

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Berola asked Clerk Warwick to take the roll.

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

Mayor Berola said there was a request for a noise permit for an event at Union Park for August 6, 2021, and August 7, 2021. Mayor Berola asked if there was any issue approving the permit, there was no comment on the permit.

Clerk Warwick presented the July 6, 2021, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the minutes, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from July 7, 2021, to July 19, 2021. Alderman Marquis had a question regarding a bill for a hitch and snowplow. Office Manager Ponsler explained that the expense was spread across five accounts for allocation purposes. The concern was the allocation of the expense, Office Manager Ponsler state it would be corrected for the next meeting. A motion was made by Alderman Royer to approve the Bills List minus the bill for the hitch and snowplow, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams presented the June 2021 Cash Report. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the June 2021 Cash Report, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Treasurer Williams reported the city's portion of the June video gaming revenue was \$10,263.84. The amount is lower than in previous months.

Attorney Moredock presented the first reading of ordinance 1503-21 an ordinance amending the code pertaining to meeting procedures and the Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Garrett noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback regarding this ordinance from various sources.

Attorney Moredock stated that an executive session is needed according to 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) c (2)  
PERSONNEL AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS.

Chief Campbell presented the resignation of Officer Crissey for the Council's approval effective July 6, 2021. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the resignation, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Chief Campbell presented Sean Patrick Grayson for full-time employment with the Police Department effective July 20, 2021. Mr. Grayson would need to attend a two-week transition course at a cost of \$800.00 within one year. Alderwoman made a motion to hire Mr. Grayson effective July 20, 2021, with pay according to the police contract, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

Chief Campbell presented Drake Manser for part-time employment with the Police Department effective July 20, 2021, at a rate of \$19.00 per hour per the police contract. Alderwoman Sheppard made a motion to hire Mr. Mansur, second by Alderman Royer.

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

Chief Campbell reported that the two new vehicles will be lettered soon.

Superintendent Henson reported on the high-profile water main break last week. Because of the rapid water loss on that water main a town-wide boil order was issued out of an abundance of caution. It took eleven hours to repair the water main. Alderman Karhliker asked Superintendent Henson if he had heard from PH Broughton regarding the oil and chip work for the city. Superintendent Henson stated that our engineers have confirmed that the paperwork has been sent to PH Broughton and that his staff has prepared the streets and the streets are ready for oil and chip work.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that the first utility bills printed on larger-sized postcards went out this week. She also mentioned that the office will be closed later in the week for the Sensus Billing training.

Alderman Johnson called an Administration Committee meeting for July 27, 2021, at 6:30 PM to discuss vacation time and computer/networking needs for the city.

Alderman Karhliker had no report for the Public Works committee.

Alderman Johnson had no report for the Public Utilities committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health & Safety committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard reported tall grass and an unsecured property at 305 North Rose Street. She was told the property has been sold. Attorney Moredock will check to see if the property has been sold and the correct owner so the issues can be remedied.

