

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 5, 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 Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola brought up the ongoing problems we have been having with scrappers and junkers in town. He has asked Attorney Jarmer to look into banning the business of scrapping in town altogether unless the property is properly zoned for it. Most of the time, residential properties are not allowed to do that. Alderman Royer asked about burning things like wire also because they have started burning things indoors. Not only is this unsafe, but also puts off a foul odor.

**Visitor's Comments:**

Jason Jones with Eck, Shafer & Punke was in attendance to review the FY 2023 Audit. He gave us an overview of how the audit went. He said there were no difficulties conducting the audit, records and information that were requested were presented in a timely matter and were complete. There were no disagreements, no accounting issues, etc. He submitted a letter with recommendations as well.

Lincoln Militia was in attendance. They would like to host a bike night since Hall's is not hosting one this year. He would like the kick-off to be here in Auburn. It would take place on May 18<sup>th</sup>. They will provide staff, rules, trash cans, etc. He will meet with Wayde to pick up the appropriate paperwork and will meet with Chief Campbell. They would also like to host a bike/car show in the summer. Mayor Berola said he would like as many events as possible to bring more people to our city.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the January 16, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from January 16, 2024 to February 2, 2024. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the January 2024 Cash Report. Alderman Royer made a motion to accept the January 2024 Cash Report, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the February 5, 2024 meeting for review only. Alderman Johnson wanted to make sure the council looked at the general revenue carefully as it looks like we have almost a million dollars in surplus, but the money from the park sale is still in there. Sales tax is high, which is most likely from Springfield Plastics. We need to make sure that we can tell what is to be kept, and what is to be returned to Springfield Plastics.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1537-24, An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property. This was passed with only a list from Public Works). A motion was made by Alderman Parrish, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1539-24, A Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc., dba Daily Bread. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Resolution 103-24, A Resolution Amending the City Personnel Code in Accordance with Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act.

Attorney Jarmer requested a Closed Session regarding pending litigation.

### **Department Heads**

#### *Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell presented the council with information regarding the FLOCK system, which is a license plate recording system, silver alerts, child abduction, etc. system. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the purchase of this system, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

#### *Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson will have a meeting with Jamie from Bentons on February 13, 2024. The GIS system has been purchased and has been in use. With it, we are improving our accuracy with locates. The UCB building has been demolished and the hole was filled in. The last hold for the water part on North Street should be on Thursday. Hopefully will have an April bid for the road portion of the project. April

1<sup>st</sup> they will break ground on the East Park renovation, and we will run a new sewer line. The Divernon Road bridge will have an August bid.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

The water heater in the city building needs to be replaced. It will be replaced with an on-demand system. Office Manager Rathgeber expected the website to be up last week. He got in touch with the company, and it was supposed to be up over the weekend, it was not. He contacted them today and it should be up this evening.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* Meeting Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

*Public Works-Parrish:* No Report

*Public Utilities-Johnson:* No Report

*Health & Safety-Marquis:*

Potential action, public nuisance 410 East Washington- Kelli Payne was in attendance. She received a letter that they didn't attend a meeting, even though they were in attendance. She said her husband does collect stuff, but she believes it to be the same as the last time when the council said it was fine. The letter said the driveway was blocked and they could not see in the driveway due to tractors/trailers. It has been cleaned up. Alderman Johnson asked if we need to cut down on the construction businesses having equipment in their yards/at their homes. Alderman Garrett said there is a fine line with commercial businesses at homes, for example his pressure washing business vs the construction on Washington Street. Some don't have a lot of equipment sitting at their homes for long periods of time. There was a discussion about hiring a full-time ordinance enforcer.

*Health & Housing:*

*Parks-Hemmerle:*

Park Construction Update: There was a meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the park and get everything rolling. April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the start date and it has to be 100% complete by August 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be a fence around the park for the duration of construction as there will be a lot of equipment that will need to be protected. The roof will be replaced due to storm damage, which is a side project not included in the park update. The summer lunch program will be held at the square.

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

Will work with Attorney Jarmer to determine sales taxes for Springfield Plastics.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

Committee meeting: the remodel was split into two separate projects.

RFP Architectural Services: the first step is to hire an architect, tell them what we need and they will design the building. We will wait until the next meeting to vote after the council has seen the document.

Joining SIPC: Schools of Illinois Public Cooperative: This gives us the ability to work with members of the same cooperative for engineering and architectural services.

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett- we are still working with Springfield Plastics for the Hometown Hero Banners. There is a tree at 8<sup>th</sup> and Adams, it hangs over the house and the public right of way, the tree is split down the middle and is a safety concern.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Alderman Royer to go into executive session at 8:32 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Motion to adjourn out of executive session was made by Alderman Royer at 8:46 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion to come back into regular session was made by Alderman Royer, at 8:46 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Royer at 8:46 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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