

**City of Auburn**  
**Monday, May 4, 2020**  
**Zoom Televideo Meeting Minutes**

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

Clerk Barnhill took roll call. Due to 20-7 Executive Order issued by the Governor of Illinois waves the “in person” to participating via remote because of the COVID19 Pandemic.

**Present in Council Chambers:** Tom Berola, Julie Barnhill and Chris Warwick

**Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing:** Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer and Tracy Sheppard.

**Absent:** None

**Department Heads Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing:** Attorney Greg Moredock, Chief Dave Campbell, Superintendent Mike McCarthy, City Office Manager Kristy Ponsler and Becky Pisarek.

**Department Heads Absent:** None

**I. Mayor’s Comments**

**A. Solution for Disposal of Yard/Landscape Waste**

Mayor Berola opened the meeting for discussion of the disposal of yard/landscape waste. Alderman Royer shared with the Council that he had been doing some research and to put solar cameras out at the Old Lost Caboose site would not be cost effective. Royer did suggest using a trail cam. After a lengthy discussion, Superintendent McCarthy suggested to opening up the disposal of yard/landscape waste, sticks and leaves only, from 6:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This would begin on Tuesday, May 5 and the garage staff would monitor it. McCarthy indicated that this is a trial basis and see how things would go.

Motion by Royer second by Garrett to allow Auburn residents, non-commercial, to deliver sticks and leaves only, no grass clippings, to the Lost Caboose Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. beginning May 5, 2020. (6-2-0-0)

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

NAYES: Basiewicz and Hemmerle

ABSENT: None

## **B. Liquor License Classifications**

Mayor Berola shared with the Council that a couple of the gaming business owners in Auburn would like to be able to sale package liquor. Attorney Moredock informed the Council that this would be considered *Act Out of Classification* and is allowed during the shutdown. Moredock shared with the Council that most of the establishments would have a pour only liquor license and that during the shutdown would be allowed to sale package liquor.

Motion by Garrett and second by Basiewicz to allow the sale of curb side package liquor to all licensees the same extent allowed by State of Illinois during stay at home emergency effective May 5, 2020. (5-2-1-0)

AYES: Basiewicz, Garrett, Hemmerle, Royer and Sheppard

NAYES: Johnson and Powell

ABSENT: Karhliker (offline due to technology issues)

## **II. Visitors/Public Comments**

### **III. Zoning**

#### **A. Zoning Board Meeting Minutes from 04-23-2020**

1. William Dalby – 203 W. Monroe – reduction in setbacks to construct a garage

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that the Zoning Board met on April 23, 2020 via ZOOM and discussed the reduction in setback at 203 W. Monroe that is needed for homeowner William Dalby to construct a garage.

A motion was made by Sheppard second by Powell to allow setback at 203 W. Monroe to construct a garage. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

## **IV. City Clerk's Report – Barnhill**

Clerk Barnhill presented the Council the April 20, 2020 meeting minutes for their review and approval. Alderman Royer shared his concerns with the minutes.

Motion by Royer second by Powell to approve the April 20, 2020 minutes with corrections. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**V. City Treasurer's Report – Warwick**

Warwick presented the Bill List April 21, 2020 to May 4, 2020 for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Basiewicz second by Powell to approve the Bill's List from April 21, 2020 to May 4, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Warwick also provided an update to the Council that the City of Auburn only has 66.1% of current residents that have completed the census. Powell recommended that a note be placed on the City signage on Rt. 104 about completing the census.

**VI. Attorney – Moredock**

**A. Spending Policy**

Attorney Moredock informed the Council that he was still working with Alderman Royer on the spending policy.

**B. Discussion on Non-Binding Referendum on Cannabis**

Attorney Moredock asked the Council if they would like to discuss the non-binding referendum on cannabis now or would the Council like to have it ready for next meeting to move forward. Attorney Moredock will have it ready for the next meeting to move forward.

**C. Discussion on Non-Binding Referendum for raising chickens in the City of Auburn**

Attorney Moredock asked the Council if they would like to move forward regarding the non-binding referendum for raising chickens within the City of Auburn. Moredock did state that he wanted the Council to know that he wasn't for sure if we would have any other items for the referendum in the Fall, as the City would be allowed up to 3 non-binding referendum items on the ballot. Consensus was to move forward and have it ready for the next meeting.

**D. Executive Session – Personnel 12c.1**

Mayor Berola informed the Council that the Executive Session – Personnel 12c.1 that was originally planned was now not needed.

**VII. Department Heads**

**A. Police Department – Campbell**

Chief Campbell indicated that he did not have a report at this time.

