 sick days, and 5 days (1 week) separation allowance. This is based on the 4 – 6 weeks needed to train the new office manager and we are confident that the new office manager is comfortable in her role and we are accepting the retirement request, second by Davidson. **AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, Rathgeber, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None (8-0)**

IX. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made by Rathgeber to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 PM, second by Tanner. **By voice vote - AYES: Berola, Davidson, Gillock, Hemmerle, Johnson, Kessler, Rathgeber, and Tanner. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None (8-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Warwick

City Clerk