

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 5, 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 Garrett, Alderman Royer, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Sheppard, Alderman Crissey, and Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Absent were Alderman Karhliker and Alderman Marquis.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Berola announced that Alderman Karhliker tendered his resignation effective August 31, 2023. Mayor Berola asked for a motion to accept Alderman Karhliker's resignation. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson, second by Alderman Crissey.

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

Mayor Berola appointed Dan Parrish as Ward Four Alderman to complete the remainder of Alderman Karhliker's term. Mayor Berola asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dan Parrish as Ward Four Alderman. Alderman Sheppard made a motion, second by Alderman Hemmerle.

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

Visitor's Comments:

Jamie Kuhlmann from the Auburn PTO requested a closure of the streets on the square for homecoming, Sunday, October 1, 2023. She requested the horseshoe around the square. There will be a Fun Run to Lily and back and there will be a paint the streets around the square.

City Clerk's Report:

Clerk Sponsler presented the August 21, 2023 meeting minutes for review and approval. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the August 21, 2023 minutes, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

Clerk Sponsler also presented the August 31, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes for review and approval. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the August 31, 2023 special meeting minutes, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from August 21, 2023 to September 1, 2023. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve the bills list, second was made by Alderman Garrett.

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

Alderman Garrett commended Penny on her work with the CDs and bank accounts.

Treasurer Williams presented the Cash Report for August 2023 for review only.

Treasurer Williams was able to purchase 2 CDs with a May 24, 2024 maturity date.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Resolution 100-23, A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City and the Auburn Community School District #10. This resolution has to do mainly with the baseball and softball fields. The school district would like to make improvements to the fields, which are city property. They would like to put in new scoreboards on Leonard and Trojan fields and make improvements to the dugout on Trojan Field. They would also like to put lights on Leonard field. They ask that they do not get kicked off since they are city parks.

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Resolution 101-23, A Resolution to Include Compensation Under IRC Section 125 Plan as IMRF Earnings.

Attorney Jarmer presented the first reading of Resolution 102-23, A Resolution to Include Taxable Expense Allowances as IMRF Earnings.

Attorney Jarmer presented the second reading of Ordinance 1534-23, An Ordinance Amending the City Personnel Code and Authorizing Execution of a Related Memorandum of Understanding. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to accept Ordinance 1534-23, second by Alderman Sheppard.

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

Department Heads

Chief Campbell:

Chief Campbell thanked the officers for their work during the Red Ride.

Chief Campbell told the council he found a candidate to put into the part time academy to start on October 28th. This is not set in stone if they cannot find 16 candidates to put on the academy. He introduced Tate Martin. He initially went to Virden on a sales call for his current job and stopped by the police station to see if there were open positions. Since there weren't any, he stopped by Auburn PD. He said he is impressed with our town.

Superintendent Henson:

Supt. Henson gave an update on North Street: the main is done and now they will go back and connect services to homes. He hopes to be done by December.

Supt. Henson said that he will get with Alderman Johnson to discuss the ARP funds.

Mayor Berola asked that Superintendent Henson make an announcement before “smoking the pipes” so the residents don’t think that their homes are on fire or that something is wrong.

Office Manager Rathgeber:

Office Manager Rathgeber told the council that he reached out on Friday for an update with our new website, but he hasn’t gotten a response yet. He will update when he can.

Committee Reports

Administration-Johnson: No Report

Public Works-

Public Utilities-Johnson: Alderman Johnson asked Office Manager Rathgeber if the bills had been sent out yet for the month. He said no, they will be out on the 15th and the new water rate will be included on those bills.

Health & Safety-Marquis: Alderman Marquis was absent.

Health & Housing- Royer:

1. He will be putting the nuisance declaration on hold for the house on Pueblo because they are operating a business and he will address this separately.
2. 446 N. 7th has a downed tree in the backyard that was cleaned up. The front yard had a tree with storm damage and he wanted to poll the council on their thoughts about taking care of the tree as it appears it could cause harm or damage to the city right of way. Attorney Jarmer said that it is the responsibility of the homeowner even if it falls on city property. We could send correspondence to trim it, and they may consent to letting the city trim it. We could get some quotes and get pictures and will bring it to the next meeting. Alderman Garrett will take care of this.

Parks-Hemmerle: Superintendent Henson said the playground equipment at Veteran’s Park has gotten worse and needs to be replaced soon. The city guys can take it down until we can replace it.

Economic Development-Garrett: Alderman Garrett has been working with Supt. Henson and Attorney Jarmer on the easement agreements with Springfield Plastics. Attorney Jarmer has drafted the language for Leahy Properties and it is very similar to the Springfield Plastics agreement. The paperwork was originally sent, but it was not notarized properly and now the attorney has fallen ill and the family has not done anything since.

Building Committee-Garrett: Alderman Garrett said the RFQ did not get published yet. He will be preparing this and will get it out soon. The timeline may have to be adjusted. Alderman Garrett apologized to the Council for not getting this done in a timely manner.

Other Business: Alderman Garrett asked the council if they would consider a discount for Veterans on building permits. The council agreed on 50% off with proof.

Adjournment

Alderman Garrett made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm, second made by Alderman Sheppard. A voice vote was taken.

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: None

ABSENT: Marquis