

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 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.](#)

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 8, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the October 8, 2020 minutes by Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dygert

Thank you, Mayor. I didn't get a chance to get this neatened up so it might be a little clunky tonight. As of this afternoon, most recent water quality test show no detectable microcystin in either the finished water or the raw water. So that's a good thing for us. As I've been mentioning over the last few weeks, we're hopefully on the downhill side of microcystin. And once we get a long enough string of non detects and the Cayuga County Health Department signs off on it we'll shut down that PAC System. But right now, things are still up and running. But water quality is good so far right at the moment. Civil Service Commission has announced the following tests, Information Technology Supervisor to be conducted July 21, 2021. And the deadline to apply is June 21, 2021. And there is also a test scheduled for Administrative Assistant to be conducted on March 6, 2021. And the deadline to apply is February 6 of 2021. More information is available on the City webpage, under under Civil Service, and then Job Opportunities. We continue to work with the Cayuga County Health Department related to the response to COVID. This week, we hosted a drive thru testing. It's not the prettiest of places, but it's functional

and does what's needed. So we hosted approximately 50 tests at the landfill facility. We utilize that facility because of our ability to get cars off the road and out of traffic, and that provides some shelter for the workers are able to drive cars in and out people don't have to get out of their cars and keep them out of the elements. We learned a few things on Wednesday, and we're trying to work through those to make the situation a little more comfortable for staff down there. And we continue to monitor the situation throughout the County and in the City. With the rise in positive COVID cases and the related increase, the exponential increase, in the number of folks under quarantine due to potential symptoms. Our Police Department and Fire Department have reimplemented some procedures that they had put in place back in March and April to protect our workforce to make sure that we don't have, that we that we do our best to prevent, protect our workforce so that we don't have exposures there that create problems with staffing. Columbus Street railroad crossing has been under construction. That's supposed to wrap up tomorrow. And we had been wondering, and we got a message today from the Cayuga County Health Department related to COVID. But more importantly, related to Halloween. So I guess I'll say it right here. Halloween hasn't been canceled. It's not being promoted, Halloween will probably still go on. But the County Health Department has put forth some recommendations for parents and children and homeowners that would like to participate in Halloween this year. And that stuff's available in the County Health Department webpage. And I think we sharing it on ours as well.

B. Reports from members of Council

Councilor McCormick

I just have one item next week. Next Thursday at this time, the City Council and the Town of Owasco we'll meet in a joint meeting to to see a presentation and review and accept the Owasco Lake Watershed rules and regulations. So I just wanted to read a brief statement regarding how many, and who, and how far and wide the participation in planning and all the work that's gone into this just in anticipation of that. The Owasco Lake watershed rules and regulations update project which began in 2017 has been finalized and is ready for review and approval by the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco, allowing that the draft regulations to be transmitted to the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection for State Level Reviews, revising Owasco Lake Watershed rules and regulations is an important water quality initiative coordinated by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council on behalf of the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco. The 2 water purveyors sourcing and distributing public water from the Owasco Lake. The project goal is to update revise the 1984 Owasco Lake rules and regulations through a thoughtful and engaged public participation project process will result in effective and equitable watershed regulations that will help improve, protect and preserve water quality within Owasco Lake and its 205 square mile watershed for the benefit of current and future generations. We are grateful to the many people that worked with the watershed steering committee for the last three plus years. It has been a true inter-municipal collaborative effort effort and included stakeholders from every corner of the watershed to ensure the success of this initiative. To be sure all stakeholders were included the watershed rules and regulation steering committee scheduled all

13 public events at times and in areas of the watershed that would be inclusive of all. The final draft document is based on stakeholder and public input that included a three month public comment period in 2019. The support and expertise of our extended work group has been vital. They include the New York State DEC Finger Lakes Hub, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the City of Auburn Municipal Utilities, Cayuga County Health Department, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council Inspectors and the Cayuga County Planning Department. This group provided feedback that came that became the initial working draft of the revised rules in 2018. The Nine member steering committee included representation from the City of Auburn, Owasco Town Board, County Legislature, dairy and crop farmers, Owasco Lake Watershed Association, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, and the Cayuga County Board of Health. In March of 2020, we held what we thought would be our last steering committee meeting, before we presented the draft to the City and the Town of Owasco . And then COVID arrived. From early August, we have been trying to work to schedule a joint city and county meeting that would be COVID safe and accessible to the public. And that's the meeting that's scheduled for next week. Information on how to access, for the public to access this meeting is available on the City's website and the County website. I just wanted to preface our meeting for next week with that statement so that people know how intense and valuable and important this is to the City and to the people that drink the city water and Owasco's water. Thank you.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. Actually, thank you, Councilor McCormick, I was actually going to bring this up in Other Business. There's some confusion in the community that this is a process that's just beginning, when actually this is the culminating event of process that, as you mentioned, has gone on for several years. And I think that people have kind of lost track of that because of COVID. So thank you for reiterating that. Mayor, we did have our monthly AIDA meeting, yesterday. And I just want to report that, as I've mentioned in previous meetings, we are partnering with a marketing firm, TGW, to market the City of Auburn as a place to live and do business. We met with TGW virtually yesterday and they kind of gave an overview of the next steps. We signed a letter of intent, and that's going to begin so we're all excited about that. I think now's the time to do that. We have the funding in AIDA to do it. And we have a story to tell. And we need to get that story out. And it makes me think that a couple weeks ago a constituent came during the public be heard and questioned the value of CEDA, which kind of surprised me at the time. And as we all know, AIDA falls under CEDA now, and there was an article in the paper today by Ms. Verrier, who is the executive director of CEDA, talking about the good work that they're doing. And I just want to read a couple lines into the record. I was hoping that that constituent would be here tonight. In the past three years, CEDA has worked with 349 existing businesses, and 167 entrepreneurs. These activities have resulted in 20 business expansion and startup projects, assisted with financial incentives, which have committed to investing \$199 million and creating 480 jobs and 48 new businesses open that have created at least 97 new jobs. You know numbers don't lie. And to me those numbers show success. So I just wanted to read that into the record. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Anyone else? Councilors, last week just prior to our meeting, I was met in the hallway with a young adult from Auburn with his grandmother. And he gave me an envelope containing a sealed envelope with an amount of money in it. His whole, his whole interest was decorating the Christmas tree in front of City Hall, in his exact words where he wanted better than Owasco Fire Department's tree. So the money was locked up over the weekend. Rhonda, in our office with another employee counted. it has all been deposited with our to our Comptroller's Office, through our Treasurer's Office. It's in somewhere in the bank, I would assume, but it's secure. It's out of our hands. Just prior to the meeting, I was informed that this young person came forward with another amount of money. So what I would like to do with your permission, I would like to invite this young adult and his, I believe, it's his grandmother was him to come to Council meeting next week. And officially recognize him and thank him for that. So we will be through our office will be working on that over the weekend. So he may not want to come, he maybe shy, but I want to extend the invitation and the very least we will thank him for it. So all right. Thank you.

Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions - none

E. Staff Presentations –

- **Impact of HEALing Communities Study in Cayuga County by Monika Salvage, Cayuga County HEALing Study Presentation**
- **Bar Graph Reports September 2020 by Jeff Dygert, City Manager**

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

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

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- One matter regarding the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk