

**City of Auburn**  
**Monday, October 19, 2020**  
**Minutes**

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

**Present in Council Chambers:** Tom Berola, Julie Barnhill, Chris Warwick, Lori Basiewicz, Jason Garrett, Larry Hemmerle, Rod Johnson, Bill Karhliker, Joe Powell, Ben Royer, Tracy Sheppard and Attorney Greg Moredock.

**Absent:** None

**Department Heads in Council Chambers:** Chief Dave Campbell and Superintendent TJ Henson

**Department Heads Absent:** Office Manager Kristy Ponsler

**Present via ZOOM Teleconferencing:**

**I. Mayor's Comments**

A. Accept Ward 1 Alderwoman Basiewicz Resignation

With a heavy heart, Mayor Berola announced the resignation of Alderwoman Basiewicz as Ward 1 Alderperson effective October 31, 2020. Basiewicz addressed the Council and said due to personal reasons she feels it is best if she resigns from her position. Alderwoman Basiewicz indicated that she has enjoyed being on the Council and hopes there may be place for her in the future but as of right now she needs to tend to personal issues. Mayor Berola will begin looking for someone to replace/fill Ward 1 Alderperson position.

Motion by Johnson second by Sheppard to accept the resignation of Ward 1 Alderwoman Basiewicz effective October 31, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**II. Visitors/Public Comments**

**A. Sandy Jones**

Sandy Jones, high school teacher, participated via ZOOM and her colleague, Abby Fritz, was present in the chambers to discuss the possibility of shutting down some of the streets to host a Veteran's Day parade. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the best option would be for the parade to go through the square. Spaces on the square will be marked off for veteran's to park and sit in their cars as the parade would go by. A complete plan will be provided to the City and to the Chief when it is complete.

**III. Zoning**

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that the Zoning meeting that was scheduled for October 14, 2020 was cancelled.

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

**A. October 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

City Clerk Julie Barnhill presented the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes for the Council's review and approval.

Motion by Royer second by Johnson to approve the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

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

**A. Bills List October 6, 2020 to October 19, 2020**

City Treasurer Chris Warwick presented the Bills List for October 6, 2020 to October 19, 2020 to the Council for their review and approval.

Motion by Sheppard second by Johnson to approve the Bills List for October 6, 2020 to October 19, 2020. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**B. September 2020 Cash Report**

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

Motion by Johnson second by Sheppard to approve the September 2020 Cash Report. (7-1-0-0)

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: None

**C. Reciprocal Agreement Between the City of Auburn and the Illinois Department of Revenue**

Treasurer Chris Warwick presented information regarding the Reciprocal Agreement between the City of Auburn and the Illinois Department of Revenue for the Council to review and approve.

Motion by Royer second by Basiewicz to approve the Reciprocal Agreement between the City of Auburn and the Illinois Department of Revenue.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**VI. Attorney – Moredock**

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

Attorney Moredock shared with the Council that he is still trying to contact the attorney from Chicago regarding language to adopt to accommodate business of craft brewery for Ordinance 1487-20 – Amending the Liquor Code to Prohibit Occupancy of Licensed Establishments During Certain Hours.

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

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

NAYES: Royer

ABSENT: None

Alderman Garrett asked for additional clarification regarding Ordinance 1487-20 Liquor Licenses. Garrett would like to know if the Mayor is the sole decision maker on liquor licenses for a business or would the Council make the final decision. According to Attorney Moredock, the Mayor makes the decision to present it to the Council for final approval.

**B. Second Reading, Ordinance 1489-20 – Ordinance Authorizing the City to Begin Demolition Proceedings After A Specified Time Period**

Attorney Moredock presented the Second Reading, Ordinance 1489-20 – Ordinance Authorizing the City to Begin Demolition Proceedings After A Specified Time Period for the Council’s review and approval.

Motion by Royer second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 1489-20 – Ordinance Authorizing the City to Begin Demotion Proceedings After a Specified Time Period. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

**VII. Department Heads**

**A. Police Department – Campbell**

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

**B. Public Works – Henson**

**1. Backhoe**

Superintendent Henson informed the Council that the backhoe has a seal out and the quote should be between \$2900 and \$3500. Henson will get information and present back to the Council.

