

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Berola with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

Mayor Berola called for the roll. Present were Clerk Warwick, Mayor Berola, Treasurer Williams, Alderman Garrett, Alderman Hemmerle, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Karhliker, Alderman Marquis, Alderman Powell, Alderman Royer, Alderwoman Sheppard. Also present were Attorney Moredock, Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, and Office Manager Ponsler.

Mayor Berola recognized Rod Brandt for 20 years of service. Alderman Garrett restarted the initiative of recognizing employees at the City Council meeting.

Mayor Berola also recognized small businesses that were nominated as part of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Small Business awards. The nominees were Jessica Lance of Bewitching Botanicals and Derek & Susan Lee of Slaughterhouse Brewing. Phil Martin of Martin Engineering was nominated for a lifetime award.

Clerk Warwick thanked Deputy Clerk Ponsler for covering him at the last meeting. Clerk Warwick presented the meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from August 3, 2021, to August 16, 2021, for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to approve the bills list, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the July 2021 Cash Report for the council's review and approval. A motion was Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the cash report, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Treasurer Williams presented the July 2021 Video Gaming report. The city's portion collected for July 2021 was \$13,206.81. This amount was \$2,942.97 more than June 2021 and \$4,446.29 more than July 2020.

Attorney Moredock presented Resolution 89-21 a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Auburn and the Fraternal Order of Police for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the resolution, second by Alderman Royer.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Attorney Moredock presented Resolution 90-21 a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Auburn and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 965 for the council's review and approval. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the resolution, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading of Ordinance 1504-21, amending the city code to add a Class A Liquor License and remove a Class B Liquor License. The request was from Jackpot Gaming.

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading of Ordinance 1505-21, amending the city's personnel code pertaining to vacation time.

Chief Campbell reported that the new speed trailer has been deployed in the town. The newly hired officers are doing great. Mayor Berola asked if the video from Union Park revealed any leads of who broke into the cook shack.

Superintendent Henson had no report.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that Lynn Pignon sent a letter to all the council members regarding the proper naming of Union Park, it is not called East Park. She also informed the council that they have all been given a new direct deposit form for their monthly checks if they would like direct deposit. The public works staff placed a mailbox with envelopes outside the drive-up window/night deposit box to assist customers with city payments. Lastly, both of the employee health plans have been excluded from Springfield Clinics' in-network plans. She is looking into other options since several employees use Springfield Clinic as their primary care physician and specialist.

Mayor Berola commented that Lynn Pignon's letter about Union Park was meant to inform the council that in the past East Park was meant as a slur or a slight to those who lived on the east end of town. She would prefer the council members use the park's proper name, Union Park.

Alderman Johnson reported that the true cost to cover the cost of six individuals' vacation time was incorrectly tracked by a former employee. The rate for the Fiscal Year 2021 would be \$9,895.56 and/or Fiscal Year \$10,537.25. There was a question if we are liable for the past vacation time even though the rules had been updated in the 2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The consensus was that making these payments was the right thing to do, even though the city is not required to do it. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the payout of vacation time balances for six individuals at the Fiscal Year 2021 rate which equals \$9,895.56, second by Alderman Garrett. There was a question if this would get every employee correct when January 2022 hits, it will.

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

Alderman Karhliker reported information on the Illinois Safe Routes sidewalk program. He recommended we apply for the grant and have Benton & Associates assist with the grant for a cost of \$2,800.00. It is an 80% state and 20% city match up to \$250,000.00 and could be up to a two-mile radius. MFT funds could be used for the city's portion of the grant. A motion was made by Alderman Powell to have Benton & Associates do the grant paperwork at an amount of \$2,8000.00, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Public Utilities Committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Safety Committee. She did want to thank Superintendent Henson and Chief Campbell for their response to the storm that passed through Auburn.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Housing Committee.

Alderman Hemmerle had Greg Hillis from Benton & Associates give an update on Union Park. Greg indicated that the plans had changed slightly with the addition of a pickleball court and additional ADA-compliant equipment. The total project cost would now be \$955,000.00. There would now be two pickleball courts. There was some concern by some alderman over the total cost. Attorney Moredock is still tracking down the original deed for Union Park that is needed for the grant. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the mayor to sign for the OSLAD Grant Program, second by Alderman Hemmerle. There was a concern on how the city would pay for their portion of the grant if they were awarded the OSLAD Grant.

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

Clerk Warwick echoed the great news about two new local businesses being nominees for the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Small Business awards.

Alderman Garrett brought up an issue on “no bids” contracts for city services. At Garrett’s request, Attorney Moredock went through the process that is followed in Chatham and Rochester. He noted that larger municipalities like Springfield and Bloomington have procurement departments. Multiple quotes allow for competitive bids. The council voted on a contract for services from CDS Office Technologies at an amount not to exceed \$1,700.00 per month for 36 months for a total cost not to exceed \$61,200.00 over the life of the contract. The council had previously approved services with Royell Communications in March of 2021 for a one-time cost of \$1,800.00 and a monthly recurring charge of \$232.00 for 36 months for a total cost of \$10,152.00. Alderman Garrett had concerns because there was scrutiny on the electronic lock bids, he presented earlier that were less than the bid for the services offered by CDS Office Technologies. Alderman Johnson pointed out that the technical expertise does not lie within the city for cybersecurity and internet services. Alderman Johnson also stated that for technologies bids Alderman Royer should not be involved because he has a direct conflict of interest. Alderman Royer asked how, Johnson replied that Alderman Royer has a direct vote, and he is a family member of Royell Communications and an employee. Alderman Royer had an issue with the pricing of the bid. Alderman Johnson felt CDS Office Technologies was a one-stop-shop for services. Alderman Garrett had issues with Office Manager Ponsler looking at prices for domain registry services at \$165.00 per month. Office Manager Ponsler said that she was checking prices and the service from Royell over the last 3 months has been poor and has caused issues with posting required information for the city to our website. Office Manager took issue with Alderman Garrett’s insinuations and that all the information regarding CDS was presented to the Administrative Committee. The council looked at it during the Administrative Committee and approved it. Mayor Berola called for an end of the topic. Mayor Berola asked if the council wanted to entertain any changes to the current bidding process that Attorney Moredock could work on. There was no request for a change. Alderman Johnson was satisfied with the decision made on CDS Office Technologies.

Mayor Berola announced that State Representative Murphy was having a free shred event at the Southside Christian Church on August 28, 2021, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Alderman Powell asked about the old Oasis Bar building at the corner of Jefferson and 4th Street because barricades are still up. Alderwoman Sheppard said there was someone looking at the building and moving forward with repairs.

Motion by Alderman Garrett to adjourn to a closed session according to 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) PERSONNEL MATTERS at 8:36 PM, second Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion to come back into the regular meeting from the closed session was made by Alderwoman Sheppard, second by Alderman Marquis at 9:07 PM. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:08 PM by Alderwoman Sheppard, second by Alderman Marquis. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick

City Clerk of Auburn