

City of Auburn
Monday, December 7, 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 and Joe Powell

Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Chris Warwick, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Bill Karhliker, Mike Marquis, Ben Royer, 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

III. ZONING

IV. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – BARNHILL

A. November 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the November 16, 2020 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Garrett second by Sheppard to approve the November 16, 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 November 17, 2020 to December 7, 2020

City Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List for November 17, 2020 to December 7, 2020 to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Sheppard second by Powell to approve the Bills List for November 17, 2020 to December 7, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

VI. ATTORNEY’S REPORT

A. Second Reading, Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours

Attorney Moredock presented to the Council Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours.

Motion by Johnson second by Sheppard to approve Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Royer

ABSENT: None

Alderman Garrett asked that information be provided to all liquor license holders within the City of Auburn.

B. Second Reading –1490-20, An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn Illinois for the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Payable in 2021)

Attorney Moredock presented to the Council the Second Reading of 1490-20 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn Illinois for the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (payable in 2021) for the Council’s review and approval.

Motion by Johnson second by Karhliker to approve Ordinance 1490-20 Levying and Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn Illinois for the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (payable in 2021). (7-0-1-0)

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

NAYES: None

PRESENT: Marquis

ABSENT: None

C. First Reading – Ordinance 1491-20 – Ordinance Regarding Water Fees Effective January 2021

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

The cost is \$10.78 per month per water customer and Alderman Johnson is recommending it to be \$11.00 per month per water customer. This additional cost will need to begin in January 2021. That would allow one full year before the city has to make repayment.

Alderman Garrett posed the question, “Do you believe there will need to be an additional increase in fees for the future?” Alderman Johnson said that he received information and he felt that costs would be more favorable to the city and there was a slight overage figured into the number so he felt confident that the anticipated rates would be enough to cover the debt repayment.

The decision to raise the utilities were a result of the new water project that is currently underway in Auburn. This \$5.5 million dollar project to upgrade the aging water distribution network. The City has borrowed the money to initiate the project and the increase is necessary.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Campbell

Chief Dave Campbell informed the Council that the City of Auburn Police Department has received a request to have additional officers for traffic control for the Trinity Lutheran live nativity scene. Campbell indicated that he would assign some part time officers extra hours for the safety of the public.

Police Office Lavin will be graduating two weeks early and will be testing on Friday, December 11.

Henson

Superintendent TJ Henson informed the Council that the soon to be new owners at 513 N 9th Street are requesting a storm sewer easement. After discussion with the owner and the Council, it was decided to make sure the storm sewer was capped on both ends to ensure that no more water would flow from either end of the pipe. This allowed the homeowner to build on or near the existing capped sewer pipe, and the homeowner agreed to waive the city’s liability.

Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler indicated that they audit is complete and will be presented at the next Council meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Royer provided information regarding the annexation agreement with Springfield Plastics and Xcessory Squared that is being worked on. Continued discussion will happen regarding fire protection, water main installation and who's responsibility it is to pay for it. A meeting will be set up with those involved after the holidays to start the process.

Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker indicated that he did not have a report at this time.

Public Utilities – Johnson

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that a request for #4 loan disbursement from the IEPA on the Illinois Water Resolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$172,860.40 has been received and needs to be approved.

Motion by Johnson second by Garrett to approve the Auburn IEPA #4 Reimbursement payment in the amount of \$172,860.40. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

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 North Grand property has been sold and is being gutted to the structure.

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 an EDC meeting took place on November 30 and they talked about ideas and incentives to breathe new life into the community.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Lost Caboose and Potential Camera Purchase

Information was presented to the Council regarding commercial yard waste companies dumping at the Lost Caboose. Discussion continued regarding the yard waste discussion and burning. Aldermen Garrett and Royer are hosting a Town Hall meeting with the topic of burning and chickens on December 9 and am hoping to get the feel of the residents on these two subjects.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Garrett second by Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill
City Clerk