

## Auburn City Council Meeting, April 4, 2024

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, April 4, 2024 5:00 P.M.  
City Council Chambers  
Memorial City Hall  
24 South St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**

### **Minutes**

The meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. from the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn, NY by Mayor James N. Giannettino, Jr..

**ROLL CALL** – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Giannettino and Councilor Ginny Kent, Councilor Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Christina Calarco were present.

**The following City Staff was present for the meeting:**

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- Director of Planning & Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- Comptroller, Mary Beth Leeson
- Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Senior Planner, Renee Jensen
- Assistant to the Mayor and City Council, Rhonda Miller

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** – Mayor Giannettino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection** – Mayor Giannettino asked for a moment of silent prayer.

**Public Announcements** –

The City Budget preparation webpage has been added to the City website and can be located at this link: [www.auburnny.gov/budget](http://www.auburnny.gov/budget)

Planning is underway for the Summer Recreation Program for Children in the City's parks. Information of the Summer of 2023 program was sent by email to the members of City Council for their review, as well as, the information can be found at the City website page: [www.auburnny.gov/summerrec](http://www.auburnny.gov/summerrec) If members of City Council have any input for the Summer 2024 program they are asked to provide that to the City Manager and the Director of Public Works.

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The northeast United States will experience a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024 and in Auburn the eclipse will reach totality at 3:22 pm. The City of Auburn is pleased to announce that Falcon Park will host 'Eclipse Fest' on April 8, 2024, when the "Great North American Eclipse" will make its way through 13 US states from southwest to northeast. The City of Auburn, NY will experience a total eclipse at 3:22 p.m., which will be the first visible in the area since 1925. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, as the next one won't happen until 2144!

Join the Auburn Doubledays and the City of Auburn for a family-friendly viewing experience at Falcon Park, 130 N. Division Street in Auburn. You won't want to miss the one and only "Falcon Park Eclipse Fest"! Bring your family and friends to watch the eclipse safely on the field with mascots Abner Doubleday and Casey the Falcon.

Eclipse viewing glasses are being provided courtesy of the Cayuga County Office of Tourism. If you would like to pick-up a free pair of eclipse viewing glasses before the event you may do so during normal business hours at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center, 25 South Street, Auburn. Download the NASA eclipse viewing safety sheet [here](#).

Here are some of the fun things planned for the afternoon:

- Local radio station Classic Hits 99.3 morning DJ Lisa Cruz will be broadcasting live from the event;
- There will be children's sports activities on the field, science activities by Lily Donaldson, research assistant at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and activities by the 4H Club of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County;
- The Doubledays will have their concession stand open to sell refreshments. Mascots Abner Doubleday and Casey the Falcon will be on the field;
- Auburn Wegmans will be bringing a celebratory Eclipse Cake that will be sliced and shared with attendees;
- A limited number of souvenir Falcon Park Eclipse Fest posters will be available; and
- Admission is free!

Event Info Recap:

- What: historic, one-time event 'Falcon Park Eclipse Fest'
- When: Monday, April 8, 2024 from 2 – 4 p.m.
- Where: Falcon Park, 130 N. Division Street, Auburn
- Info: [www.auburnny.gov/eclipsefest](http://www.auburnny.gov/eclipsefest)
- Media contact: Chuck Mason, City Clerk, City of Auburn, NY [cmason@auburnny.gov](mailto:cmason@auburnny.gov) or phone 315-255-4101.
- For more information on Falcon Park Eclipse Fest contact Brian Rhodes at [brhodes@auburnny.gov](mailto:brhodes@auburnny.gov) or phone at 315-255-2489
- For more information on solar eclipse events in Cayuga County visit: <https://www.tourcayuga.com/total-solar-eclipse/>

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### **Ceremonial Presentations – none**

