

City of Auburn
Monday, April 20, 2020
Zoom Televideo Meeting Minutes

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

Clerk Barnhill took role call. Due to 20-7 Executive Order issued by the Governor of Illinois waves the “in person” to participating via remote because of the COVID19 Pandemic.

Present in Council Chambers: Tom Berola, Julie Barnhill and Chris Warwick

Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard.

Absent: None

Department Heads Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Attorney Greg Moredock, Chief Dave Campbell, Superintendent Mike McCarthy, Assistant TJ Henson and Becky Pisarek.

Department Heads Absent: City Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

I. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Berola welcomed everyone that has joined into the ZOOM Televideo Council Meeting. It continues to be the norm of gathering.

A. Revisit Ameren Service Line

Mayor Berola shared with the Council that he wanted to revisit the electrical needs on the square. Funds were designated as available out of the building and grounds line. A motion was made by Royer to approve \$1800 as bidded by Ameren to do a power drop on square; second by Powell. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (8-0-0-0)

II. Visitors/Public Comment

A. Census

Mr. Wayman from the US Census Bureau joined the Zoom meeting so he could share the latest percentage of the City of Auburn of completing the census. The City of Auburn is currently at 64.5% and reminded Council members that every resident in the City of Auburn needs to complete the census. Completed census means funding for the City of Auburn and Auburn School District. Wayman also shared with the Council that all of the deadlines have been extended and provided a new timeline:

Self Reporting – July 31 to October 31
Door to Door: May 13 – July 13
August 11 – October 31
Final Deadline December 31, 2020
Results to President April 30, 2021

B. Wil Landers

Wil Landers addressed the Council regarding the plans of Red Bud Park. Landers shared with the Council that he is planning on developing land on Routes 104 and 4. Mayor Berola asked Mr. Landers to contact Alderman Hemmerle regarding park plans and the possibility of land swap. Landers indicated that he has 67 acres. Berola shared with him to share his engineering plan with the Parks Committee Chair Larry Hemmerle.

III. Zoning

A. Alderman Sheppard indicated that the Zoning Committee will be meeting on April 23, 2020 to discuss the reduction in setback variance request from property owner William Dalby, 120 S. 2nd Street.

IV. City Clerk’s Report- Barnhill

A. April 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the meeting minutes from the meeting on April 6, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes for April 6, 2020, second by Basiewicz. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Jason Garrett and Ben Royer. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (6-2-0-0)

V. Treasurer’s Report

A. Bill’s List April 7, 2020 to April 20, 2020

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List from April 7, 2020 to April 20, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Royer to approve the Bills List April 7, 2020 to April 20, 2020, second by Karhliker. VOICE Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (8-0-0-0)

B. Video Gaming

Treasurer Chris Warwick shared the video gaming report from March and pointed out that revenue was down 46% from last year. 2019 -- \$7900 and 2020 -- \$4259 Warwick also pointed out that in 2019 there were 26 less machines than 2020.

VI. Attorney Report

A. Spending Policy/Travel Control Policy

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council that this is still in progress.

B. Discussion on Non-Binding Referendum on Cannabis

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council the Resolution on Non-Binding Referendum on Cannabis for discussion. Attorney Moredock informed the Council that August 17 is the deadline to file the resolution to file. His suggestion would be to pass the resolution in June or July.

C. Discussion on Non-Binding Referendum for Raising Chickens in the City

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council the Resolution on Non-Binding Referendum on Raising Chickens in the City for discussion. Attorney Moredock informed the Council that August 17 is the deadline to file the resolution to file. His suggestion would be to pass the resolution in June or July. Alderman Royer asked Attorney Moredock to specify NO ROOSTERS or Excluding Roosters in the Resolution.

A Local Business Owner approached the Mayor and asked he his establishment could sale package liquor. Attorney Moredock indicated that he would look into it and get back to the Mayor.

VII. Department Heads

A. Campbell

Chief Campbell provided an update on Police Officer Recruit Troy Kissell.

