

**City of Auburn
Council Meeting
January 21, 2020**

Mayor Berola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Berola, Julie Barnhill, Chris Warwick, Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard.

Absent: None

Department Heads: Chief Dave Campbell, Attorney Greg Moredock, Superintendent Mike McCarthy, Assistant Superintendent TJ Henson and City Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

Department Heads Absent: none

I. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Berola did not provide Mayor's Comments.

II. Visitors/Public Comments

Auburn Qik N Easy

Chief Campbell indicated that since a representative from Qik N Easy could not be in attendance at tonight's meeting, he was asking their questions. The owners of Qik N Easy would like to sell hookahs and smoking paraphernalia. Attorney Moredock indicated that our ordinance indicates that they can sell hookah and non-paraphernalia, paraphernalia is when the item has been used and that is when it is illegal.

III. Zoning

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that the Zoning Committee met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 and the interested parties of Patrick Hurley and John Narmont did not show to the meeting. Therefore, no action came out of the meeting.

IV. City Clerk's Report – Barnhill

A. January 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 6, 2020 for the Council's review and approval. A motion was made by Garrett to approve the minutes for January 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)

V. Treasurer's Report –

A. Bills List January 7, 2020 to January 21, 2020

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List from January 7, 2020 to January 21, 2020 for the Council's review and approval. A motion was made by Karhliker to approve the Bills List with the correction of \$4840.08 from gas not sewer from Bills List January 7, 2020 to January 21, 2020, second 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)

December 2019 Cash Report

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the December 2019 Cash Report for the Council's review and approval. A motion was made by Sheppard to approve the December 2019 Cash Report; second by Powell. 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)

Alderman Garrett again asked for information regarding the interest rates. Warwick indicated that he is currently in the process of reviewing with other banks (UCB, Carrollton Bank, Town and Country, Marine, IL Funds and Security Bank). Garrett asked for clarification of what that really means. Warwick indicated that he will provide a separate sheet of the possibility of reinvesting funds with interest rates and other information deemed necessary to make a decision.

VI. Attorney's Report – Moredock

Attorney Moredock provided an update to the Council regarding the PEPL rate case. Moredock will continue to provide updates as we move along in this lawsuit.

VII. Department Heads

A. Chief Dave Campbell

Chief Campbell provided a brief update on our newest full-time officer that is currently at the academy. Troy Kissell is doing well and has 14 weeks remaining.

B. Superintendent -- Mike McCarthy

Superintendent Mike McCarthy informed the Council that on March 26 that Auburn will be hosting the USDI Mock Tragedy, with the possibility of 30 other towns participating.

C. City Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler informed the Council she is currently working to see if software upgrades for the new meters will be necessary. The city has a meeting with Sensus to discuss the software that will be used with the new meters and will follow up to determine server needs and software upgrades needed to handle the upgrades.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Administration – Johnson

1. Fine/Fee Schedule

Alderman Johnson presented to the Council for their review and approval of the new proposed Administrative Tow Fee to be increased from \$150 to \$250 effective at 12:01 a.m. on January 22, 2020. A motion was made by Johnson to approve the Administrative Tow Fee to be increased from \$150 to \$250 effective at 12:01 a.m. on January 22, 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)

2. Animal Running @ Large

Alderman Johnson presented to the Council for their review and approval of the new progressive fee charged for animal running at large beginning with a \$25 fee, second offense \$50 and third offense \$100; 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)

3. Ethics Policy and Employee Handbook

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that the Administration Committee is currently looking into an Employee Handbook. Legalizing cannabis suggested a merger of handbook and personnel code. Alderman Garrett has volunteered to merge the handbook and personnel code with Attorney Moredock. Attorney Moredock informed the Council that with the union contracts and cannabis becoming legalized it would be best to do a memo of understanding. Moredock has used this process before and been very successful. Alderman Royer requested the Council to look into the City's current ethics policy. Johnson indicated that Alderman Royer requested that the Ethic Ordinance be updated with changes offered by Royer in the previous Administration meeting. Royer indicated that he had worked with Attorney Moredock on these additions. The Ethics Ordinance and Employee Handbook will be reviewed at the next Administrative Committee Meeting.