**Public to be heard:** The City Clerk read the rules for Public To Be Heard. The following individuals spoke: Erin Katzker, representing the Rev Theater and speaking as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau, read a letter from the organization pertaining to Council Resolution #46 of 2024, the letter stated that the financial impact on the County Tourism program would reduce the tourism budget and they would not be able to continue programs that feature highlighting the City. She also handed out to the City Council members copies of the 2023 annual report for the Cayuga County Office of Tourism. Stephanie DeVito, a member of the Cayuga County legislature representing Auburn District 10 spoke to state that she does want to work to find ways that Cayuga County can support arts and cultural organizations for the entire county. Brian Muldrow, a member of the Cayuga County Legislature representing Auburn District 11 stated that he wants to work with the County Legislature to find ways that the County can support arts and cultural organizations in the entire county. Aileen McNabb Coleman, Chair of the Cayuga County legislature representing the towns of Owasco and Sennett spoke to address Council Resolution 46 of 2024. She discussed the history of the tax in Cayuga County, she spoke of the work the County Office of Tourism does and she stated she looks forward to future opportunities to discuss support for arts and cultural organizations in Cayuga County.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes –**

March 21, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 21, 2024 minutes by Councilor Kent, seconded by Councilor Calarco.

Motion to approve carried 5-0.

### **Reports of City Officials**

#### **City Manager's Report –**

- The city is currently accepting bids for construction services for the Auburn City Court Expansion Project. Bids are due back April 16. More information is available on the city webpage under the link "Bids/RFPs."
- The city has released a Request For Qualifications for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services for our general liability and workers comp coverage. Responses are due back April 5.
- Recent meetings with county Emergency Management Officials regarding impacts of the Total Solar Eclipse on Monday April 8 are mostly focused on traffic issues and the ability for emergency services to respond to incidents in a timely manner. Most of the attention and projected impact in Cayuga County is expected to be in the North but some localized increase in traffic may be experienced.
- The City 2023 Drinking Water Quality Report is now available on the city webpage.

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- Corporation Counsel Nate Garland will give a brief update on today’s proceedings related to legal action against NYS by Earth Justice.

**Reports from members of Council – none**

**Matters to Come Before Council -**

**A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) – none**

**B. Ordinances – none**

**C. Local Laws – none**

**D. Resolutions –**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION #44 OF 2024**

**AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CITY’S ZONING ORDINANCE**

By Councilor Kent

April 4, 2024

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York, that it does hereby authorize that a Public Hearing be held before the Planning Board of the City of Auburn, New York, on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Memorial City Hall, Auburn, New York concerning the amendment of the City’s Zoning Ordinance; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to advertise this resolution in the official newspaper of the City of Auburn in accordance with the governing state and local requirements.

Seconded by Councilor Calarco

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor Kent	X	
Councilor Overstreet-Wilson	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Calarco	X	
Mayor Giannettino	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

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**COUNCIL RESOLUTION #45 OF 2024**

**AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS, PURSUANT TO THE 2024 CITY OF AUBURN PROCUREMENT AND SURPLUS POLICY**

By Councilor Calarco

April 4, 2024

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2024, the City Council of the City of Auburn passed Council Resolution No. 10 of 2024, which adopted a City of Auburn Procurement and Surplus Policy (the “Procurement Policy”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Procurement Policy requires that the sale of surplus vehicles, equipment, and miscellaneous items with an estimated value of \$1,000 or more be approved by City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, there is an extensive list of City owned surplus miscellaneous parts and other items, which have outlived their useful life or are no longer necessary or useful to the City; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the City to dispose of the various list of City owned surplus miscellaneous parts and other items, through an auction in order to obtain the best value for them.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Auburn hereby authorizes the sale of the City-owned miscellaneous parts and other items in accordance with the 2024 City of Auburn Procurement and Surplus Policy.

Seconded by Councilor Cuddy

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor Kent	X		
Councilor Overstreet-Wilson	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Calarco	X		
Mayor Giannettino	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

