

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 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 Karhliker, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey, Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Superintendent Henson was absent.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola made a statement about the City's work after the storm on Thursday. He "tipped his hat" to the city employees for their hard work and dedication. There were also a few garage guys that went to Chatham on Saturday to help with the clean-up after an EF2 tornado went through on Thursday.

**Visitor's Comments:**

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the June 20, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: Sheppard, Hemmerle

ABSENT: None

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from June 19, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: Garrett, Royer

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the June 2023 Cash Report for approval. A motion was made to accept the June 2023 Cash Report by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: Garrett

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

## **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of a Resolution 99-23 A Resolution Approving and Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Sangamon County Public Health Department Regarding Animal Control Services. Alderman Garrett made a motion to accept the agreement, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of Ordinance 1530-23, An Ordinance Amending the City Code of Ordinances by Addition of Chapter 32, Establishing Standards for the Construction of Facilities on the Rights-of-Ways. Alderman Royer brought up continued concerns about the burdens that this places on Superintendent Henson and the city employees. The council thinks it is ready to be passed. A motion to pass the ordinance was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

## **Department Heads**

### *Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell said that after the storm when 911 services went down, they used the old radio system. He worked as dispatch while helping the city after the storm. He believes there is a need to continue maintenance on this old radio system in case of another natural disaster. An additional antenna may be necessary.

### *Superintendent Henson:*

Mayor Berola told the council Superintendent Henson was absent due to a relative's illness. He asked for prayers for a speedy recovery.

### *Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Kennedy Road Update: The property was finally closed on. The proceeds after the sale was \$597,473.99.

Budget Update: The budget has been completed, however, Wayde is waiting on clarification on how to print out different versions.

Large Format Printer: The bid did not show up, so he will follow up on this.

Alderman Garrett asked Office Manager Rathgeber if there was anything he needed that could help him with the processes in the office. Alderman Garrett said he was "thrown to the wolves" when he started and wanted to see if there was anything that would be beneficial to him. Wayde said not necessarily, however having someone from gWorks come out to show them how things would be helpful.

Clerk Sponsler asked about the progress of the new website. Wayde is going to email the council with an example of the new website to see if it is good and if we can continue.

## Committee Reports

*Administration-Johnson:* Draft budget is basically done, just need the format figured out like Wayde had mentioned.

*Public Works-Karhliker:* The construction permit for Springfield Plastics came. Attorney Jarmer has been working with Springfield Plastics and Xcessories Squared for the water main.

*Public Utilities-Johnson:* Alderman Johnson has not spoken with Jamie lately about the water rates. He asked if we knew if there had been any progress. Alderman Johnson will reach out to Jamie to see when he is available for a meeting.

*Health & Safety-Marquis:* Chief Campbell found a replacement for Officer McDermid. He would like to hire Isaac Turner. He is a marine, full time certified, currently working in Waverly. He will start on July 17, 2023. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Alderman Marquis would like to set up a committee meeting for Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

*Health & Housing-Royer:* Lori and the police department have been busy as there have been a lot of compliance issues. Alderman Royer asked if there was an update on pending litigation. Attorney Jarmer said we would need a closed session to discuss. Will add the closed session to the end of this meeting. Alderman Marquis asked if a list of properties that have been contacted with compliance issues could be provided to the council.

*Parks-Hemmerle:* Still working on some designs for the East/Union Park.

*Economic Development-Garrett:* Alderman Garrett asked if a portion of the video gaming revenue could be allocated to Economic Development. There is little money to assist local businesses or new businesses coming into town. Alderman Johnson asked Wayde if it could be carved out in the new budget in the form of adding a new line item. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to access 25% of the video gaming revenue to assist local businesses. A second was made by Alderman Sheppard.

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

*Building Committee-Garrett:* There was a meeting on June 27, 2023 at 6:30 to discuss IML changes. Alderman Garrett asked Attorney Jarmer to draft language for RFQ. We would need to go back out to bid using an RFQ looking for qualifications to design and build the new city building.

**Other Business: None**

## **Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn regular session and move into closed session at 7:50 pm, second made by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Motion to adjourn out of executive session was made by Alderman Garrett at 7:57 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to come back into regular session from executive session at 7:58 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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