

City of Auburn
Monday, April 6, 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, Chris Warwick, and Tami Travous

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 and Superintendent Mike McCarthy

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 seems to be the new norm of gathering.

A. Yard Waste Burning

Mayor Berola asked the Council to take into account the upper respiratory pandemic that we are experiencing and would like to consider a moratorium of the burning of yard waste and debris until the end of April, 2020. Alderman Royer indicated that he had this on the agenda for later but he wanted to share what his thoughts and recommendations would be. Royer would like to offer a Yard Management Option that the residents of Auburn could take their yard waste out to the Lost Caboose, drop off and then one day a week the City Garage guys would burn the yard waste. Alderman Royer suggested that a City Garage employee would be present to make sure that they are only dropping yard waste. They also could have cameras present that would have a photo of their license plate and the materials that are being dropped off. Royer indicated that he had talked with McCarthy and Henson regarding his suggestion. After lengthy discussion of this subject, the Council decided to ban burning. A motion was made by Johnson to suspend Section 13-88 allowing of burning yard waste and debris within the City of Auburn until the Governor of Illinois lifts shelter in place; second by Hemmerle. 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)

B. Appointing an Interim Economic Development Committee Chairperson

Mayor Berola shared with the Council that he would like to recommend that they appoint Alderman Lori Basiewicz as the Interim Economic Development Committee Chairperson. A motion was made by Powell to appoint Alderman Lori Basiewicz as the Interim Economic Development Committee Chairperson effective immediately; second by Karhliker. 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

III. Zoning

A. William Dalby, 120 S. 2nd Street – Reduction in Setback Variance Request
Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that William Dalby, 120 S. 2nd Street, has requested a setback variance and had done this prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Dalby would like to get this taken care of. Sheppard indicated that the Zoning committee has rescheduled their meeting yet again until May, 2020. Attorney Moredock suggested that a telephone conference could take place. Moredock offered to provide telephone conference service for phoning in for the Zoning Committee. Sheppard indicated that the notice could be posted on April 8, 2020 and the telephone meeting could take place on April 23, 2020. Alderman Sheppard will be present at City Hall so that she can monitor the email questions or visitors regarding this matter.

IV. City Clerk’s Report- Barnhill

A. March 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the meeting minutes from the meeting on March 16, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes for March 16, 2020, second by Sheppard. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Ben Royer. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (7-1-0-0)

B. March 25, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the meeting minutes from the special meeting on March 25, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Powell to approve the minutes for the special meeting on March 25, 2020; second by Karhliker. Clerk Barnhill presented the meeting minutes from the meeting on March 2, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Basiewicz to approve the minutes for March 2, 2020, second by Garrett. Vote Aye: Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Ben Royer. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (7-1-0-0)

C. Bi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes –

Clerk Barnhill informed the Council that the Bi-Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes will be held at a later date.

Clerk Barnhill also reminded Council members to complete their Economic Interest Statement prior to May 1, 2020.

V. Treasurer’s Report

A. Bill’s List March 17, 2020 to April 6, 2020

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List from March 17, 2020 to April 6, 2020 for the Council’s review and approval. A motion was made by Royer to approve the Bills List March 17, 2020 to April 6, 2020, second by Sheppard.

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. Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program

Treasurer Warwick indicated that information regarding Downstate Small Business Stabilization Program is available for local businesses. Alderman Garrett also provided information regarding Payroll Protection. Businesses will be encouraged to work with Alderman Basiewicz on completing paperwork to help them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

VI. Attorney Report

A. Spending Policy/Travel Control Policy

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council that he is looking for guidance/directions for working with POC for guidelines. Alderman Royer agreed to work with Attorney Moredock on the Spending Policy/Travel Control Policy.

B. Second Reading Ordinance 1480-20 – Amending Chapter 13 Article V. Nuisance Ordinance Prohibit Housing of Multiple Domestic Animals

Attorney Moredock presented the Second Reading Ordinance 1480-20 – Amending Chapter 13 Article V. Nuisance Ordinance Prohibit Housing of Multiple Domestic Animals for the Council’s review and approval. Alderman Garrett stated that he would not be willing to vote for this proposal as he felt the issue was one of enforcement. He was reluctant to amend Ordinance 1480-20 when the City of Auburn already has nuisance ordinances in place to cover this exact topic. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made, after modification by attorney Moredock, by Garrett to amend to City Code -Section 13-76 as follows:

Sec. 13-76. - Enumeration of nuisances.

