

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 3, 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 Garrett, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Sheppard, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the December 19, 2022 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Johnson mentioned that when talking about the new squad truck, the word outfitted should have been used instead of upfitted. It was also brought to attention that Office Manager Rathgeber had been omitted from the minutes. Alderman Marquis made a motion to pass the December 19, 2022 amended meeting minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from December 19- December 30, 2022 for review and approval. There was a question about an amount for a Western Acres lift station. Alderman Johnson asked for clarification on which invoice this was. Superintendent Henson said it was the second invoice. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the December 2022 Cash Report for review and approval. Alderman Powell made a motion to approve the cash report, second by Alderman Johnson.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for January 3, 2023 meeting for review.

**Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer was present at the meeting in place of Attorney Hedinger.

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of Ordinance 1524-22, An Ordinance Amending the City Liquor Code to Add One (1) Class A License. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve Ordinance 1525-22, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

AYES: Garrett, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, Sheppard, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

Mayor Berola, Superintendent Henson, Office Manager Rathgeber, Attorney Jarmer, and Attorney Hedinger met to discuss sending correspondence to Metro Communications about their use of our Right of Way. They reached out to ask them to appear at the next council meeting.

The Pre-Annexation Agreement The attorneys completed their review and presented it to the council. After the council reviews and approves the agreement, there will need to be a public hearing. There will not need to be any zoning discussion until after the annexation agreement is ratified. Once the public hearing takes place, the council will pass an ordinance to authorize Mayor Berola to enter into the agreement. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

The Lincoln Militia complaint is ready to go. Attorney Hedinger is communicating with Chief Campbell to gather a few more details and will move forward.

There was a request from Prairie Land Title to release a utility lien on 215 s 5<sup>th</sup> Street, which was a foreclosure sale. Attorney Hedinger and Attorney Jarmer took care of that. It is currently in escrow with the title company and once the sale happens, the city should be getting \$817 back. Then the release will be reported with Sangamon County.

At the last meeting, Alderman Royer declared the Oller Property a recurring nuisance. A letter was drafted to tenant Patricia Oller and can be sent to the landlord as well. The letter will state that Ms. Oller has three days to clear the property after receipt of the letter. If she fails to do that, in addition to the \$4500 being reimposed, there will be \$50 per day for violation. If she fails to do this, the city can place a lien on the property against the property. Alderman Garrett and Alderman Marquis voiced that we should set the precedence of involving the landlords in these cases and letting it be known that they can be held responsible as well.

#### **Department Heads**

*Chief Campbell:*

No Report

*Superintendent Henson:*

No Report

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber let us know that there is still a party interested in the Park Property and we should have an offer at the next council meeting.

Office Manager Rathgeber requested an Admin Committee Meeting for server bid reviews. The date was decided on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

#### **Committee Reports**

*Administration:*

No Report

*Public Works:*

No Report

*Public Utilities:*

It was mentioned that resident Ernie Burtle had a water leak that resulted in a \$410.64 water bill, in which his water bill is usually around \$20. In these instances, the city usually agrees to just charge the resident the city's cost of water which would be \$247.33. This would result in a refund to Ernie Burtle in the amount of \$163.31. Alderman Johnson made the motion to approve this refund, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

AYES: Garrett, Johnson, Marquis, Powell, Sheppard, Hemmerle

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Karhliker, Royer

*Health & Safety:*

No Report

*Health & Housing:*

No Report

*Parks:*

Alderman Hemmerle mentioned that we aren't quite ready to start planning the East Park renovation yet.

*Economic Development:*

Alderman Garrett is going to have a meeting with NextSite to discuss having them continue to solicit businesses for us. There hasn't been much lately, so he is thinking of discontinuing using them.

Regarding Springfield Plastics, Bentons in conducting engineering studies. They believe it should only take about 3 weeks to complete the water main installation. We are waiting to hear back about the storage tank.

*Building Committee:*

Mayor Berola needs to appoint Danny Parrish to the Building Committee at the next council meeting.

A Building Committee meeting was held at 5 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. At this meeting, the committee interviewed two companies. Alderman Garrett said the interviews went very well. He said it was discussed to have two separate projects- one for the police building and one for the office building. The next few meetings will be to discuss the formal layout of the two properties. Alderman Garrett and Alderman Marquis discussed which was more important, choosing a partner or having them both present layouts and then decide.

The next Building Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to exit regular session and move to executive session at 7:32 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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