

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 16, 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 Parrish, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Crissey and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Mayor's Comments:

Visitor's Comments:

Gale Parsons was in attendance. She is the property owner of 201 W. Caldwell. She visited her property and the tenants have completely destroyed her property. Her car was stolen. She came to the council for advice due to the house being unlivable currently. She still has a loan out on it. Mayor Berola said there isn't much that the City can do, but offered advice such as calling a company like ServPro, a hazmat team, or a contractor that will go in and gut it. Alderman Marquis asked Attorney Jarmer if she should utilize an attorney and Attorney Jarmer said yes, she should find an attorney that could help her.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Marquis made a motion to approve the October 2, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from October 2, 2023 to October 13, 2023.

Alderman Marquis asked what the IMLRMA for \$30K is in the Police Department. Office Manager Rathgeber said it includes all insurances besides health insurance.

Alderman Garrett made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Parrish.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the Budget Report for the October 16, 2023 meeting for review only. Alderman Johnson said that in general, the budget is on track, although he is concerned about water. The revenue is doing well, but we are over 50% on expenses. Superintendent Henson said we should be slowing down. He was looking through the expenses and the professional fees are already at 74%, as quite a bit was spent on Bentons and he is hoping we are almost done with those fees. There was a question about fees that are related to Springfield Plastics and Alderman Garrett mentioned that since it is an economic development, maybe the money from professional fees could be taken out of the economic development account if necessary.

Treasurer Williams also presented the video gaming reports. The September 2023 income is \$13,455.86, which is \$1,728.07 more than last year. The FY income is \$67,257.09.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1536-23, An Ordinance Authorizing Disposal of Surplus Property to be sold. This will allow Bill Karhliker to purchase his laptop from his time as Alderman for \$550. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Parris.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Attorney Jarmer presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1535-23, An Ordinance Amending the City's Building Permit Fees for Active and Former Members of the United States Armed Services. A motion was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Part time academy has been put on hold due to the lack of participants. He will get with Mayor Berola to surplus some vehicles.

Superintendent Henson:

Superintendent Henson presented quotes for the water tower backup generator. The quote from Ryan was 14 KW for \$7795 with a 1-year warranty and the quote from Rettbergs was for a 14KW for \$8405 with a 10-year warranty. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the quote from Rettbergs by Alderman Royer, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

The first reading for Resolution 103-23 was quite awhile ago. This was to put up a streetlight on Hogan Road. Supt Henson ran into the homeowner, and he asked about it. REA would charge \$9/month. This is the second reading of Resolution 103-23. A motion was made by Alderman Marquis, second by Alderman Parrish.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: None

Superintendent Henson provided an update on the active projects going on currently. He posted a document in Teams for the council to look over. Alderman Johnson would like to meet with our State Representative to discuss the constraints that the state is putting on small towns because of the water plant upgrades.

Superintendent Henson presented the Christmas lights bid again. He said that they could pick just a few items from the bid to lower the cost. He said he thought we could have the bandstand decorated and a few of the trees for \$6296 and also a 22-foot Christmas tree with 11,000 lights at \$6750. Alderman Garrett asked what the total would be for the entire bid. He received some great feedback last year with everything included. Alderman Garrett made a motion to accept the entire bid of \$14, 846.10 for Christmas lights, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Office Manager Rathgeber:
No Report

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: Alderman Johnson asked if a decision had been made on employee insurance. There is a meeting planned for Thursday morning.

Public Works-

Public Utilities-Johnson: No Report. There will be a Utility Meeting soon.

Health & Safety-Marquis: No Report

Health & Housing- Royer: The house on North Street has been working on picking up and they are complying.

Parks-Hemmerle: Alderman Hemmerle said the nets on the batting cages need to come down and asked if TJ could take care of it.

Economic Development-Garrett: Xcessories Squared wants to get in on the water line extension. Steve Baker has the intent to cut it off after Xcessories Squared. The permit was received to go through the DNR ground to extend to Xcessories Squared. DNR will charge \$200 a year to maintain. Tracy at Xcessories Squared said they will cover the \$200. It was agreed that it will be paid by the city and the business will be billed. This was written into the agreement.

In reference to the Trust Property, there was a conference call with the trustee. They wanted to know if we give access to the easement. We wanted to know if the city would waive the fees for putting the water tap on. Alderman Garrett spoke with Mayor Berola and Supt Henson and it was agreed that we would give it to them for the easement access.

In regard to the water line extension process, it should be started and finished within the month of November.

Building Committee-Garrett: Alderman Garrett will shift his focus to the building committee when the Springfield Plastics agreements are finalized.

Other Business:

PEPL: There will be a refund and the amount by law will come to the City of Auburn. What should we do with this money? There was discussion about applying it as a credit to utilities accounts, but could be a lot of work to individualize the amounts for the citizens. There are 1400 gas customers, do we divide it equally to the customers? Alderman Royer said it doesn't seem fair to divide it equally when some citizens paid a lot of money compared to others. Alderman Garrett said another community is going to discount gas rates until the refund money is eaten up.

Chief Campbell said that Jessica Lance was not able to plug into any power because it wasn't unlocked. She also was not able to play any music.

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn from regular session at 8:21 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