

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 6, 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 Garrett, Alderman Hemmerle, Alderwoman Sheppard, Alderman Johnson, and Alderman Karhliker. Also, present was Chief Campbell, Superintendent Henson, Office Manager Ponsler, and Justin Onken from Sorling Law. Attorney Moredock and Alderman Marquis were absent.

Mayor Berola read several letters of praise and congratulations for Office Jack Crissey on his retirement from the Auburn Police Department.

Jessica Lance made a presentation regarding a Fall Festival being planned for October 22nd and 23rd. The activities would include a Trunk or Treat event, costume contests, hayrides, an inflatable ride, live entertainment, chili cook-off, and craft beer tasting. Jessica also asked if the City could notify business owners when the square is closed for events, there was some confusion during the past event.

Charles Unthank requested the City assist with clean-up of the yard and tree debris on the easement between Interurban Street and North Street. Charles noted that since the burn ban and closure of the Lost Caboose site more yard waste has been dumped in this area. Superintendent Henson said he would investigate the site and take the appropriate action to address the situation.

Clerk Warwick presented the June 21, 2021, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the minutes, second by Alderman Powell.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Treasurer Williams presented the Bills List from June 22, 2021, to July 6, 2021. Alderman Karhliker had a question on the payment for Emmons Tree Service, he thought the tree bid should have been \$2,500.00 and the bills list shows \$2,600.00. Alderman Garrett said it will be addressed later in the meeting. Alderman Karhliker noted that there was an issue with a payment to Terry Brown, Superintendent Henson said that Terry Brown will write a check to refund the discrepancy. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve the Bills List, second by Alderman Royer.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Treasurer Williams presented Ordinance 1502-21 the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Ordinance. There was a Public Hearing that was held earlier in the day and there were no public comments on the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations. A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve Ordinance 1502-21, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Attorney Onken stated that an executive session is needed according to 5 ILCS 120/2 c (1) c (2) PERSONNEL AND COLLECTIVE NEGOTIATING MATTERS. Mayor Berola indicated that would be covered at the end of the meeting.

Chief Campbell presented the resignation of Officer Crissey for the Council's approval. The item was not listed on the agenda, and it will be placed on the agenda for action. Chief Campbell reported that the speed detection trailer was finally in and will be deployed.

Superintendent Henson reported that the gas changeovers are starting up again. Patchwork for the roads that were impacted by the water main project will begin soon. Alderman Royer thanked Superintendent Henson for his weekly reports, it helps keep the Council informed of current projects and concerns citizens might have. Alderman Karhliker asked Superintendent Henson to look at a curb and gutter at the Maley property in the Timberbrooke development.

Office Manager Ponsler reported that extra support will be needed for the Sensus Billing training on July 22nd and 23rd. The office will be closed during the training to allow maximum participation by City staff.

Alderman Johnson stated that an Administration Committee meeting will be set after the July 19th Council Meeting.

Alderman Karhliker had no report for the Public Works Committee.

Alderman Johnson presented Change Order #1 from MB Construction. Change Order #1 is \$135,566.35 but there is a credit on the Change Order, so the amount needed for the payment is \$51,602.60. Alderman Johnson made a motion to approve a payment of \$51,602.60, second by Alderwoman Sheppard.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Alderman Garrett presented new options for electronic locks for city facilities. Alderman Garrett indicated that there are no other entities that can do the work like A-1 Lock in the area except for Senergy. Senergy toured the building with Alderman Garrett and presented a bid for \$36,200. Alderman Garrett highlighted the flexibility and security of either solution. Chief Campbell noted that the doors in the Police Department must be updated for security. Alderman Powell expressed concern about the cost and the lack of issues in the past. The council was in favor of updating the doors for the Police Department but still concerned about the cost of the total system.

Alderwoman Sheppard reported that the Dennis property at 202 South 6th Street has been secured and now that the price of construction materials has come down the Dennis' will begin working on the property again.

Alderman Hemmerle reported that the OSLAD grant dates have been announced and he would like to have a Parks Committee meeting on July 12th at 6:00 PM.

Clerk Warwick had no report for the Economic Development Committee.

Alderman Garrett asked about codifying the Pledge of Allegiance into the City meetings. Attorney Onken will discuss with Attorney Moredock and report back to the council.

Alderman Garrett brought up the question of the City has reached its saturation point of Video Gaming Licenses. The council was split on the issue. Some concerns were that would we limiting additional businesses if they could not offer gaming to complement their business, i.e., a restaurant with gaming. Some council members felt we should restrict just gaming-only licenses and new businesses should offer something besides gaming only. No action was taken.

Alderman Garrett brought bids for the removal of trees at 209 South 4th Street (2 trees) and 205 South 4th Street (1 tree). The lowest bid was from Emmons Tree Service of \$3,800.00 which would include stump grinding. Alderman Garrett also indicated that he received a text from Emmon's during the meeting that they would reduce their bid by \$100.00 because of the previous error on their previous bid/work. Alderman Royer made a motion to accept a bid from Emmons tree service in the amount of \$3,700.00, second Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

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 8:12 PM, second Alderman Johnson. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Motion to come back into the regular meeting from the closed session was made by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Royer at 8:28 PM. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

A motion was made by Alderman Johnson to approve a termination agreement with a past employee, second by Alderman Royer.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Alderman Garrett brought up the possibility of a City-funded fireworks display funded with Video Gaming Revenues.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:31 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderman Royer. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Marquis

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Warwick
City Clerk