Sounds, animals or things which interfere with the peace or comfort or disturb the peace and quiet of any person in the city or represent a hazard to the health and

welfare of any person within the city constitute a public nuisance. The following are declared to be public nuisances:

(m) Animals. Maintaining dogs, cats, or other household domestic animals, or maintaining, boarding, breeding, or caring for such animals in a manner that interferes with the peace or comfort or disturbs the peace and quiet of any person in the City or represents a hazard to the health and welfare of any person within the City.

Seconded 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)

C. Noise Violation Nuisance – Motorized Bicycles

Attorney Moredock discussed with the Council an ordinance declaring the motorized bicycles can be a noise complaint. These bicycles can be legal if they have a certain motor on them and anyone 16 and older can ride them.

D. Clearing of Sidewalk Obstruction

Attorney Moredock advised the Council to not get into setting an ordinance of clearing of sidewalk obstruction.

VII. Department Heads

A. Campbell

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

B. McCarthy

Superintendent McCarthy presented bids that were received for the electrical panel on the square. Lewis Electric was \$6200, and Ameren would be \$1800. Alderman Hemmerle was concerned that the money would be coming out of the Parks budget and there was no discussion prior to this conversation regarding the subject. A motion was made by Royer to accept the bid of \$6200 from Lewis Electric and Ameren of \$1800 to allow electric service to the square and for it to be paid for out of this year's Parks budget; second by Garrett. Vote Aye: Jason Garrett, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Lori Basiewicz, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker and Joe Powell. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None. (3-5-0-0)

C. Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler was absent. No report from Travous or Pisarek.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson shared his concerns of the loss of income taxes that the city will lose out on with the COVID-19 pandemic. Johnson would like to see a moratorium

on extra spending until the Governor lifts the stay at home. Alderman Garrett agreed that not only should the city review necessary expenses, but that the city should be looking at the interest rates received from United Community Bank. Treasurer Warwick stated that he had discussed the issue with UCB, and they will not raise the interest rates. Treasurer Warwick asked Tami Travous to e-mail budget reports at the end of each week so they can be monitored.

B. Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker updated the Council on the school drainage for the new playground. Karhliker also informed the Council that the census is very important as MFT is based on the number of people that are in the City of Auburn.

C. Public Utilities – Johnson

Suspension of Utility Shut offs

Alderman Johnson reiterated that we would take a look at suspension of utility shut-off and penalties after 30 days. Treasurer Warwick asked Tami Travous if information could be provided of how many accounts are affected by the penalty withhold and shutoff.

D. Health & Safety – Sheppard

Alderman Sheppard indicated no report.

E. Health & Housing – Sheppard

521 W. Jackson Street

Alderman Sheppard indicated that she has provided photos in dropbox regarding the property of 521 W. Jackson Street. Sheppard is trying to reach someone about the property.

201 W. Caldwell Street

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that 201 W. Caldwell Street is clean. Sheppard is working with the resident of 201 W. Caldwell Street on rabies information for dogs.

Becky Pisarek informed the Council that a payment from Landers was received in the office today and the debt is paid in full.

F. Parks – Hemmerle

Survey

Alderman Hemmerle shared with the Council that they are waiting on information regarding the survey but because of COVID-19 it is being delayed. The U of I would like to meet with the Park committee and Mayor.

May Carnival

Alderman Basiewicz is going to reach out to Brandi Brown to check the status of the May Carnival and will get back to the Council.

G. Economic Development – Basiewicz

Alderman Basiewicz informed the Council that a letter did go out to all of the businesses in the City of Auburn. Basiewicz is also working with local businesses to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IX. Other Business

A. Book Box on Square

Alderman Royer shared with the Council that he is currently working with Sandi Jones and the Auburn High School Student Council and they are wanting to place a book box on the southwest corner of the square. Royer indicated that he has talked with McCarthy and he thought the location was a good one. A motion was made by Royer to allow a book box on the southwest corner of the square for book sharing and mini pantry; second by Garrett. 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. Allowing Hens

Alderman Royer shared with the Council his thoughts on allowing hens within the City of Auburn. Mayor Berola shared with the Council that we have been down this road and two other times voted it down. Berola suggested that the Council allow this matter to go to referendum (non-binding) in November. After lengthy discussion, Council asked Attorney Moredock to prepare for allowing hens to go to referendum in the November election.

C. Yard Waste Management Option

Alderman Royer indicated that we already discussed matter earlier in the meeting.

D. Purchasing Street Sweeper

Alderman Royer shared information regarding the purchase of a street sweeper for the City of Auburn. The Council discussed the issue but is concerned about spending the money right now.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjournment at 9:56 p.m. was made by Sheppard and second by Garrett. 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