**B. Public Works – McCarthy**

Superintendent Mike McCarthy provided an update on the storm pump that was previously ordered. The storm pump has been shipped but must go through customs. Customs could slow things down two to four weeks.

**C. City Office – Ponsler**

City Office Manager Kristy Ponsler indicated that she is working on budget reports and updating tax reports.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**A. Administration – Johnson**

Alderman Johnson set up a joint Administration and Utilities meeting on May 12, 6:30 p.m. Utilities will start at 6:30 with shut offs and penalties on the agenda.

Administration will follow with budget discussion on the agenda.

Alderman Garrett asked if general revenue is broken down by categories and

Alderman Johnson indicated that it is broken down by category.

**B. Public Works – Karhliker**

Alderman Karhliker informed the Council that the only bid received was opened on April 27, 2020. That bid was received from Crown Trucking for MFT materials in the amount of \$24,944.

Motion by Karhliker second by Hemmerle to accept and approve the bid from Crown Trucking for MFT materials in the amount of \$24,944. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**C. Public Utilities – Johnson**

Alderman Johnson shared with the Council that the March outstanding bills were \$8400. As of today, only 20 (10 renters, 9 homeowners, 1 foreclosure) utility bills totaling \$3754.05 have not been paid.

Johnson discussed with the Council the Utility Gas Management (UGM) agreement (gas purchaser, PEFA). Hedging agreement, signed by the Mayor, was updated to add Clayton Energy Corporation (Clayton), a northern purchaser, to the group. Alderman Johnson indicated that he would have Clerk Barnhill drop the UGM agreement into dropbox for the Council's review.

#### **D. Health & Safety – Sheppard**

Alderman Sheppard indicated that Alderman Garrett asked for police squad car striping to be placed on the agenda, so she asked Garrett to speak regarding this matter. Alderman Garrett indicated that the police department has 7 active patrol vehicles and 4 are not striped with any type of community markings. Garrett stated that when he spoke with Chief Campbell, the only thing preventing the cars from being striped were the necessary funds. Alderman Garrett asked Alderman Johnson if there was \$1,000 in the budget for the police department to mark the squad cars. Alderman Johnson indicated that there were unused funds that were available. Alderman Basiewicz indicated that she would like to hear what the Chief would like to do. Alderman Garrett indicated that by striping these cars it represents a visible deterrent to crime. Mayor Berola shared his thoughts on the matter and shared a story regarding a car that was unmarked. Alderman Sheppard also asked Chief Campbell if he would like to keep any of the cars unmarked. Chief Campbell indicated that if the funds were made available, he would strip 2 vehicles, and leave 2 unmarked.

Motion was made by Garrett second by Royer to allow up to \$750 to mark vehicles of the Chief's discretion.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

#### **E. Health & Housing – Sheppard**

##### **1. 521 E. Jackson – Kaylean Walden**

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that she has tried to reach the realtor/bank to discuss with them the current shape of the property. The neighbors are complaining about trash, snakes and animals that are coming over onto their property. Alderman Garrett volunteered to work on contacting the appropriate person for this property to see if he can make any lead way.

##### **2. 920 W. Jefferson –Michael Smith (cease and desist letter (operation of a dog kennel)**

Alderman Sheppard informed the Council that Attorney Moredock has mailed a cease and desist letter to the owner, Michael Smith, at 920 W. Jefferson due to the fact of an operation of a dog kennel. Sheppard and Moredock indicated that no word has been received from the property owner.

Superintendent McCarthy asked Alderman Sheppard if she would check out the old McCarty property on Isabelle Drive. McCarthy's understanding is that it is starting to look bad just like last year.

**F. Parks – Hemmerle**

**Hot Water Heater – Veteran’s Park**

Alderman Hemmerle shared bids for the replacement of hot water heater and some additional plumbing with the sinks at Veteran’s park concession stand. Bids received were from Rhetberg’s for \$1160 and Ellis Plumbing for \$1600.

Motion was made by Hemmerle second by Garrett to accept and approve the bid from Rhetberg’s for \$1160 for the replacement of hot water heater and some additional plumbing with the sinks at Veteran’s park concession stand. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**Parks Survey Update**

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that Council members were sent the link to the parks survey and is encouraged to complete it. The survey was also dropped into dropbox for everyone’s review.

**G. Economic Development Committee – Basiewicz**

Alderman Basiewicz shared with the Council that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) met on April 29, 2020. Basiewicz indicated that Treasurer Warwick shared information regarding grant opportunities with local businesses. Alderman Basiewicz also stated that the EDC is happy to work with the newly created Auburn Chamber of Commerce. They did discuss appointing a chair.

**IX. Other Business**

**X. Adjournment**

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill  
City Clerk