

**City of Auburn  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, May 15, 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, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

**Mayor's Comments:**

**Visitor's Comments:**

Tracy Sheppard was in attendance to discuss the appearance of the park at the baseball fields. She was most concerned with the playground equipment at the ball field. The condition of the equipment is dangerous as a slide was taken down and only a piece of plywood was put up in its place. Mrs. Sheppard suggested instead of rigging it to fix it short term, that maybe we could hire a playground equipment company to fix it. She is also very concerned about the accessibility of the ball fields themselves. There is zero accessibility, there is one handicap parking spot and there is no accessibility to the bathrooms for someone with a wheelchair or a walker without assistance. Mayor Berola asked about the restrooms and if we need to include a ramp and/or widen the doors. The council agreed they will look into fixing the problems.

**City Clerk's Report:**

Clerk Sponsler presented the first May 1, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the first May 1, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Clerk Sponsler presented the second May 1, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the second May 1, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List for May 1, 2023 to May 12, 2023 for review and approval.

Alderman Johnson had a question about professional payments being paid out of all accounts equally when it doesn't deal with all of the accounts. Alderman Johnson asked Attorney Jarmer if we could have itemized bills for legal fees and designations. There was discussion on what would happen if the motion did not pass and the bills list was not accepted. The answer is that it would be on hold until the following meeting and the bills would be itemized.

A motion was made to approve the Bills List for May 1, 2023 through May 12, 2023 with the exception of Check #28168 by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Johnson.



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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the May 15, 2023 meeting for review only.

Treasurer Williams presented the Video Gaming Reports for April 2023. The income was \$13,719.88, \$383.01 more than April 2022. Total income was \$153,057.55

### **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-Way. Alderman Royer asked if this could be tabled until the following meeting to send some comments to Attorney Jarmer. Alderman Royer made a motion to table this until the next meeting, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Attorney Jarmer also presented Resolution 94-23 A Resolution Approving a Service Agreement with gWorks, Inc. for Utility Billing and Accounting Software Systems for the City. Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve this resolution, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

### **Department Heads**

#### *Chief Campbell:*

Chief Campbell updated the council on Zach Pierce. He has returned from deployment, but will have another temporary deployment until November, so he will not return until after then.

Chief Campbell is working with Lori to get letters out to houses.

Chief Campbell received a call from the landlord of the Oller Property. Pictures were taken and there will still a few things that needed to be taken care of. He said overall, the property is pretty well cleaned up. The landlord asked if the fines could be waived. Fines are over \$7000 at this point and it will have to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### *Superintendent Henson:*

Superintendent Henson discussed the purchase of the tandem dump truck. It will cost \$99,000, but we would not have it for a year. It will be added to the next agenda for when the bids are in.

MFT Program: Stefanie Ballinger from Benton's was in attendance. She and TJ had been discussing MFT plans to rock and chip this year. She presented the IDOT forms, plans, and maps for the project. Alderman Karhliker made a motion to approve Resolution 95-23 to accept this agreement with Benton's. Second made by Alderman Johnson.



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

Superintendent Henson provided an update on the North Street Project: it is on schedule, he is hoping to stay under \$300,000, currently sitting at \$250,000.  
The CTI fiber crew entered town today, they are currently only working on Route 4 and Route 104.

There has been some flooding recently and the on-call guys have been working to clear the problem areas.

*Office Manager Rathgeber:*

Office Manager Rathgeber presented the gWorks FrontDesk purchase agreement. Alderman Royer made a motion to accept the purchase of the gWorks FrontDesk for a one time total of \$3000 and \$6732, for a total of \$9,732. Second made by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Office Manager Rathgeber had an update on the park property sale. Bank of Springfield said the financing is coming through Metlife and they are waiting on the title commitments. This should be wrapped up by the end of the month.

### **Committee Reports**

*Administration-Johnson:*

Meeting was set for a committee meeting for a draft budget.  
No Report

*Public Works-Karhliker:*

No Report

*Public Utilities-Johnson:*

There was a committee meeting on May 8, 2023 to discuss utility accounts and a potential water rate increase. The meeting minutes were provided in the Teams folder.  
Professional fees have been spread out across the utility accounts. These bills need to be itemized and paid out of the appropriate accounts. Alderman Johnson would like to earmark \$150,000 of sales revenue from SPI to reimburse some of those accounts.

Last year water loss was at 13%, previously 14 or 15%. We are selling less water, so we are getting less revenue. Jamie indicated that he has a spreadsheet that TJ and Devon will use to try and forecast water usage for residents and businesses to see how much water we can see vs expenses and then come up with a water rate increase. A committee meeting will be scheduled once TJ and Devon come up with their numbers.

*Health & Safety-Marquis:*

Alderman Marquis would like to schedule a committee meeting with the building committee. Meeting was set for May 23, 2023 at 7pm.



*Health & Housing- Royer:*

Alderman Royer commended Lori and Wayde on the night and day difference in the office. Lori sent Alderman Royer a nice spreadsheet and Alderman Royer asked about using Google Docs to make it interactive and she said she would be willing to learn.

*Parks-Hemmerle:*

Alderman Hemmerle hopes to have drawings and more concrete layouts of East Park by the next meeting. Larry met with Greg because he had some more questions about the restrooms. He should have more next meeting.

*Economic Development-Garrett:*

In regards to the Springfield Plastics Annexation Agreement, they are working with Attorney Jarmer and Jamie with Bentons on the legal agreements and they should be finalized in the next few weeks.

*Building Committee-Garrett:*

Alderman Garrett has been working on some developments with Attorney Jarmer. He wants to discuss these items with the building committee before bringing them to the council. A committee meeting was set for May 23, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

**Other Business:**

Alderman Garrett received tree removal bids from two companies for a tree on Kennedy St. The first bid was for \$3200 for all three trees, but does not include stump grinding. The bid from Emmons Tree Service included three trees for \$3000 flat and that includes stump grinding. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett to hire Emmons Tree Service to remove the trees for a flat price of \$3000. Second was made by Alderman Karhliker.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

**Adjournment**

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 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