Henson did inform the Council that the date for meter change out will begin on December 1, 2020. Piping is going in the ground nicely.

**C. City Office – Ponsler**

City Office Manager Ponsler was absent so no report at this time.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Administration – Johnson**

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that they have received the new insurance rates and they did not increase. FOP, Garage Employees and Clerical are remaining on the current insurance plan. With the employees staying on the current plan, it gives the opportunity to the City to offer dental and vision insurance. With the additional dental and vision insurance added, it will remain under the \$650 allotted amount per employee.

Motion by Johnson second Garrett to approve the insurance plan selection for FOP, Garage and Clerical Employees and offer dental/vision (\$36.87 per employee) to qualified employees for 2021 insurance rates. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### **B. Public Works – Karhliker**

Alderman Karhliker – No Report

### **C. Public Utilities – Johnson**

Alderman Johnson informed the Council that Superintendent Henson informed him this morning that two customers turned their own utilities on after being shutoff. They both had paid but by the time the garage employees arrived their utilities were already on. Both customers have been talked with and Henson informed the Council that utilities will now be shut off from street, as they were in the past and the meters locked.

### **D. Health & Safety – Sheppard**

Alderwoman Sheppard, along with Chief Campbell, stated that they would like to hire Officer Garrad Straube as a full-time officer with the City of Auburn Police Department. Straube is fully certified and currently is employed with the Village of Divernon.

Motion by Royer second by Sheppard to hire Garrad Straube as a full-time officer with in the City of Auburn Police Department with a start date of October 27, 2020 and wages per union contract. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### **Burning of Leaves**

Alderman Hemmerle brought up the fact the winds have been around 40 mph and burning is not advisable and residents need to be conscious of this. Leaves in bags can be dropped off at lost caboose. Burning leaves at the street is not allowed. Officers are to be called if this is occurring. Mayor Berola also reminded everyone that it has been raining on and off so that would mean the leaves are wet and that is not permissible. Alderman Powell indicated that a red flag alert can be sent out by the County to let residents know that they cannot burn if necessary.

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

Alderwoman Sheppard informed the Council that she has tried to reach the mortgage company for the house on 521 West Jackson for grass and weeds. In the past Sheppard has had good luck contacting the company and them taking care of it but not this time. The Council agreed that the City would begin mowing this property and billing the mortgage company.

Motion by Sheppard second by Basiewicz to declare 521 West Jackson a nuisance and will need to be abated by October 26, 2020 or fines will begin accruing at \$50 per day. (7-0-0-1)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT:

### **F. Parks – Hemmerle**

#### **Leonard Field Repairs**

Alderman Hemmerle informed the Council that bids have been received for Leonard Field. First bid by Bulldog Construction for the repair of two dugouts in the amount of \$9,850 was received. Another bid by Bulldog Construction for the repair of the fence at Leonard Field in the amount of \$9,000 was received.

Motion by Hemmerle second by Royer to accept and approve bids from Bulldog Construction for the repair of two dugouts at Leonard Field in the amount of \$9,850 and for the repair of the fence at Leonard Field in the amount of \$9,000 for a total of \$18,850. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### **Park Survey**

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that the next steps for the park survey will be:

- \*vision of future of east park to meet demands
- \*Playground equipment
- \*Lighting at East Park (change to LED)

### **Power update on City Square**

Alderman Hemmerle indicated that it was back to the drawing board for electrical on the square. Apparently, they were confused and thought the electrical needs were on the west side but it really is the east side.

### **Trash Cans for City Square**

Alderman Royer shared with the Council the information to purchase two decorative trash cans in the amount of \$407 each for the square.

Motion by Royer second by Hemmerle to approve the purchase of two decorative trash cans not to exceed \$1000 for the square. (8-0-0-0)

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

### **G. Economic Development Committee – Basiewicz**

Alderman Basiewicz shared documents that Ryan McCready from the Sangamon County EDC prepared that told about the consumers of Auburn.

EDC Member Chris Warwick, shared with the Council that incentives need to be given, in addition to the 1% incentive, to bring businesses to Auburn.

Alderman Garrett indicated that he shared this three years ago and doesn't understand what is taking so long.

IX. Other

### **X. Adjournment**

Motion by Garrett second by Royer to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Passed by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Barnhill  
City Clerk

