

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, June 5, 2023**

Alderman Johnson asked for a motion to appoint himself as the Mayor Pro Tem for tonight's meeting in Mayor Berola's absence. A motion was made by Alderman Hemmerle, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Alderman Johnson with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

Clerk Sponsler took roll. Present were Clerk Sponsler, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

**Visitor's Comments:**

Kadence Koen was in attendance to discuss her property at 514 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. She served an eviction notice to Ms. Oller if the property was not picked up. At this point, the property has been cleaned up. She is checking on the house weekly through the duration of the lease. If the property is considered a nuisance again, an eviction notice will be served again. Ms. Koen asked if the fines could be waived as it is possible those fines would fall on her if the tenant would not pay. Alderman Garrett made a motion to table the conversation about removing the fines until the pending litigation on a different property was resolved, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

Robert Plummer of 342 Interurban Street was in attendance to discuss a few matters. He received two letters from the city about the mess at his rental property. He was waiting to get a fence put in, but getting the permit took a while. He finally has the fence up and wanted to know if that would suffice. He was told that the issues isn't just seeing the mess, it is what a mess can bring such as unwanted pests or other health hazards. He also complained about an old sewer pipe and says that it causes flooding. Alderman Karhliker told him that very little water flows through that pipe and that the flooding lately has been due to the large amounts of rain we had gotten previously.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the May 15, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the May 15, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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 May 15, 2023 to June 2, 2023. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the bills list except for the Aruba Switch Payment of \$276.46 to CDS. With Office Manager Rathgeber's absence, we are not sure what this bill is regarding. A second was made by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: Garrett, Royer

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the May 2023 Cash Report. A motion was made to approve the May 2023 Cash Report by Alderman Royer, 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 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. This was tabled at the last meeting. Attorney Jarmer had not had a chance to speak with Alderman Royer about this. Alderman Royer requested it be tabled again since they haven't had a chance to speak. Alderman Royer believes that some of the wording needs to be changed as a lot of it makes things burdensome on the City Employees. Alderman Karhliker asked Attorney Jarmer who he had been working on the ordinance with and Attorney Jarmer said he was working with Superintendent Henson. Alderman Karhliker said he wanted to see the differences between the original ordinance and the version with Alderman Royer's changes. Alderman Crissey asked if companies that come into the city to work in the near future will not have to pay anything such as bonds. It doesn't clear anyone; the companies will still have to be responsible for any damages or messes. Alderman Crissey says the biggest issue is getting the companies back to fix the problems. Alderman Royer made a motion to table the approval of this ordinance until a Public Utilities meeting, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Alderman Karhliker asked if the letters had been sent out about the bonds for retention to the other companies. Attorney Jarmer said no that the letters cannot be sent out until the ordinance is passed.

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Resolution 96-23 A Resolution to Include Taxable Expense Allowances as Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund ("IMRF") Earnings.

Attorney Jarmer also presented the first reading of Resolution 97-23 A Resolution to Include Compensation Paid Under Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Plan as Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund ("IMRF") Earnings.

Superintendent Henson completed an audit for 2022 wages and as a result, the city has not been exempting IRS code section 125 plans from IMRF wages, even though they are exempt from taxes. In order to correct this, is to approve this resolution retroactively.

## **Department Heads**

### *Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell would like to appoint Officer Zach Morgan as Sergeant effectively immediately. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Chief Campbell said they had interviews today and more tomorrow for the admin position with one more waiting to be scheduled. All candidates have been local.

### *Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson asked for approval to purchase a Tandem Dump Truck. The bid he presented tonight was for the chassis only with a price of \$99,847. We would be looking at a total of approximately \$150,000 for the 2023 Freightliner 108SD. The truck would not be in for at least 10 to 12 months and then would go to Woodys for the snow plow, lights, bed of the truck, etc for 4 to 5 months, so it would be purchased in FY25.