4. 2020-2021 Budget

Alderman Johnson reviewed with the Council that at a quick comparison of the current budget that there is no need to adjust any of the line items as it seems they are good on them. A few items that they are considering for next year's budget are:

- a) Farm Cash Rent Income to parks to allow for costs for mowing and upkeep of parks
- b) Increase the monies in Sidewalk/Tree
- c) City Savings to be moved for better interested bearing account
- d) Lighted cross walks signs; speed radar signs
- e) Police department offices updated
- f) Technology – tablet or lap top for all council members

Johnson indicated that there was no action required and the next Administrative Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

B. Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker indicated that he did not have a report.

C. Public Utilities – Alderman Johnson

Alderman Johnson indicated that he did not have a report.

D. Health & Safety – Alderman Sheppard

Police Software

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that as of June 2020 the police software will have to be updated.

Internships

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that they were working with Alderman Basiewicz regarding the possibility of having internships with the Police Department. Information was provided with the first year the University of Illinois Springfield would charge \$24,100 and the second year would be \$22,800. The Council agreed that this is not something that they would consider at this time.

Camera for New Truck

Alderman Sheppard presented information regarding the purchase of a camera for the new Police truck. A motion was made Sheppard to approve the purchase of a camera for the new police truck not to exceed \$1900; second 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)

E. Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderman Sheppard indicated that she did not have a report. Alderman Garrett inquired as to the 1st Street Landers property if they had paid any fines agreed by the council. The answer was no.

F. Parks – Hemmerle

Committee Meeting – January 14, 2020

A. Gazebo Bid

Alderman Hemmerle informed the Council that a bid was received for the repair of the Gazebo but was decided by the Council to hold off until future information is gathered due to the fact that other things could be in need of repair on the Gazebo. A metal roof vs a shingled roof will also be considered.

B. Adopt a Park

Alderman Hemmerle presented the Adopt a Park waiver that will be presented with the application for the Council's review and approval. A motion was made by Hemmerle to approve the Adopt a Park waiver that needs to be present with the application; second 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)

University of Illinois Champaign Parks Survey

Alderman Royer presented information to the Council for their review and approval regarding the University of Illinois Parks Survey. The City’s cost of the University of Illinois Champaign Parks Survey in the amount of \$8200.00 and the Friends of the Auburn Parks would be contributing \$750. A motion was made by Royer to approve the City of Auburn to pay \$8200 to the University of Illinois Champaign Parks Survey; second by Sheppard. Vote Aye: Jason Garrett, Bill Karhliker, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard. NAY: Lori Basiewicz, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, and Joe Powell. PRESENT: None. ABSENT: None (4-4-0-0). Mayor Berola broke the tie with an Aye vote.

Alderman Royer thanked the Friends of the Auburn Parks for participating and providing \$750 to the survey cost. Alderman Karhliker also informed the Council that he and Alderman Royer are working with the school to increase the cooperation of projects and it seems very positive.

G. Economic Development Committee – Basiewicz

Alderman Basiewicz informed the Council that Bewitching Botanicals, a new store on the square, is interested in doing a grand opening and it will be scheduled soon

Resignation of the EDC chairman

Alderman Basiewicz presented the resignation letter of Economic Development Committee Chairman Matt Brown effective immediately. A motion was made by Basiewicz to accept the resignation of Matt Brown from the Economic Development Committee Chairman; second by Sheppard. 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)

H. Other Business

Alderman Garrett discussed with the Council of the following needs that should be considered: street sweeper and the usage of metal detectors in public areas.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjournment at 8:23 p.m. was made by Garrett and second by Royer. 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