

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2023**

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 Karhliker, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey, Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Mayor's Comments:

The Mayor of Chatham sent a letter thanking the city for helping after the storm. Mayor Berola wanted to recognize and thank the city workers for their selfless work for a neighboring community.

Visitor's Comments:

Jessica Lance from Bewitching Botanicals was in attendance. She wanted to speak to the council regarding her upcoming events, Trunk or Treat and Witches Night Out. These events have grown in attendance over the years, and she wanted to discuss safety measures in terms of parking and closing down streets. Mayor Berola said he would like to keep 5th street open and close the horseshoe. Ms. Lance also asked about noise permits and open alcohol permits.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the July 17, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve the July 17, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Karhliker.

AYES: Karhliker, Garrett, Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from July 18, 2023 through August 4, 2023. Alderman Karhliker made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Karhliker, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett, Royer

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the July 2023 Cash Report. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the July 2023 Cash Report, second by Alderman Karhliker.

AYES: Karhliker, Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1531-23 An Ordinance Amending the City Personnel Code to Add a Section 19 ¼ -48, Regulating the Use and Disclosure of Confidential Information and Amending Section 19 ¼ -155, Causes for Suspension or Dismissal. Alderman Johnson made a motion, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell would like to hire a full-time police officer. Marco Aquire will be moving to the full-time academy. He grew up in Auburn and went to school here. Alderman Marquis made a motion to hire Mr. Aquire, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Chief Campbell presented to the council a bid for radio antenna maintenance with GTSi in the amount of \$2301.42. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve this payment, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson told the council he will purchase barricades for the city to use instead of renting them.

The City of Auburn was declared a disaster and a substantial amount of employee payments will be refunded. He is going to come up with a mutual aid agreement with Attorney Jarmer so it can be used in the future. The help with Chatham will not be reimbursed.

An Otter Lake water line was hit, and the overtime payments will be reimbursed for our employees help until 10pm.

Royell and Metro are done with main line fiber installations. CTI is the only fiber company in town currently.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that Global Technical Systems looked at the office radio while they were in town. The equipment needs to be replaced and the quote they presented him was in the amount of \$2008.23. Alderman Marquis asked what the radio is used for and he was told it was used to communicate with the guys in the field, weather updates, and used in emergency situations. Alderman Garrett voiced concerns because we can use phones and internet to connect with the city guys and listen to the weather, but Mayor Berola clarified that it was used during the derecho and was vital for communication between the city guys and the police. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the equipment replacement, second by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Karhliker, Garrett, Royer, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle

NAYES: None
PRESENT: None
ABSENT: None

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Alderman Johnson presented the FY24 budget. It is in the Teams folder. Alderman Johnson asked Attorney Jarmer to discuss why a special meeting was not needed. He said that if a state of emergency has been declared, the date that the budget needs to be approved is extended by 60 days, so it is not required until September. There needs to be 2 readings of the budget and a public hearing. There will be a committee meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 7pm. Alderman Royer asked where the park grant money was in the budget and Wayde said he spoke with the auditor, and he said it didn't need to be included.

Public Works-Karhliker: Regarding the Divernon Bridge Project, it did not get in the bid letting, IDOT did not allow them to be in the bid. It will hopefully be on September 22nd, if not, then November 17th. It will take approximately 3-4 months and \$1.38 million- federal pays 80%, county pays 10%, and Auburn pays 10% (\$140,000).

Public Utilities-Johnson: Alderman Johnson wants to schedule a committee meeting to discuss the water rate increase and future sewer project. This meeting will be on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm.

Health & Safety-Marquis: No Report

Health & Housing- Royer: 1002 W. Monroe has been in noncompliance for quite some time.

Parks-Hemmerle: No Report

Economic Development-Garrett: Alderman Garrett told the council that he stopped by Bike Night on the square, there were no issues and the square was cleaned up afterwards.

Alderman Garrett met with local business owners. They discussed support from the council, police expenses for the use of the square, looking to reduce the amount of police officers at the events if events have done well in the past, electric on the square could be problematic, signage on the highway and directional signage for businesses and events. They also discussed putting historical information plaques about what the building was originally used for.

Building Committee-Garrett: Alderman Garrett told the council that the RFQ will be voted on next meeting.

Other Business:

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

AYES: Karhliker, Garrett, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Crissey, Hemmerle
NAYES: None

PRESENT: None
ABSENT: Royer