

City of Auburn
Monday, December 21, 2020
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, Rod Johnson, Joe Powell and Ben Royer

Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Chris Warwick, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Bill Karhliker, Mike Marquis, Tracy Sheppard, Chief Dave Campbell, Superintendent TJ Henson, Attorney Greg Moredock and Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

Absent: None

I. Mayor's Comments

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

II. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Mike Canny – 2019 City Audit

Mike Canny presented the 2019 City Audit to the Council for their review and approval. Mr. Canny highlighted various items throughout the audit and asked the Council if they had any questions. Alderman Garrett asked Mr. Canny how he felt about the interest rates that the City has available to them. Canny indicated that he thought the interest rates were doing well. Garrett then asked about the IMRF extra payment and if that is what he recommends. Canny indicated that the extra payments are definitely helping out and the City of Auburn is 85% funded and that is a good spot to be in. Garrett then asked how long had he taken care of the City's audit. Canny indicated since 2013. Alderman Johnson thanked Mr. Canny for a great job and appreciated his work on it.

Motion by Royer second by Johnson to approve the 2019 City Audit. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

- B. Dan Parrish – problems with Parsons Household and dogs
Dan Parrish informed the Council that he is attending this Council meeting to inform them of a major problem and concern regarding the numbers of dogs, barking of these dogs, dogs charging at him and his family on numerous occasions, and foul odor from dog feces and urine at the Parsons household on Caldwell Street. Heather Parsons was on the meeting and informed the Council that she has 8 dogs and 10 puppies, of which 4 of these dogs are hers and the other animals are foster. After a lengthy discussion, Attorney Moredock informed her that she is responsible for outstanding violations, since it is a R1 zoned property she is definitely violating the kennel law (3 dogs or more) and she would not be able to apply for a special use variance in this situation. The Council told Ms. Parsons that this was it as she has been to the Council for the same issues prior. Alderman Sheppard indicated that she will be following up with the abatement of the dogs and fines will continue to climb. Alderman Johnson indicated that Parsons needed to abate the dogs as soon as possible.

III. ZONING

Alderman Sheppard indicated that the Zoning meeting was cancelled.

IV. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – BARNHILL

A. December 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the December 7, 2020 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Sheppard second by Karhliker to approve the December 7, 2020 meeting minutes. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

V. TREASURER'S REPORT – WARWICK

A. Bills List December 8, 2020 to December 21, 2020

City Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List for December 8, 2020 to December 21, 2020 to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Sheppard second by Karhliker to approve the Bills List for December 8, 2020 to December 21, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

B. November Cash Report

City Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the November Cash Report to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Johnson second by Royer to approve the November Cash Report. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: None

VI. ATTORNEY’S REPORT

A. Second Reading – Ordinance 1491-20 – Ordinance Regarding Water Fees Effective January 2021

Attorney Moredock presented the Second Reading of Ordinance 1491-20 – Ordinance Regarding Water Fees Effective January 2021 for the Council’s review and approval.

Motion by Johnson second by Karhliker to approve the Second Reading of Ordinance 1491-20 – Ordinance Regarding Water Fees Effective January 2021. The rate of \$11 per customer will begin in January 2021 and will continue until 2040. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Campbell

Chief Dave Campbell informed the Council that Officer Lavin is in his second week of training. Campbell would like to set up a meeting with Health and Safety after the first of the year.

Henson

Superintendent TJ Henson informed the Council the garage is in need of a NAP machine for field sampling. Henson informed the Council that real time is the key and taking lots of samples and baselines will get them there. Alderman Royer asked, “what happens if we have a higher amount of ammonia than expected?” Henson indicated that nitrates will be the issue there and with the sampler machine it can be taken care of sooner than later.

Motion by Johnson second by Hemmerle to approve NAP testing equipment not to exceed \$5000. (8-0-0-0)

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

Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler indicated that have seen a large jump in ~~water~~ bills for this past month due to gas now being used for heat. She encouraged individuals to register their utility account online and track usage over time. However, all questions regarding bills or total amounts should be directed to the city office.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson indicated that he did not have a report at this time. An Administration Committee meeting will ~~too~~ be set after the first of the year.

Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker provided an update on the Divernon ~~Road B~~bridge. The bridge will be inspected in March with the intent of repairs being made 2022-2023. \$75K will be the City's portion to repair the bridge. Funds have been set aside in a separate savings to cover the city's expense. No MFT funds will need to be used to cover the cost.

Public Utilities – Johnson

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that the Notice of Intent to Award Phase II to Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating LLC in the amount of \$1,600,013.00

Motion by Johnson second by Garrett to approve the Notice of Intent to Award Phase II to Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating LLC in the amount of \$1,600,013.00. (8-0-0-0)

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

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that the current expectant of Phase I & Phase II is \$4,878,822.

Health & Safety – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard indicated that she did not have a report at this time.

Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that the 514 N. 5th Street property is abating the issue.

Parks – Hemmerlej

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that he did not have a report at this time but would be setting up a meeting after the holidays to begin brainstorming.

Economic Development

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

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Bewitching Botanicals

Alderman Garrett informed the Council that he was happy to announce that Bewitching Botanicals will be expanding their business on the square.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill
City Clerk