

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 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 Councilor Giannettino.

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro were all present. Mayor Quill was excused.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- Acting City Manager, Jennifer Haines
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Deputy Police Chief, Roger Anthony
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Engineer, William Lupien
- Senior Planner, Tiffany Beebee
- Senior Planner, Renee Jensen
- Assistant to the Mayor and Council, Rhonda Miller

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Councilor Giannettino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Announcements –

The next meeting of the City of Auburn Zoning Board of Appeals will be held on Monday, September 28, 2020 and will be held at Memorial City Hall, Council Chambers, 24 South Street.

Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations –

Jenny Haines

Thank you, Mayor. We would like to recognize two employees, both long serving employees here at the City of Auburn. Jeff Sikora, Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, retired on September 12, 2020 and Michael Burns, Assessor, retired on September 19, 2020. We appreciate their long service to the City.

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.

Tim Lattimore, 63 South Street. Mayor, Council. So sad to hear about Nancy. I served with her here in the Chambers and she was a real beautiful lady. Watched her kids play lacrosse and just unfortunate life has to turn out that way. But on the good news, I mean, it's nice to see Mr. Locastro's son doing so well, another home run, chasing Tim Raines' record on stolen bases and hits. So we have to keep going. But I was at the Y today, trying to stay healthy, and I normally get there early in the morning, but received a ticket. And I promptly paid it because I didn't want to have another surcharge. But during this pandemic, it would be nice if we could maybe not give out tickets, or reduce the amount of the ticket. I can afford \$20 where a lot of people can't. So I like if you'd re-examined that. And also like to work with the Council along with the County, I know our economic development, I think we're going to hear some some good news from Onondaga County. I think they're working on, on another major project, Amazon. Once they get a foothold, all those things will probably be coming, hopefully we can grab some of that. Our Exit 40 would be a good site. Would be nice to build a mega site somewhere whether it's in the City or in the County, so we can attract some of the large employers that are going to be looking at. This pandemic has rearranged everybody's way of doing business, a lot of kids are coming home. I think I was in The Citizen the other day regarding 2005. I talked about the brain drain. I think that was our best export was getting, seeing our kids after graduation, go to large cities. And this pandemic has taught them that wildfires and pandemics, Upstate New York is still a great place to be. Being with the technology we can, we can change it over. So, hopefully we can work on some major projects. I know that the County funds CEDA. I think we'd spent \$3 million or plus. Hopefully we can bring something, bring something to revitalize the City in the County and have a broad debt tax break. So thank you very much.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you. Just for a point of clarification. Legislator Lattimore, we did suspend ticket writing during the early months of COVID, and we just started again last week. The Auburn Police Department did a very good job of communicating with residents that that was going to happen. Also, as a reminder, the parking garage is two hours free. We look forward to your check clearing. Thank you. Moving on to the Approval of the Meeting Minutes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

- September 10, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the September 10, 2020 minutes by Councilor Locastro, seconded by Councilor Cuddy. Motion to approve carried 4-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report - none

B. 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 – first reading, the City Clerk read the following:

LOCAL LAW #1 of 2020

**REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 265 OF THE
AUBURN CITY CODE ENTITLED “TAXATION”**

WHEREAS, on March 28, 1991, the Auburn City Council enacted and established Local Law No. 2-1991 as Chapter 181, entitled “Taxation,” which is now known as Chapter 265 of the City Code, pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10(1); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 265, Articles II and X, of the City Code authorize the City of Auburn to provide exemptions to low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities by use of a sliding income scale; and

WHEREAS, the current Income Sliding Scale has not been updated since 2006/2007 and the City is looking to adopt a new Sliding Income Scale based on the current scale used by New York State; and

WHEREAS, Local Law No. 1 of 2020, attached hereto and incorporated herein, proposes to update Articles II and X of Chapter 265 of the City Code to achieve such uniformity; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Local Law No. 1 of 2020, is categorized as a Type II Action pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and New York State Code, Rules, and Regulations Sections 617.5(c)(16), and, therefore, pursuant to NYCRR Section 617.3(f) a determination under SEQRA is not required; and

WHEREAS, subject to City Council approval, a public hearing will be held on October 8, 2020, concerning the repealing of sections of Local Law No. 2-1991 and the enactment of Local Law No. 1 of 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED that the Auburn City Council does hereby repeal the following sections of Local Law No. 2-1991, which was originally passed as Chapter 181 of the City Code entitled “Taxation:”

1. Article II, Sections 265(17);
2. Article X Sections 265(45);

and,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Auburn City Council does hereby adopt Local Law No. 1 of 2020, attached and incorporated herein, which replaces the following Articles and Sections of Chapter 265 of the Auburn City Code entitled “Taxation”:

1. Article II, Sections 265(17);
2. Article X Sections 265(45);

; and,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the foregoing repeal and adoption shall take effect immediately upon the filing of a certified copy of the local law with the New York Secretary of State.

The Council will be asked next week to schedule a Public Hearing on this proposed Local Law for Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

D. Resolutions – none

E. Staff Presentations:

- A. 1-7 State Street Project Update / Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Update by Jenny Haines, Renee Jensen and Tiffany Beebee, Office of Planning & Economic Development.
- B. Building Blocks Software Demonstration by Nate Garland, Assistant Corporation Counsel
- C. Bar Graph Reports for August 2020 by Jennifer Haines, Acting City Manager

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Chuck Mason

The month of October begins next week, already, October 1, and the month of October has five Thursdays. Councilor McCormick is involved with the Watershed Rules and Regulations Committee and they have been interested since, actually pre-COVID, COVID kind of slowed the process down, of having a joint meeting between the City, and the Town of Owasco, and the County, to go over and publicly present the rules and regulations for the watershed. And if we are able to arrange for that

meeting to be on October 29, which would be the fifth Thursday of the month, would the Council be acceptable with scheduling that for the fifth Thursday of October? It'll probably be something we'll have set up in the over the next couple of weeks.

Councilor McCormick

With the Town of Owasco.

Chuck Mason

Yes, with the Town and with the County. And it probably would be ideal if we just did it on a night that wasn't a council meeting. We could, the Council could go to, attend that meeting and be focused on just that without having to worry about other Council business. So that'd be for the fifth Thursday of October.

Councilor Giannettino

Everybody in agreement? (all members of Council were in agreement)

Second Public To Be Heard: Councilor Giannettino opened the second Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules. No speakers

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m..

Minutes submitted to the City Council on September 30, 2020 by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk