

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2020 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 5:00PM in the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Quill.

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Quill, Councilor Debra McCormick (by videoconference) and Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro were all present.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Assessor, Mike Burns
- Real Property Appraiser Jeanne Hering

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Quill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Announcements – none

Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations. None.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules. No speakers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

- July 30, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the July 30, 2020 minutes by Councilor LoCastro, seconded by Councilor

Cuddy. Motion to approve carried 4-0. Councilor Giannettino voted present.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- The City of Auburn is accepting bids for the structural repair of the Lincoln St. Parking Garage due to fire damage. The bid documents will be posted on the city webpage and are due back August 18.
- The city is accepting bids for chemicals utilized at our water filtration plant. Bids are due back August 18.
- Auburn Civil Service has announced a new Police Officer test. The test is scheduled for September 26 and those interested must apply by August 26. More information is available on the City of Auburn webpage under the tab "departments", then "Civil Service", and finally "Job Opportunities." A short cut and announcement will be displayed on the main page soon.
- This week city staff met with representatives from the surrounding towns that utilize the city sewer system. The group discussed the ongoing sewer meter replacement project as well as other upgrades that have been performed or are needed. This is one of several meetings that occur with the group throughout the year to keep all parties informed on issues that might impact rates, regulatory compliance, and reliability of the system.
- As we are beginning to see some Harmful Algal Blooms on Owasco Lake, the Water Filtration Plant has activated the Powder Activated Charcoal (PAC) System. They also began weekly sampling last week – those results were non-detect in both raw and finished samples. Sampling frequency will increase if microcystin is detected at some point.

B. Reports from members of Council –

Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions - none

TABLED ITEMS - none

STAFF/VENDOR PRESENTATIONS

- Melone Village III Redevelopment Discussion - Stephanie Hutchinson, Executive Director of
- the Auburn Housing Authority

- Low Income Senior & Disabled Sliding Income Scale Presentation – Assessor Mike Burns, Real Property Appraiser Jeanne Hering

OTHER BUSINESS –

- Members of Council Cuddy, Giannettino commented on their concerns regarding the fall re-opening of public schools.
- Councilor McCormick proposed that the City Council, as a governing body, commit to our City residents and employees, that we, as leaders of the City, condemn racism and bias within our government and throughout the City. The commitment should be on the record in a City Council meeting in the form of a resolution or pledge. She offered to draft something to send to Councilors for their to review.

Second Public To Be Heard: Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules.

David Anthony Scott, 63 South Street My name is David Scott, 63 South St. And I apologize for my delay. I've been on Zoom calls and living in a different time zone for the last three months now. Also, sorry for my absence from this chamber. Because I'm a small businessman, and potentially 40% of the potential MBEs in this county and potentially 50% of the DBE, I've had to engage in what's known as Strategic Risk Reduction. So, I apologize for my delay. August is National Black Business Month 2020, and September 13 through the 19th, Sunday to Sunday is Minority Enterprise Development Week. I am looking forward to the City of Auburn engaging minority entrepreneurs. The number that I just got from Chase Bank this afternoon: 40% of African American entrepreneurs are going out of business because of the COVID-19. I cannot stress enough that the economic piece of being a vibrant part of this community as a minority, revolves around small business. We have to begin to incubate access to capital, access to markets and access to the larger world. There are so many business opportunities here, in Auburn, and yet, minority businesses are still floundering. They were floundering before the COVID-19. They were definitely floundering in the midst of COVID-19. And now the remaining 60% are going to be floundering in the post COVID-19 error. I'd like to thank you and again, I apologize for my absence from this chamber. So, thank you.

Executive Session. Councilor Cuddy made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Locastro. Council voted to enter an executive session regarding the following matters:

- Two matters pertaining to the sale, lease or acquisition of real property
- One matter pertaining to potential litigation
- One matter made confidential under Federal law due to attorney client privilege

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 5:57 p.m.

Executive session adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Auburn City Council Meeting, August 13, 2020

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m..

Minutes submitted to the City Council on August 20, 2020 by:

Charles Mason, City Clerk