

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 20, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Berola with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance of all present.

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

Jeff Hart was present to ask about the annexation of his property at 14250 Dixon Road into the city limits. He intends to open a business on the property once the property is annexed in, a martial arts studio. The property would be eligible to be annexed. The next steps would be to have an ordinance created for annexation if there is no zoning change.

Chris Dodd was present to make a \$1,000.00 donation to the Auburn Police Department on behalf of the Virden Knights of Columbus.

Clerk Warwick presented the September 7, 2021, meeting minutes for the council's review and approval. Alderman Johnson noted that Attorney Justin Onken was listed as Greg Onken, the mistake will be updated in the final minutes. Alderman Garrett asked about a list of items that Office Manager Ponsler was to forward to Alderman Hemmerle before the Administration meeting. The list of requirements was not germane to the Council meeting and the Administration meeting has not been held yet, so it was not noted on the September 7, 2021, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the meeting minutes, second by Alderman Marquis. Alderman Garrett had concerns that certain items were presented in the meeting minutes. Clerk Warwick asked Alderman Garrett if he could provide a list of the items missing, he would review them and make any corrections necessary that would be approved by the council later.

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

NAYES: Garrett

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Treasurer Williams presented the bills list from September 8, 2021, to September 20, 2021, for the council's review and approval. Alderwoman Sheppard had a question about why postage for check number 26159 was listed under three different departments. Office Manager Ponsler stated it is for the utility bills. Alderman Garrett asked about the billing of electricity for the parks. He inquired if we could charge back the use of electricity to the users of the parks, for example, the adult softball league or AYBSA. He was concerned that the electricity bill is eating into the Parks funds. It was noted that the users of the electricity are typically Auburn citizens using the services. Clerk Warwick read off the Ameren bills for the parks and the amount billed. The lights further north of Bandstand need to be moved to the City's overall bill.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sheppard to approve the bills list, second by Alderman Karhliker.

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

NAYES: Garrett and Royer

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Alderman Garrett indicated that he not voting yes for any future bills list because he is dissatisfied with the current spending path the city is on, he listed several items.

Attorney Moredock presented the second reading of Resolution 91-21 allowing the city to participate in the Safe Routes to School grant. A motion was made by Alderman Karhliker to approve Resolution 91-21, second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Chief Campbell has nothing to report.

Superintendent Henson has nothing to report.

Office Manager Ponsler gave an update on the current situation on the Blue Cross Blue Shield dispute with Springfield Clinic. An insurance representative did come and speak regarding the options available to the employees. There was a discrepancy based on what was available, and the insurance agent had conflicting information on the Premium Saver plan.

Alderman Johnson desired that an all-employee meeting be held to plan the direction of any insurance changes due to the Blue Cross Blue Shield and Springfield Clinic impasse. Alderman Garrett asked about switching agents based on the discrepancy given by the current agent. Alderman Johnson stated there is not a desire to change agents at this time because we have switched several agents in past years. No date was set at the meeting.

Alderman Karhliker reported that on September 9<sup>th</sup>, Benton and Associates and the City met to review the Safe Routes to Schools locations and information. There was a Public Hearing on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Safe Route to Schools grant is a maximum of \$250,000.00 and it is an 80/20 match, the city would need to cover twenty percent of the costs. Chief Campbell requested an electronic speed sign be added to the project. One of the target locations was around the Elementary School.

Alderman Johnson had no report to the Utilities Committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard had no report for the Health and Safety Committee.

Alderwoman Sheppard reported that for the nuisance at 514 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street that Mrs. Oller indicated that the unsightly accumulations are her adult son's and not hers. Mrs. Oller is asking for her son to be fined and not her. Alderwoman Sheppard noted that the rental agreement and utilities for the property are in Mrs. Oller's name. Alderman Garrett noted section 18-36 of the city code regarding chronic nuisances, and we should use this ordinance in those instances. Alderwoman Sheppard made a motion that all fines for 514 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street should be directed to Mrs. Oller because her name is on the lease and utilities., second by Alderman Garrett.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Hemmerle

There was no Parks Committee report due to Alderman Hemmerle's absence.

Clerk Warwick had no report for the Economic Development Committee.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:47 PM by Alderman Garrett, second by Alderwoman Sheppard. Taken by voice vote.

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

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Hemmerle

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Warwick

City Clerk of Auburn