Alderman Hemmerle reported that a Parks Meeting was held on July 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential changes to Union Park that could be funded by an OSLAD grant. Some proposed changes could include upgrades to the playground equipment, bathroom facilities, basketball courts, parking, and a new pickleball court. There could be changes to the pavilion. Greg Hillis from Benton and Associates presented the process for the OSLAD matching grant and the work that Benton and Associates would do for the grant. The grant application is over one inch thick. The fee would be \$5,000.00 for grant writing, they would assist with the grant writing process and presentation to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Alderman Hemmerle noted that the Friend of Auburn Park and the Auburn Activates Committee were present at the committee meeting and are looking to assist in this process. The preliminary estimated cost for renovation would be between \$820,000.00 and \$1,160,000.00 but items could be changed to reduce costs. There were concerns about changing or downsizing the pavilion, there was also concern about the skate park aspect of the park. There was concern about the current condition of the pavilion. They will check with a local business that specializes in steel construction on the condition of the pavilion and repair costs. It was also noted the importance of having ADA-accessible facilities and playground equipment. There was a question on funding, a low-interest loan or video gaming revenue could be used to fund the project. The next step is to fine-tune the design and firm up the potential costs. A motion was made by Alderman Hemmerle to approve the \$5,000.00 fee from Benton and Associates for the OSLAD grant writing assistance, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Alderman Hemmerle reported that dirt work was discussed for the baseball fields at Veterans Park. The total bid came to \$22,865.00. The High School and AYBSA would contribute to the cost of the dirt work, specifically, AYBSA would contribute \$5,590.00 if the city would forgive the \$2,500.00, they owe the city for the dugout repairs on Leonard field. The High School would pay for Trojan field which would be \$12,125.00, leaving the city to pay \$5,150.00 on the bid. The dirt work will help all the fields with drainage to prevent cancellations after rain. There was concern about the cost of dirt work compared to other expenses within the city. A motion was made by Alderman Hemmerle to approve the \$5,150.00 payment from the city for the dirt work bid, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Alderman Hemmerle also reported that Assistant Baseball Coach Seth Bates wanted to know if the city would support putting in the turf on Trojan Field if the Auburn High School Baseball team could find the funding. The approximate cost would be \$227,000.00.

Alderman Hemmerle commended Mike Spears and AYBSA baseball for a great season and bring back some normalcy to the town after the 2020 pandemic. AYBSA has also requested repairs to playground equipment at Veterans Park. AYBSA will come back to the Parks Committee with a list of items that need to be repaired.

Alderman Royer presented bids for epoxy-coated metal picnic tables at a cost of \$1,903.00 for two eight-foot ADA compliant tables, the price would include shipping. The tables would be from All Inclusive Rec and the goal would be to buy two tables a year until all wooden picnic benches have been replaced. Alderman Royer made a motion to approve the \$1,903.00 expense, second by Alderman Marquis.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Clerk Warwick had no report for the Economic Development Committee.

Alderman Royer had a question about adding stop signs and speed bumps to reduce speeding in town. It was noted that there are several long stretches in town that people tend to speed. To place speed bumps or stops a survey would be sent out to the residents in the affected area and the council would vote on adding either item. It was also noted that the stop signs can cause more noise from braking and starting of vehicles, speed bumps can cause damage to city plow equipment. Alderman Royer asked Chief Campbell and Superintendent Henson to investigate the issue further and bring back recommendations.

Alderman Garrett reported that five hundred sixty-four feet of sidewalk have been poured so far this year and two hundred feet still need to be completed. In the last five years, one thousand nine hundred twenty-four feet of sidewalk have been replaced and fifteen ADA sidewalk ramps have been added. There are still more sidewalks that need to be repaired. The trees on 4<sup>th</sup> Street should be taken down later in the week. Alderman Garrett also reported that he did an informal poll on Facebook regarding a city-run fireworks display, and he stated that ninety-five percent of the responses were positive.

Alderman Garrett asked about support for a fireworks display. There were several locations discussed and discussion followed. The council was supportive of moving forward with a city-run fireworks display.

Alderman Garrett asked about the crossing between the Casey's and the High School Football field. The flashing light is controlled by the School District. It was noted that additional flashing lights were requested from the State in the past and those requests were denied.

Alderman Garrett brought up the need for a better communication system for the citizens. He cited the recent water main break as an example of the need for quick and thorough broadcast communications. He stated he would bring back the budget information for the system he investigated previously.

Alderman Garrett asked about the status of relief money related to the February natural gas price spike. Mayor Berola indicated he would reach out to State Representative Mike Murphy for an update.

Motion by Alderman Garrett to adjourn to a closed session according to 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) c (2) PERSONNEL AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS at 8:24 PM, second Alderman Royer. 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 Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Johnson at 8:28 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 8:29 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Johnson. Taken by voice vote.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick  
City Clerk