

City of Auburn
Monday, February 1, 2021
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, Chief Dave Campbell, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell and Tracy Sheppard.

Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Mike Marquis, Ben Royer, Superintendent TJ Henson, and Attorney Greg Moredock.

Absent: Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

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. Visitors or Visitor Comments

The Pierce Brothers were present to discuss with the Council their landscaping business and their property at 442 S. 6th Street. The Pierce brothers shared their plan of how they plan to clean up their property. Mayor Berola and Alderman Sheppard met with the brothers at their property prior to the Council meeting. Pierce brothers also shared with the Council how they feel their landscaping company can be an asset for the resident of Auburn.

III. ZONING

Alderman Sheppard indicated no report.

IV. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – BARNHILL

A. January 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the January 19, 2021 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Karhliker second by Sheppard to approve the January 19, 2021 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 January 20, 2021 to February 1, 2021

City Treasurer Chris Warwick informed the Council that the bills list was not placed in dropbox for tonight so it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

VI. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Covid Policy

Attorney Moredock addressed the Council with the Covid Policy that Office Manager Ponsler placed on the agenda. Moredock shared with the Council that the Coronavirus Family First Act did expire on December 31, 2021. Alderman Rod Johnson indicated that he felt this needed to go to the Administration Committee and would schedule a meeting on the subject.

B. Cannabis Issue

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council that he is in the process of drafting a cannabis ordinance to remove prohibition (craft or distribution center) and allow cannabis. Alderman Garrett indicated that the residents of Auburn have spoken through the passing of the referendum. Garrett said that he has spoken to some prospective owners and would like to see this move along. The next step will be for zoning to start the process and it will take some time. Zoning will begin the process at a meeting on February 10, 7:00 p.m.

C. First Reading, Ordinance to Approve IEPA Agreement

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council the First Reading of Ordinance to Approve IEPA Agreement for their review.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Campbell

Chief Dave Campbell thanks Superintendent Henson for placing the signage on the north side of square, like the signage on the south end. Campbell shared with the Council that cameras have been installed in patrol cars. Campbell also shared that Officer Straube has resigned effective January 31, 2021. A vote will be taken retro active at the next Council meeting.

Henson

Superintendent TJ Henson informed the Council that the water meters are reading. Henson indicated that they are working with the software company. Alderman Garrett did ask Henson the plan for the sidewalk south of the school since school has convened in person. Henson indicated that it is at the end of Phase I.

Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler was absent.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson scheduled an Administration Committee meeting for Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM to discuss Covid Policy.

Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker informed the Council that a list for sidewalk replacement is in process; trees are also being looked at and a couple might have to be contracted or bids taken for removal, sidewalk at Slaughterhouse and road construction after water heads on Fourth street are being considered.

Public Utilities – Johnson

Alderman Johnson shared with the Council information regarding the Auburn IEPA Reimbursement #6.

Motion by Johnson second by Garrett to approve the Auburn IEPA Reimbursement #6 in the amount of \$314,046.21 of which \$23,358.54 is for engineering and \$290,687.67 is for construction. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Health & Safety – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard indicated that Health & Safety meeting was held on Wednesday, January 27, 7 p.m. The committee discussed burning alternatives and will continue to explore. An executive session took place with no action.

Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard indicated that she has been contacted by BLH to schedule electronic recycle event in the Spring 2021.

Parks – Hemmerle

Alderman Hemmerle provided the Council an update on the repair of the Leonard Field dugouts. The cost of materials have increased by \$500 and the contractor is asking if the Council is willing to help out with those costs. The contractor has indicated that he made a bid and will stand by it if not but thought he would ask. The consensus of the Council was as long as he shows receipts for the increase in the materials, the Council is willing to pay the difference.

Economic Development

Economic Development Representative Chris Warwick shared with the Council that the EDC meet on January 27 and Keith Morean, EDC Consultant was in attendance and shared some ideas of survey and marketing tools and retail options. Moran has some contacts within the industry.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Berola shared with the Council that he did not forget that he promised to host a Chicken Summit for the residents. The Zoom meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m. Questions and concerns will be addressed during the meeting.

Alderman Garrett commends the Garage and street employees for a job well done. He had the experience of watching them repair a water main break at 2 a.m.

Alderman Garrett also indicated that he feels the \$11 roll out to the community was poorly done. There are a variety of communication means to share with the community and we need to improve on those efforts for our constituents.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Garrett second by Sheppard to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Passed by voice vote. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill
City Clerk