

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 18, 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, Superintendent Henson, Chief Campbell and Attorney Jarmer.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Berola the image of a road sign that will be put in the square across from the Auburn Citizen. He thanked Connie for her help with the sign.

The renewal of the MOU between the City and the Fire Department was not ready.

Mayor Berola requested a motion to approve the appointment of John Burtle to the Zoning Board. Alderman Sheppard made the motion, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

**Visitor's Comments:**

At the Zoning Board meeting, CTI came to request a special use variance for the property at 427 N. 10h Street. They want to put up a 12 by 30 building. Nine neighbors were in attendance and three are in attendance tonight. The neighbors are opposed to the variance and the Zoning Board denied the variance. The neighbors are not against CTI being in town, but the area is residential and not commercial. They have a lot of concerns including aesthetics, traffic, late night work, storage of equipment, property values, etc. Bill Drappo from CTI was in attendance. He wanted to let the council know that they are not here to be invasive. The fiber has been installed so it will not be a storage yard for all of the equipment.

Therese Angelo from Gold Mine Gaming was in attendance. She came to discuss their property at the end of the shopping center. They would like to create an outside beer garden and be able to open the garage doors. I would be blocked off using a fence. The council suggested she look over the ordinance and get a complete plan together.

Dawna Edie, Ashley Foster, and Jen Durkin from the Auburn Activities Committee were in attendance. They announced the Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday and invited the council to attend. They also wanted to discuss the Last Call before Fall. This year it would be held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is usually held at East Park, but because of the construction being completed right before that date, they are asking permission to hold it on the square. It would only be one day instead of two this year. They are requesting that we close the streets for the event. Mayor Berola said that we can put up cones to slow traffic down, but we cannot close 5<sup>th</sup> street due to emergencies. Mayor Berola thanked the AAC for what they do for the community. Alderman Garrett mentioned that they could utilize the PA system if they would like.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the March 4, 2024 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from March 4, 2024 through March 15, 2024. A motion was made to approve the bills list by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the March 4, 2024 meeting for review only. Alderman Johnson mentioned that we are at 87.7% of the FY. Water is still underperforming. The revenue is at 89%, but the expenses are overpowering revenue. Sewer is at 89%, gas is at 92%. Alderman Johnson believes we are doing well budget wise.

Treasurer Williams presented the video gaming report for February 2024. The Feb. income was \$12,904.45, which is \$386.69 less than a year ago. FY through Feb. 20, 2024 was \$135,445.40. There are now 71 machines in 14 establishments in town.

**Attorney's Report**

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Ordinance 1543-24, An Ordinance Relating to a Special Use Variance Request for 427 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, IL (PIN no. 34-19.0-133-012) for the Operation of a Publicly Regulated Utility.

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Resolution 105-24, A Resolution Approving the Installation of One Street Light on Hogan Road. 5180 Hogan Road.

**Department Heads***Chief Campbell:*

416 West North Street- Since we have passed the burning copper/junk ordinance, this property has gotten worse. Chief Campbell would like to declare it a nuisance. A motion was made by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

*Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson told the council that a tree was removed at Union Park and the fence will go up on April 1<sup>st</sup> for the construction.

The EPA came. They found one hole with contamination, and they will possibly be back in the fall.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that the office job descriptions have been updated with hours spent for each job duty.

He also told the council there is a spreadsheet for the PEPL Reimbursement in the Teams folder.

### **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:* Would like to have a committee meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm to discuss FY25 and a potential hire for full time employee.

*Public Works-Parrish:* No Report

*Public Utilities-Johnson:* No Report

*Health & Safety-Marquis:* No Report

*Health & Housing:* No Report

*Parks-Hemmerle:*

1. Union Park Update: We cannot do anything about the upfront payment of the grant money, but as we go month by month, we can submit a pay request and we can get half the money back that we pay each month.
2. Once the fence goes up, O'Shea will be responsible for mowing and maintenance inside the fence. The city is responsible for outside of the fence.
3. Garrett asked if all of the playground equipment would be replaced. There have been no details provided yet.

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

Alderman Garrett was contacted by a gentleman in Nebraska who is interested in property for a retail establishment.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

The RFP was submitted, and we are waiting for effective dates before we get the drafts back. There will be a committee meeting and then Alderman Garrett will come to the council with more information.

### **Other Business:**

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Garrett at 8:13 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