B. McCarthy

Superintendent McCarthy presented information to the Council regarding 2020 MFT program for their review and approval. A motion was made by Karhliker to go out to bid MFT engineer recommendations not to exceed \$55,100; second by Powell. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0-0)

Superintendent McCarthy presented information regarding the hiring of two full time laborers. McCarthy shared his plans for hiring two full time laborers. Mayor Berola reminded the Council that they did not fill the vacancy of when Chris Bridges left and the vacancy of when Terry White retired. McCarthy shared that they have already interviewed and have two individuals that they would like to recommend hiring within the City Garage. A motion was made by Johnson to approve the hiring of Richard Sponsler as Public Works Employee at the rate set by union contract beginning on May 11, 2020 pending background, drug, alcohol and physical test approval; second by Royer. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0-0)

A motion was made by Johnson to approve the hiring of Jake Roth as Public Works Employee at the rate set by union contract beginning on April 27, 2020 pending background, drug, alcohol and physical test; second by Royer. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Garrett. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (7-1-0-0)

C. Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler was absent. No report from Pisarek. Alderman Johnson shared with the Council that Office Manager Kristy Ponsler should return to work on May 4, 2020.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson shared that the last time the City received any type of tax was February 27. Johnson is recommending that the draft budget and approval to be pushed off. Alderman Johnson is thinking that there will be a 20-30% reduction. Johnson indicated that an Administration Committee meeting will be set up on May sometime

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that Chief Campbell had sent Office Nick Todd home because of his COVID 19 symptoms. Johnson is hoping that we will be able to apply for payroll reimbursement from the federal government.

B. Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker informed the Council that bid open for materials for chip and oil with the deadline of April 27, 2020 and will be opened at 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

C. Public Utilities – Johnson

Alderman Johnson provided the Council and update the progress of the infrastructure improvements. Jamie from Bentons is hoping for a pre-bid teleconference on April 22 and open bids on May 15, 2 p.m. teleconference if needed or in person if not in the City Chambers.

Alderman Johnson also updated the Council of the number of accounts that are outstanding – 55 accounts March bill and 45 accounts still not paid and that is \$8400. A motion was made by Johnson to waive penalties by May 1, 2020; second by Basiewicz. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0-0)

D. Health & Safety – Sheppard

201 W. Caldwell – Discuss Ordinance Violations and Proof of Rabies Tag(s)

Alderman Sheppard updated the Council on 201 W. Caldwell. Sheppard indicated that proof of Rabie citation was received; photos have been received; and violations are being discussed. Yard Feces and Running at large violations are left and compliance date is nearing.

Alderman Basiewicz asked Alderman Sheppard about Municipal Court. Sheppard indicated that due to the COVID-19 Municipal Court has been set back.

Alderman Sheppard indicated no report.

E. Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderman Sheppard indicated no report.

F. Parks – Hemmerle

Survey

Alderman Hemmerle shared with the Council that the UofI is ready to send out the survey. Alderman Royer suggested that a sixth option of Redbud Park be added. Hemmerle informed the Council that a two week turn around once city approves and given them the go ahead for the survey. A motion was made by Royer to move forward with U of I sending out survey once they add a sixth option adding Redbud park; second by Hemmerle. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0-0)

Square Electrical

Alderman Royer also asked TJ Henson to reach out to Lewis Electric to see if they will still honor bid that was presented for the electrical project on square. Henson indicated that he would and get back to the Council. Ameren indicated that they would take about four weeks to complete their end of the project.

Adopt A Park

Alderman Royer indicated that some work is still being done behind the scenes. The goal is for every park to be covered by a volunteer group once the stay at home is lifted.

Grants

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that Alderman Royer has been working on looking up grants. Jamie has agreed that Benton's will help and then the information can be copied and pasted for future grants.

May Carnival

Alderman Basiewicz informed the Council that Brandy Brown has indicated that the Carnival is being postponed and would like to reschedule it for late summer or early Fall.

Alderman Basiewicz indicated to the Council that she would like to see a ramp installed at Pohlod Park.

G. Economic Development – Basiewicz

Alderman Basiewicz informed the Council that the Economic Development Committee has to be rescheduled from April 23 mtg.

IX. Other Business

A. April 18, 2020 Town Hall Meeting

Alderman Garrett provided an update on the April 18, 2020 Town Hall Meeting. Garrett indicated that of the residents that participated in the zoom meeting the majority of them would like to see the City of Auburn sell land for marijuana craft growing. Garrett also shared that they discussed parks, chickens, carnival, and sidewalks.

The next Town Hall meeting will be held again with plenty of announcements of the meeting. Some people complained that they didn't receive notice of meeting.

Alderman Royer announced that he and Alderman Garrett are very proud to announce the establishment of the New Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce. Royer and Garrett informed the group that they feel this establishment of this group will help with building businesses in the City of Auburn.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjournment at 9:13 p.m. was made by Garrett and second by Royer.
VOICE Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson,
Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: None.
PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (8-0-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,
Julie T. Barnhill, Clerk