Superintendent Henson approached the council about the Christmas lights on the square. He said there were a lot of happy residents, and he heard a lot of good things about it. He wanted to bring it up because his crew will most likely be very busy and will not have time to decorate the square this year. He is open to suggestions about what to do this year. Alderman Royer mentioned maybe having the company do the tree wrapping and the city purchasing the rest of the decorations to reuse in future years. Alderman Garrett asked about how much the cost was and wondered if we could continue using the company since the residents were happy with the square.

Superintendent Henson is working with Jamie on water rates.

### *Office Manager Rathgeber:*

We are ready to close on the Kennedy Road Property sale, but an easement is missing that needs to be dealt with first.

The budget is still being worked on. It will hopefully be ready for the next meeting.

In regard to hiring a part time office assistant, Office Manager Rathgeber has someone in mind, and he will announce who he would like to hire at the next meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### *Administration-Johnson:*

Alderman Johnson said he hopes to have the budget at the next meeting. He asked Attorney Jarmer when we needed to have the budget passed, and we have until August.

### *Public Works-Karhliker:*

There was another problem at the Community Center over the weekend. We had Rettbergs come and fix it on Monday. Karhliker presented the bill to the council in the amount of \$414.14 which included adding freon and labor.

August 4<sup>th</sup> bid letting for the Divernon Bridge Project. Three construction easements are needed and each are \$300. He inquired if MFT funds could be used but has not gotten an answer yet.

*Public Utilities-Johnson:*

No Report

*Health & Safety-Marquis:*

Alderman Marquis and Chief Campbell brought up staffing issues in the police department. There are many times that officers cannot take time off because there isn't enough coverage. They would like to hire two more officers to get back to a full staff.

Alderman Marquis requested an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Action.

*Health & Housing- Royer:*

A motion was made to declare the property at 201 W. Caldwell a nuisance. The property owners will have a certain number of days to fix the problem and then fines will be assessed.

*Parks-Hemmerle:*

The Parks Committee had a meeting at 6:00 pm. Alderman Hemmerle provided the council with an update on the East Park plan. Bathrooms had to adjusted, ¼ mile path is in the plans. When we did the original plans, we had a cost of \$955,000- he thinks we are still at that same amount. \$400,000 from a grant, we would owe the rest. They made a couple of adjustments to the playground equipment, will make it ADA compliant. Additional concrete in parking area, potentially not having the lighting around the pickleball court, timed locks on bathrooms potentially, seating needed around the pickleball and basketball courts. TJ asked about the electrical boxes- with the grant, all electric needed to be buried underground. Discussed the funding to make sure that we have the money.

A discussion was had on Veterans Park. Alderman Hemmerle said we may need roofing repairs done on the dugouts after the hailstorm. Alderman Royer said he measured the distances from parking and what it would take to get ADA pathways and from the concession stand to the picnic area. It was 170 running feet, 900 square feet of path, so we would be looking at \$7000 to \$8000 roughly for concrete for the pathways. The playground needs to be replaced also and a soft surface needs to be added.

Alderman Hemmerle was approached about adding disc golf to Pohlod Park.

There was a bid put in for a camera for the ball fields as there have been a lot of issues lately. It would cost \$3471.50. There was talk about moving the rotating camera from the city garage to the baseball fields instead.

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

Alderman Garrett said they are moving forward with the annexation agreement with Springfield Plastics.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

There was a Building Committee meeting on May 23, 2023. Attorney Jarmer has revisited the Veregy agreement, and he has some concerns with the agreement on the new construction building and the language not being compliant with state statutes. We will probably have to go back out for bids for the new building. The agreement for the building remodel is okay.

**Other Business:**

## Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:39 pm, second by Alderman Royer. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Royer made a motion to adjourn out of executive session at 8:54 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 Royer made a motion to come back in regular meeting from executive session at 8:55, 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 said he made a Facebook post asking the residents if there were any concerns. One major concern was that the weather siren cannot be heard in certain parts of the town. He asked the council to think about whether we need another siren or two. The other major concern was that the city website has not been updated in quite some time. The office has not been able to get logged into the website to update it, so a new website has been started. Once the website is up and running, Clerk Sponsler will take care of the website.

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 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