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**Engineering**

#20 2001 Dodge Durango

**DPW Auction List**

#90 Street Maintenance 2014 International Dump

#143 Street Maintenance 2015 Keizer-Morris International Trailer

2016 EZ-Liner Model #AL120 Paint machine

2 Ferris Mowers

1 Tiger Mower

2 spreaders

**Garage**

#173 1994 Ford F25

#202 2008 Ford Pickup

**Falcon Park**

Husqvarna Mower

**Hoopes Park**

Kawasaki Mule

**Parking Garage**

Shoring

**Parks**

#5 2011 Tractor

**Landfill**

#57 Refuse Collection 2006 International Dump

Cub Cadet UTV

**Municipal Utilities**

Aerator for the Activated Sludge tanks serial #A1502052013

**Police Department**

**City Owned:**

2015 Ford Taurus Vin #1FAHP2MK0FG122692

2010 Chevrolet Impala Vin #2G1WD5EM9A1129781

2012 Chevrolet Impala Vin #2G1WD5E30C1151954

2012 Chevrolet Impala Vin #2G1WD5E34C1233797

2012 Chevrolet Tahoe Vin #1GNSK2E00CR322653

**Other:**

2009 Ford Fusion Vin #3FAHP07Z49R155639

2014 Chevrolet Malibu Vin #1G11C5SL8EF104569

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**Various items:**

- 5 sets of prisoner partitions
- 2 Whelen 48” Light Bars
- 2 Sentina Push Bumpers
- 2 Sets of Sentina Window Bars
- 2 Lund Center Consoles
- Various old emergency lights, speakers, brackets, etc

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION #46 OF 2024**

**REQUESTING THE CAYUGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO SPLIT HOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUE COLLECTED WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF AUBURN WITH THE CITY**

By Councilor Cuddy

April 4, 2024

**WHEREAS** in 1994, the Cayuga County Legislature passed a Local Law imposing a tax on the occupancy of hotel rooms (Cayuga County Hotel Room Occupancy Tax Law aka Bed Tax or Room Tax).; and

**WHEREAS** currently the Cayuga County Hotel Room Occupancy Tax Law provides that a tax at the rate of five percent is paid upon the rent for every occupancy of a room or rooms in a hotel in the County and the Cayuga County Treasurer is responsible for the administration and collection of the tax.; and

**WHEREAS** the revenue collected from the Cayuga County Hotel Room Occupancy Tax is credited to a special fund of the county that is dedicated to tourism development and promotion; and

**WHEREAS** upon its original adoption in 1994 the law was a first of its kind in Cayuga County and the Cayuga County Convention and Visitors Bureau (aka the Cayuga County Office of Tourism) was founded to be the not-for-profit corporation charged with administering the hotel room tax revenue funds for tourism promotion and convention development; and

**WHEREAS** over the past 30 years the tourism industry has grown in Cayuga County and across all of New York State as a vital contributor to our modern-day economy and 24 years ago the City of Auburn established our Historic and Cultural Sites Commission which is commissioned as the tourism promotion entity of our City; and

**WHEREAS** since 2018 the City of Auburn has operated the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center which includes a local Visitor Information Center and accommodations for visitors and this new center

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replaced the Visitor Information Center previously located in Auburn that was operated by the Cayuga County Office of Tourism from the late 1990’s through 2018; and

**WHEREAS** as times have changed over the past 30 years the City of Auburn budgets and administers tourism promotion and development on a consistent basis and current programs are a component of the tourism promotion and development of the county as a whole; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Auburn City Council with this resolution would like to communicate to the Cayuga County Legislature that it is time to rethink the model of funding tourism in this County established 30 years ago and we ask the County Legislature to make changes to the empowering local law to share the revenue collected by the Cayuga County Hotel Room Tax within the municipal boundaries of Auburn with the City of Auburn to assist with funding our City of Auburn Historic and Cultural Sites Commission tourism promotion and development programs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council request of the members of the Cayuga County Legislature that they make whatever changes necessary to allow for Cayuga County Hotel Room Occupancy Tax revenues collected within the municipal boundaries of the City of Auburn to be shared evenly between the City of Auburn and Cayuga County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to Chairwoman Aileen McNabb-Coleman and all members of the Cayuga County Legislature.

Seconded by Councilor Kent

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor Kent	X		
Councilor Overstreet-Wilson	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Calarco	X		
Mayor Giannettino	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

**E. Staff or Vendor Presentations –**

- Auburn Ambulance Department 2024-2025 Budget Presentation – Kezia Sullivan, Ambulance Director of Operations (see attached)
- Office of Planning and Economic Development and Code Enforcement Office 2024-2025 Budget Presentation by Jennifer Haines, Director of Planning and Economic Development (see attached)
- Bar Graph Reports for February 2024 - Jeff Dygert, City Manager

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**TABLED ITEMS – none**

**OTHER BUSINESS – none**

**ADJOURNMENT:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk