

City of Auburn
Monday, April 19, 2021
Minutes

Mayor Berola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Clerk Barnhill called roll call.

Present in Council Chambers: Tom Berola, Julie Barnhill, Chris Warwick, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle (arrival 8:13 p.m.), Mike Marquis, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Ben Royer (arrival 7:05 p.m.), Joe Powell, Tracy Sheppard, Chief Dave Campbell, Superintendent TJ Henson, Office Manager Kristy Ponsler and Attorney Greg Moredock.

Absent: none

I. Mayor's Comments

The Mayor indicated that tonight's meeting will happen via ZOOM Teleconferencing due to statewide COVID-19 pandemic

A. Sign for Mya Powell for earning Eagle Scout

Mayor Berola honored Mya Powell, resident of Auburn, who has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and is the first female in Sangamon County within the State of Illinois with a sign that will be placed at the entrance to

addressed the Council with information regarding Mya Powell, resident of Auburn, who has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and is the first female in Sangamon County within the State of Illinois and is recommending that a sign be placed at the entrances of the City of Auburn. Alderman Garrett spearheaded the sign making and presentation.

II. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Larry Leahy addressed the Council regarding the burn ban. Leahy feels that the City needs to allow burning. His residence on the west side of town has five acres of land and will need to burn his leaves once or twice a year. Leahy shared with the Council that there are other items that need to be addressed by the City such as parked cars on Adams Street and trash cans that are being left by the street all week long, even though there is an ordinance not allowing it. Another neighbor, Joyce Katron, was in attendance to support him addressing the need to be able to burn. Katron feels that the City of Auburn should offer another option since the burn ban and the Lost Caboose is closed.

III. ZONING

Alderman Sheppard indicated that the Zoning Board held a public hearing on April 14, 2021 and no one attended. No action was taken.

Alderman Garrett requested clarification for setback distances from homes and other businesses. Attorney Moredock read the requirements per the proposed ordinance. Alderman Garrett then asked the remainder of the council where in the city a retail marijuana business could be placed. It was noted at this time there is no location in Auburn that could house this type of business. Alderman Garrett then suggested the council should table the ordinance until they had more time for deliberation.

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to table Ordinance 1493-21, Amending the City Code to Allow for Cannabis Business (1-6-0-1)

AYES: Garrett

NAYES: Johnson, Karhliker, Marquis, Powell, Royer, and Sheppard

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Motion by Sheppard second by Garrett to approve Ordinance 1493-21, Amending the City Code to Allow for Cannabis Business. (5-2-0-1)

AYES: Karhliker, Marquis, Powell, Royer and Sheppard

NAYES: Garrett and Johnson

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Alderman Garrett then stated the council had just passed an ordinance allowing for such business but allowed nowhere for it to go.

IV. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – BARNHILL

A. April 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the April 5, 2021 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Garrett second by Marquis to approve the April 5, 2021 meeting minutes. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Statement of Economic Interest

Clerk Barnhill reminded the Council that their Statement of Economic Interest is due to the County by May 2, 2021.

V. **TREASURER'S REPORT – WARWICK**

A. **Bills List April 6, 2021 to April 19, 2021**

City Treasurer Chris Warwick shared with the Council the Bills List April 6, 2021 to April 19, 2021 for their review and approval.

Motion by Sheppard second by Royer to approve the Bills List April 6, 2021 to April 19, 2021. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

VI. **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

First Reading – ordinance 1497-21, Penalties and Interest for Installment Contracts

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council for their review of the first reading of Ordinance 1497-21, Penalties and Interest for Installment Contracts.

First Reading – Ordinance 1498-21, Banning Burning of Yard Waste

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council for their review of the first reading of Ordinance 1498-21, Banning Burning of Yard Waste.

Alderman Sheppard shared with the Council that she has been working on trying to find other options for burning. Apparently, Alderman Garrett was doing the same thing and they both checked into Airburner Curtains. Airburner Curtains are a burn container that will burn as an incinerator. Locations being considered are the lost caboose or the sewer plant area. Costs are being looked into for this option and will be presented.

Alderman Garrett feels that the Lost Caboose should be opened and give the residents a different option.

Alderman Marquis feels that the leaf burning makes a health issue for our residents.

VII. **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Campbell

Chief Campbell indicated that most of his report will be covered later.

Henson

Superintendent TJ Henson that Tom Burkner was not able to take the position offered to him. Henson would like to have summer workers Aubrey Beard, Dylan Kavish and Rod Brandt to work this summer.

Henson also informed the Council that Murphy Bros are back and working outdoor meter setters.

Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler asked the Council about budget billing and installments. Ponsler would like to have the Council agree that if people do not pay off their bill they not be allowed to do budget billing for the rest of the year. If they try to do budget billing, they would be behind. Council members agreed with this process. Alderman Garrett is concerned about the mailing that was received in his bill indicating that they would be taking the full amount out of his account on a particular day unless he would call the office to make prior arrangements. Ponsler indicated that she was aware of the letter, but was unaware of the entire language contained and if differed from what Alderman Johnson had submitted.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson shared with the Council a summary of the April 13 Administration Committee meeting. Johnson indicated that the committee decided that with future events planned at the City square and with the installation of electric service for vendors, etc., if the Council would like for the City Office to develop a event sign-up sheet which would detail the services required from the City such as electrical service and/or police presence for alcohol related events and if a cost would be associated with each. Alderman Johnson indicated that with past issues with electrical use for events on the square (Sugar Creek Wine & Deli and use of electricity from Library outlet) plus the expense to install the new electrical services, that he would be in favor of charging for electrical use. After some discussion, all council members agreed that a \$25 electrical use fee be applied to events requiring electricity. In addition, discussion regarding police personnel to work alcohol related events was held with Chief Campbell. After some discussion, it was agreed that the services of police personnel would be a cost of \$50/hr. per officer working the event.

Alderman Johnson shared a update to the Council on the status of each of the main accounts General Revenue, Water, Sewer and Gas.

General Revenue – surplus \$557,082.32

Water – deficit \$67,310

Sewer Fund – surplus \$57,633.48

Gas Fund – surplus \$103,002.93

Chief Campbell requested the purchase a new squad car to replace Explorer. Superintendent Henson would like to purchase a new truck, trade Kubota Zero Turn mower for a newer model; and increase engineering line item in Sewer to replace/repair western acres lift station

Office Manager Ponsler had no requests.

Newly elected City Clerk Warwick would like to purchase CivicClerk software for an initial fee of \$5,174 and a yearly fee of \$3,675. Warwick also as EDC Chairman would like to spend \$2000 per year to bring businesses to the City of Auburn.

Alderman Johnson set up an Administration Committee Meeting to discuss budget on Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker indicated that the 2021 MFT General Maintenance would be \$85,000.

Motion by Karhliker second by Sheppard to approve the 2021 MFT General Maintenance Plan not to exceed \$85,000. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Sidewalks

Alderman Garrett provided an update to the Council regarding the sidewalks that he is planning on repairing:

500 N First Street

500 Madison

900 Monroe

700 Monroe

110 6th Street

214 Washington

Alderman Garrett also indicated that tree removal will take place at Madison 7 6th Street.

Alderman Garrett shared that he was able to find a business that was able to remove the entire sidewalk on 5th street if the City would replace it with new. He further stated that there were more than enough funds to cover the expense. Seeing no objections, Alderman Garrett indicated he would proceed with the project of removing the entire block of sidewalk.

Public Utilities – Johnson

Gas

Alderman Johnson indicated no reimbursement packet. Johnson also shared the IDOT Traffic Signal Master Agreement was revised.

Alderman Garrett shared with the Council that nearly 5 years ago we lost our own dispatch services because there was a budget deficit of \$60,000. During the gas crisis, \$360,000 was lost for known, and unknown reasons and he felt like the council should be more concerned but was unsure if proper precautions were in place to prevent such another occurrence. Alderman Johnson indicated that we would have a deficit of \$117,000 for the month of February.

Health & Safety – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard indicated that she would like to purchase a new vehicle for the police department.

Motion by Sheppard second by Royer to approve the purchase of a 2021 Ram 1500 Classic \$30791 plus install of lights and stickers (outfitting squad car) \$9000 for a total of \$39,791. (8-0-0-0)

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

Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderman Sheppard reminded the Council that Electronic Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, April 24, at the Firehouse between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Parks – Hemmerle

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that he did not have a report.

Economic Development

Economic Development Representative Chris Warwick indicated that he did not have a report.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Garrett second by Marquis to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Passed by voice vote. (8-0-0-0)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill
City Clerk