

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 16, 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 (arrived at 7:08 pm), Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Alderman Crissey was absent.

**Mayor's Comments:** Mayor Berola told the council that behind the old Burtle Motors, there is a small triangle piece of ground that belongs to IDOT. They plan to see it as they no longer have use for it. By rule, anything adjacent to city lines, they are required to offer it to the city. The council agreed that we are interested in it and Mayor Berola said he would bring it back to the council with information.

**Visitor's Comments:**

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the January 2, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the January 2, 2024 minutes, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from January 1, 2024 to January 12, 2024. Alderman Royer asked if we are any closer to doing payroll in house instead of paying KEB to process our payroll. Alderman Johnson asked to have training for this done by the end of March. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis.

AYES: Parrish, Marquis, Sheppard, Johnson, Hemmerle

NAYES: Garrett, Royer

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the January 16, 2024 meeting for review only. Alderman Garrett asked when the CD was up and Treasurer Williams believes it is May.

Treasurer Williams presented the Video Gaming Reports. December 2023 was at \$14,539.77, which is \$1212.83 more than December 2022. FY total is \$110,178.74.

Treasurer Williams gave details about the CDs that were purchased.

**Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Ordinance 1539-24, An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Senior Services of Central Illinois, Inc., dba Daily Bread.

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1537-24, An Ordinance Authorizing the Disposal of Surplus Property. This needs to be tabled until the next meeting as the list is not finalized. A motion was made to table this ordinance until the next meeting by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Ordinance 1538-24, An Ordinance Levying Property Tax Rate for City of Auburn Real Property, Collectible in 2024. Attorney Jarmer suggested we pass an emergency passage for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading tonight. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson for an emergency passage at tonight's meeting, second by Alderman Parrish.

Alderman Johnson made a motion to pass Ordinance 1538-24, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Resolution 103-24, A Resolution to Allow Service Credit in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for Military Leave. It was mentioned that we need to make sure we limit it to active duty while being employed.

### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell discussed equipment.

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson presented a bid to the council for a Natural Gas Fusion Machine. This machine melts pipes and fuses it together. The current machine is 30 years old. The bid is for \$6000. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the bid, not to exceed \$6200. Second by Alderman Marquis.

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

There were two water main breaks over the weekend. Superintendent Henson mentioned that they were right by newly installed pipes and there is still some old cast iron out there. He said that two breaks isn't bad for the extreme temperatures we experienced over the weekend. Alderman Royer asked if the guys would benefit from pop up tents with heaters. Superintendent Henson told the council that he can't even make the guys sit down and take a break or warm up, they just want to get the work done. Alderman Garrett gave the guys a lot of respect for what they do. Mayor Berola wanted to tell the guys at the garage how much the council appreciates what they do. He told the council that John Edie worked with FEMA and the city will be receiving a check for \$73,000 for the derecho damages. He wanted to make sure John was told how much he appreciates him working on that.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber update the council on the new website and said it should be online by the end of the week.

Mayor Berola said we need to look into what amendments we need to make to our personnel code to be in compliance with the new law.

## **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* No Report

*Public Works-Parrish:* No Report

*Public Utilities-Johnson:*

Alderman Johnson wanted to thank TJ and the city guys for their work on the water main breaks and thank John Edie for the reimbursement.

Alderman Royer asked if John Edie was being compensated for his work getting the refund from FEMA. He does receive a stipend for his ESDA work. Alderman Royer and Alderman Marquis think this stipend needs to be revisited.

*Health & Safety-Marquis:*

1. Public Nuisance/Building Code violations 416 W. North Street
2. Attorney Jarmer: the residents were invited to come speak to the council on why their property is not a nuisance. Chief Campbell told them it needs to be cleaned up and an addition was added to the back without a permit. The residents say nothing was added to the back. Mayor Berola said that there is scrap in the yard and the property is not zoned for a business being ran out of a residential property. The neighbors said that in addition to the junk in the yard, there is noise violations happening in the middle of the night such a sawing. Attorney Jarmer said if nothing has been done by the time of this meeting, we can begin to impose fines. Alderman Marquis told the residents they have 7 days. Another neighbor mentioned a dark Nissan Maxima that has been flying down North Street and he was told to call the police each time it happens.

*Health & Housing:*

*Parks-Hemmerle:* No Report

*Economic Development-Garrett:* No Report

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

There were some changes to rules and he will have to work with Attorney Jarmer. The current building will be a remodel and the other will be a new build, so it will be two different transactions. RFP vs RFQ- we will need an architect and then the bids will go out from there. He wants to have a building committee meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 10 am.

## **Other Business:**

### **Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Alderman Parrish to adjourn at 8:12 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Crissey