

City of Auburn
Monday, November 16, 2020
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, Chris Warwick, Rod Johnson, Joe Powell and Attorney Greg Moredock

Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing: Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Bill Karhliker, Mike Marquis, Ben Royer, Tracy Sheppard, Chief Dave Campbell, Superintendent TJ Henson and Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

Absent: None

I. Mayor's Comments

The Mayor indicated that tonight's meeting will happen via ZOOM Teleconferencing due to statewide COVID-19 pandemic. It was determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus stemming from an indoor gathering, and that the remote meeting is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the council, staff, and general public.

Filling of Ward I Alderman Vacancy

Mayor Berola informed the Council that he would like to recommend Mike Marquis, former City of Auburn police officer, to the vacant Ward I Alderman position. Marquis has worked for the City of Auburn and knows the City.

Motion by Johnson second by Royer to appoint Mike Marquis to the vacant Ward I Alderman position effective immediately. (7-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

II. VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Jessica Lance – Backyard Chickens and Sales Tax Rebate

Although Jessica Lance was not able to be on-line, Mayor Berola informed the Council that she was wanting to talk about the non-binding chicken referendum that was passed during the November election. Berola shared with the Council that Attorney Moredock is working on a draft ordinance for the Council to review. One example was shared with the ordinance that the City of Washington Illinois enforcing. Alderman Garrett pointed out that the City of Washington is not even comparable to the size of Auburn. Alderman Karhliker asked how we would handle the subdivision covenants that are in place. Karhliker indicated he didn't know if the City would override them or not. Mayor Berola informed the Council that all this needs to be looked into. Attorney Moredock will be doing some research on processes in place that have been successful.

Jessica Lance also had inquired about the sales tax rebate for her new business after a year of existence. Mayor Berola shared with the Council that she is entitled to 1% of the City's collected tax portion from her business. Office Manager Kristy Ponsler is working with her on this matter.

Donna Moldenhaur, representing Trinity Lutheran Church, was online and is inquiring about the possibility of closing Van Buren Street from 11th Street to 104 directly behind Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity Lutheran Church will be doing a drive by Nativity scene on Saturday, December 12, from 5-8 p.m. Mayor Berola informed her that it would not be a problem and he would talk with Superintendent TJ Henson to make that happen.

III. ZONING

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that the Zoning Meeting that was schedule for November 11, 2020 was cancelled.

IV. CITY CLERK'S REPORT – BARNHILL

A. 2021 City Council Meeting Dates

Clerk Julie Barnhill informed the Council that the 2021 City Council Meeting Date listing was placed in dropbox for their information.

B. November 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Clerk Barnhill presented the November 2, 2020 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Alderman Royer pointed out that Mayor Berola was listed as being present at meeting when he was present via ZOOM and this needed to be corrected.

Motion by Royer second by Garrett to approve the November 2, 2020 meeting minutes with the correction of Berola being present via ZOOM. (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 November 2, 2020 to November 16, 2020

City Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List for November 2, 2020 to November 16, 2020 to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Royer second by Garrett to approve the Bills List for November 2, 2020 to November 16, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

B. OCTOBER 2020 CASH REPORT

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the October 2020 Cash Report to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Royer second by Powell to approve the October 2020 Cash Report. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: None

C. EXTRA PAYMENT TO IMRF

Treasurer Warwick presented to the Council the possibility of making an extra \$10,000 IMRF payment.

Motion by Garrett second by Karhliker to approve the extra \$10,000 IMRF payment. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Hemmerle

ABSENT: None

VI. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

A. Second Reading, Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours

Attorney Moredock recommended to the Council to table the Second Reading, Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours.

Motion by Johnson second by Sheppard to amend the Second Reading, Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours until the next Council meeting. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Royer

ABSENT: None

B. First Reading –1490-20, An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn Illinois for the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Payable in 2021)

Attorney Moredock presented to the Council the First Reading of 1490-20 An Ordinance Levying and Assessing Taxes for the City of Auburn Illinois for the Year Ending December 31, 2020 (payable in 2021) for the Council’s review.

VII. DEPARTMENT HEADS

Campbell

Chief Dave Campbell informed the Council that the City of Auburn Police Department has received another grant for traffic detail from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Henson

Superintendent TJ Henson informed the Council that the person they intended to hire for the vacant position of Garage Laborer did not work out. Henson indicated that after looking into other candidates he recommends to the Council the hiring of Chad Smith, pending background check, for the vacant position of Garage Laborer. Alderman Garrett indicated that he had heard that a number of people had been offered the position and had for one reason or another turned it down. Alderman Garrett asked Superintendent Henson if he would like to reopen the application process to seek additional candidates. Henson indicated while he felt it would be ok to open the applications back up, he was satisfied with offering Chad Smith this position as he needed the manpower now.

Motion by Johnson second by Royer to hire Chad Smith, pending back ground check, to the vacant position of Garage Laboror at a pay rate set by union contract and will begin as soon as he provides notice to his current employer. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: None

Ponsler

Office Manager Kristy Ponsler indicated that she did not have a report except for hoping Alderman Johnson will reschedule the previously cancelled Administration Committee.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Johnson

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that he does need to schedule the previously cancelled Administration Committee Meeting as Officer Manager Ponsler indicated. He would like to set a ZOOM meeting for Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. to discuss personnel, annexation and clerk software.

Public Works – Karhliker

Alderman Karhliker indicated that he did not have a report at this time.

Public Utilities – Johnson

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that a request for loan disbursement from the IEPA on the Illinois Water Resolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$663,788.96 has been received and needs to be approved.

Motion by Johnson second by Hemmerle to approve the Auburn IEPA Reimbursement payment in the amount of \$663,788.96. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Alderman Johnson also informed the Council that Attorney Moredock needs to draft an ordinance for Utility Fee for Repayment. The cost is \$10.78 per month per water customer and Alderman Johnson is recommending it to be \$11.00 per month per water customer. This additional cost will need to begin in January 2021. That would allow one full year before the city has to make repayment.

Health & Safety – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that because of the Covid 19 pandemic, they should be considering banning burning until further notice. Mayor Berola indicated that he agrees with Alderwoman Sheppard and feels that the City should keep the Lost Caboose open for residents. Alderman Garrett did reiterate that you can have a personal fire pit where you burn sticks but leaves and grass clippings are not allowed.

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to ban burning of leaves and grass clippings indefinitely and will be reexamined in the Spring of 2021. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

Health & Housing – Sheppard

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that the North Grand property has been sold and is being gutted to the structure.

Parks – Hemmerle

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that he did not have a report at this time.

Economic Development

Economic Development Representative Chris Warwick indicated that an EDC meeting has been scheduled for November 30, 2020 via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m.

- IX. OTHER BUSINESS**
- X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Barnhill
City Clerk