

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 6, 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 Powell, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Mayor's Comments:

None

Visitor's Comments:

Deb Lewis was in attendance to discuss two concerns she has. The first concern was that her street, East Madison is higher than her driveway, so it makes it difficult for her to pull in and out of her driveway without damaging the underside of the cars. Superintendent Henson said he will take a look at the road by her house and if there is a way to fix it, he will. Alderman Powell asked if there is a valley gutter at the end of the driveway and she said yes. He said one fix was to put some sheet metal down to drive over so it is more level. Superintendent Henson will check on it.

Her second concern was the unleashed dogs walking around town. Her dog has been trained and is well-behaved, however does become protective of the family members when unleashed dogs are around town. The leash law in town states that when a dog leaves their property, they must be on a leash. Mayor Berola told Ms. Lewis that she needs to call central dispatch so there is a record of the times when it occurs. Once these calls come in, the owner will be warned and then fines will occur.

Robert Pierce was listed on the agenda for tonight's meeting, though no one was in attendance.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Clerk Sponsler was absent at the meeting and Deputy Clerk Rathgeber took minutes in her absence. Alderman Powell made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List for February 20, 2023 through March 3, 2023 for review and approval. Alderman Royer asked about the repair to the furnace at the Community Center. Office Manager Rathgeber said it seems to be working right now after a repair was made, but he is in the process of getting estimates on a replacement. A motion was made to approve the Bills List for February 20, 2023 through March 3, 2023 by Alderman Karhliker, second by Alderman Powell.

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

Attorney Williams also presented the February 2023 Cash Report for review and approval. A motion was made to approve the February 2023 Cash Report by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the March 6, 2023 meeting for review only.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the First Reading of Ordinance 1527-23 An Ordinance Amending the City Code to Recognize Juneteenth as an Authorized Holiday.

Chief Campbell asked where we were with the Lincoln Militia. Attorney Jarmer spoke with Attorney Hedinger this afternoon and they will be working on getting a litigation filed in the next few days.

Mayor Berola asked about the Pierce property. Attorney Jarmer said he would like to discuss that in a closed session since it is a pending litigation.

Alderman Karhliker asked about the easements with Springfield Plastics. Jamie is working and coordinating with parcel owners to work out the locations. The next steps would be to contact the parcel owners about what the easements will look like. The Kings are concerned about the size of the easements and if they will be able to go out there. These easements will only be water easements, not utility easements.

Mayor Berola requested a short executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell is still looking into body cameras and costs. Currently, he is looking at Axon.

They are working on a budget, and he needs to sit down with admin. Alderman Johnson said to get his figures together and they will schedule something for after the next meeting.

In the past week, the police department has closed some big cases including \$21,000 taken from a local church through credit card fraud. The warrant was served on Friday and an arrest was made today. The second was \$3,000 from an apartment complex in town, also through credit card fraud. Mayor Berola applauded the police department for their hard work on these cases.

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson mentioned a gas service line that was cut by Royell on Friday, however the city guys were quick on the spot and it was resolved fairly quickly.

John will meet with Bentons tomorrow to get the surveying done on the Redbud Park property. Alderman Karhliker asked about the gravity main on the park property and if there were any setbacks, in which Superintendent Henson replied no.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that the paperwork has been given back to Bank of Springfield on the Redbud Park property. The closing date must be within 60 days of purchase, and this should be done by the end of May.

Committee Reports

Administration:

Alderman Johnson said budget meetings will start soon. He will look at scheduling them after the next council meeting.

Public Works:

No Report

Public Utilities:

Alderman Johnson said after he schedules the budget meetings, he would like to schedule a committee meeting to discuss how the water funds are doing. He thinks there may be some inconsistencies.

Health & Safety:

No Report

Health & Housing:

Alderman Royer asked about the utilities at 442 S. 6th Street. Both water and gas are shut off at the location.

Alderman Royer asked about N. 5th Street. Mayor Berola said the research was done this afternoon and they are going after them for the amount they can prove, so it is in the works.

Parks:

No Report.

Economic Development:

No Report.

Building Committee:

Alderman Garrett told the council that he and Wayde had a conference call with Veregy and a RJJ Solutions, a grant company, about a grant opportunity for the Building Committee. This grant opportunity is through an initiative through Tammy Duckworth's office. Alderman Garrett and Office Manager Rathgeber began the process and got the ball rolling. A motion was made to authorize Mayor Berola to enter into an agreement to sign for a grant by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to enter executive session at 7:30 pm, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to come out executive session at 7:49 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to enter into regular session at 7:51 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm, second by Alderman Marquis. A voice vote was taken.

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