

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Berola with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

Clerk Sponsler took roll. Present were Mayor Berola, Clerk Sponsler, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Parrish, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Sheppard, and Alderman Johnson. Alderman Hemmerle arrived at 7:19 pm.

Also present were Office Manager Rathgeber, Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell and Attorney Jarmer.

Alderman Crissey and Alderman Marquis were absent.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola told the council that Alderman Garrett turned in his resignation from the Administration Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Building Committee, and Economic Development Committee. Alderman Sheppard made a motion to accept Alderman Garrett's committee resignations, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Sheppard, Johnson
NAYES: Royer
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis, Hemmerle

Mayor Berola proclaimed April 30th as Auburn Citizen Day in Auburn to celebrate the Auburn Citizen's 150th Anniversary. It is the longest running business in Auburn.

Visitor's Comments:

Brandi was in attendance and asked about the house on North Street. She was told that it was declared a nuisance, but forgot to set the fines, but that would be taken care of this evening.

Pat Stephens was in attendance. He has a drainage issue in his back yard on Kennedy Road. There is a sinkhole, and he was wondering if the city would be able to look into a solution. Superintendent Henson said he would look into it and follow up with Mr. Stephens.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the April 1, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the April 1, 2024 minutes, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson
NAYES: None
PRESENT: Garrett
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis, Hemmerle

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from April 1, 2024 through April 12, 2024. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Sheppard.

AYES: Parrish, Sheppard, Johnson
NAYES: Garrett, Royer
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis, Hemmerle

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report through April 12, 2024 for review only.

Treasurer Williams presented the March 2024 Video Gaming Report for review only. March total was \$16,978.84, which is \$2071.21 more than 2023. FY 24 is \$152,424.24.

Attorney's Report: No Report

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

416 West North Street was declared a nuisance at the last meeting, but fines were never set. Alderman Royer made a motion to set fines at \$250 per day, second by Alderman Sheppard.

AYES: Parrish, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: Garrett
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

The Building Committee RFP Proposal Opening Meeting was at 10:30 am. There were two proposals received from Evan Lloyd Architects and Schaefer Architects. The recommendation from the committee was to go with Schaefer and Associates. Attorney Jarmer will draft the ordinance.

The Police Union Contract will be discussed in Executive Session.

Superintendent Henson:

On the weekend of May 3rd through May 5th the city will be hosting city cleanup days. Residents will be able to bring trash to dump. The dumpsters will be at the city garage and at the township.

Union Park Tree Removal- TJ will have the cost at the next meeting.

Washington Street Storm Water Structure Repairs: The structure is 100 years old and needs repaired as it is made of hand laid bricks.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

The office is looking to add a full time payroll clerk/admin assistant and would like to begin advertising the position. They would like the starting pay to be \$21/hour. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the advertisement of the position, second by Alderman Parrish.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Daily Bread Program plans on beginning next week or the beginning of May.

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Scheduled Admin Committee Meeting to discuss the FY 25 Budget. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 pm.

Public Works-Parrish: No report, but wanted to remind everyone about of the electronics drop off at the Firehouse on Saturday.

Public Utilities-Johnson: Engineering Proposal for Sewer Improvement Study in the amount of \$40,000. Jamie from Bentons gave an overview of the study/project. Alderman Johnson made a motion to accept the proposal, second by Alderman Royer.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Health & Safety-Marquis: Not in attendance

Health & Housing: Mayor Berola said there are a lot of lawns that are close to needing letters about height/need to be mowed. He said to email him if there are any that need letters.

Parks-Hemmerle:

The steel at the Union Park pavilion needs updating. The price to sandblast and paint the remaining steel beams is \$49,372.84. Alderman Royer made the motion to approve the sandblast and paint, second by Alderman Sheppard.

The playground area had some small changes, he hasn't gotten all of the information yet, but the original plan was not ADA compliant like we thought. Alderman Royer said he would like to have more frequent committee meetings and more communication between the committee members. He feels like they are out of the loop until things happen and we find out at the council meeting.

Economic Development-

Building Committee-

Other Business:

Executive Session to discuss the Police Union Contract

Adjournment:

Alderman Garrett made a motion to go into executive session at 7:52 pm, second by Alderman Royer.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn executive session at 8:18 pm, second by Alderman Parrish. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Alderman Royer made a motion to go back into executive session at 8:19 pm, second by Alderman Garrett.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn out of executive session at 8:34 pm, second by Alderman Parrish. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

Alderman Royer made a motion to come back to regular session at 8:35 pm, second by Alderman Parrish. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Garrett at 8:36 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Parrish, Garrett, Royer, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle
NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Crissey, Marquis