

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 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. Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro and Mayor Quill were all present.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Director of Grants and Capital Projects, Christina Selvek
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Engineer, William Lupien
- Senior Planner, Renee Jensen
- Assistant to the Mayor and Council, Rhonda Miller

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 –

The City of Auburn is looking for community input on distributing federal Community Development Block Grant funds to help low to moderate income city residents and areas. The public is invited to participate in the following public meetings to share your thoughts and ideas for the upcoming 2021-2022 CDBG Annual Action Plan. A little bit of your time will influence our community for a lifetime.

A VIRTUAL MEETING will be held on OCTOBER 28, 2020 at 10 A.M. this will be a virtual meeting. To participate [please register at this link.](#)

Auburn City Council Meeting, October 15, 2020

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held on NOVEMBER 4, 2020 at 6 P.M.

This Public Hearing will be held in front of the City of Auburn Planning Board at Memorial City Hall, Council Chambers, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021. Attendees should use the back entrance of City Hall. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing while in attendance.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held on NOVEMBER 18, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

This public meeting will be held in the gymnasium of the Booker T. Washington Center, 23 Chapman Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing while in attendance.

For more information please contact:

the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021

Phone: 315-255-4115

E-Mail: rjensen@auburnny.gov

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.

Tom Addressa, 87 Walnut Street, spoke about issues pertaining to Code enforcement.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- October 1, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the October 1, 2020 minutes by Councilor Locastro, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- Our most recent water quality tests show no detectable microcystin in the finished water and a trace amount of 0.26ppb. The Powder Activated Carbon PAC system will continue to run until several test come back non-detect and the Cayuga County Health Department weighs in with their approval.
- Our Civil Service Commission has announced the following tests: Information Technology Supervisor to be conducted on July 21, 2021; the deadline to apply is June 21, 2021. There is a test scheduled for Administrative Assistant to be conducted March 6, 2022; the deadline to apply is Feb. 6, 2021. More information is available on the city webpage under Civil Service and then job opportunities.
- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for Engineering Services for the Closure of the City Landfill. Bids are due back October 16, 2020 and further information is available on the city webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs".
- Staff has been working with Cayuga County and their consultant to update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan is used to identify hazards and vulnerabilities, typically weather related, in order to inform future mitigation efforts and local policy updates to reduce the impact of future incidents and improve the recovery from those incidents. These plans are also required to ensure eligibility for federal funding to implement mitigation plans and are also considered when federal recovery funds are dispersed in an area that has suffered a loss. We encourage the public to learn more about the process

and submit their thoughts via an on-line survey that is being referenced across most of our city social media platforms.

- The Seymour Library informed us today that they will be conducting a Trustee Election from 10am to 7pm on Wednesday, October 28 at the Seymour Library, 176 Genesee St in Auburn. The library also informed us there will be no budget referendum this year as they will not be asking for any change from last year's levy.
- Today our Director of Public Works, Mike Talbot, met with the NYS DOT to discuss cooperative plans to provide mutual assistance between the departments in the event either staff is unexpectedly impacted by Covid.
- Today staff participated in our weekly briefing with the Cayuga County Health Department and other agencies related to Covid-19. The Health Department reports a significant increase in positive Covid cases this week which result in significantly more contact tracings to be conducted. As a City organization we have experienced several instances this week that took employees out of work due to potential exposure across multiple departments.

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 – Local Law #1 of 2020 was first read in to the record on September 24, 2020. The City Council will held a public hearing on the local law on October 8, 2020.

LOCAL LAW #1 of 2020

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

By Councilor McCormick

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.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro	X	
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

D. Resolutions

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #102 OF 2020

**ENDORISING AND TAKING THE LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING PLEDGE BY THE OWASCO
LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (OLWMC) FOR ADVANCING
POLLUTANT REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR LAND AND WATER STEWARDSHIP
WITHIN THE OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED**

By Councilor McCormick

October 15, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn provides clean, safe drinking water for nearly 45,000 residents located in the City of Auburn and Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, the source of the drinking water supply for the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn is Owasco Lake, a Class AA(T) designated and protected water body; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Owasco Lake has experienced widespread harmful algae blooms due to nutrients that promote and support the growth of algae and Cyanobacteria; and

WHEREAS, harmful algae blooms threaten lake water quality and the health and safety of water consumers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn owns approximately 450 acres of land in the Owasco Flats within the greater Owasco Lake Watershed, which were acquired with the express purpose of preserving those lands for resources protection and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the OLWMC is looking to advance pollutant reduction strategies and land and water conservation within the Owasco Lake Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the OLWMC is proposing that the City of Auburn City Council endorse and take the Lake Friendly Living pledge that aligns with a Finger Lakes Regional pledge effort, which is as follows:

I know my choices can affect water quality for Owasco Lake. I pledge to incorporate 'Lake Friendly Living' practices to reduce my impacts on Owasco Lake. I will adopt these practices that help reduce pollutants and minimize runoff into Owasco Lake:

(1) I pledge to refrain from using excessive lawn fertilizers and chemicals to help prevent Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

(2) I will only use limited phosphorus-free fertilizers (as governed by NYS law), applied properly.

(3) I will maintain my septic system.

(4) I will reduce hazardous wastes and dispose of them properly.

(5) I will dispose of prescription drugs properly; I will not flush them.

(6) I will maintain my vehicles, water-crafts, and other recreational vehicles to reduce fluid leaks as well as the spread of aquatic invasive species.

(7) I will use water wisely.

(8) I will not dispose of leaf litter or lawn clippings in waterways or ditches.

(9) I will strive to work towards practicing recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs) for land use activities within the Owasco Lake Watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Auburn hereby strongly endorses the pledge program led by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and endorses the Lake Friendly Living pledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Auburn will take the Lake Friendly Living pledge for those lands within the watershed for which it maintains ownership, and will work towards achieving the actions requested within the pledge within the City limits, in solidarity with those making such efforts throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION #103 OF 2020

**ACCEPTING A WORKING CAPITAL GRANT FROM EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT
FOR THE NYS EQUAL RIGHTS HERITAGE CENTER**

By Councilor Giannettino

October 15, 2020

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2018 NYS Governor Cuomo announced the grand opening of the New York State Equal Rights Heritage Center in downtown Auburn with the City of Auburn serving as the owner and operator of the new facility; and

WHEREAS, as part of the NYS FY 2018-19 budget the City of Auburn submitted a request to New York State for funding assistance for the first year of services and operation expenses related to the new NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2020, the City of Auburn received a Grant Disbursement Agreement for working capital at the Equal Rights Heritage Center in the amount of \$50,000 from NYS Empire State Development (ESD); and

WHEREAS, upon receiving the Grant Disbursement Agreement and any related grant documents, the Mayor of the City of Auburn must be authorized to accept the grant funding and execute all necessary documents in connection therewith prior to submitting for funding reimbursement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, that the Mayor of the City of Auburn is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Grant Disbursement Agreement and all necessary documents with Empire State Development for working capital funding of the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center in the amount of \$50,000 with revenue to be recognized into the A99.3822 Account.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro	X	
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

E. Staff Presentations –

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS – none

Second Public To Be Heard: Mayor Quill 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 5:44 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk