

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 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 Planning & Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- Director of Capital Improvement Program, Christina Selvek
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- 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 – Holiday Trash Pick-up Schedule announced due to Thanksgiving holiday
The week of Monday, November 23rd is Thanksgiving week and trash and recycling will be picked up one day early in the City of Auburn for residents that have a regular pick-up day between Tuesday and Thursday.

The Thanksgiving Week Schedule is as follows:

- If your pick-up day is usually Tuesday,
you will be picked up on Monday, November 23rd

- If your pick-up day is usually Wednesday, you will be picked up on Tuesday, November 24th
- If your pick-up day is usually Thursday, you will be picked up on Wednesday, November 25th
- There will be no pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26th
- If your pick-up day is usually Friday there is no change, you will be picked up on Friday, November 27th

Also there will be no leaf / yard waste pick up on Monday, November 23, 2020 due to the Thanksgiving holiday week.

Complete information about curbside trash and recycling pick-up for the City of Auburn may be found online at: www.AuburnNY.gov/Streamline

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS – Mayor Quill and the members of City Council presented Assemblyman Gary Finch with a Key to the City for his 21 years of service to the City of Auburn as our New York State Assemblyman. Assemblyman Finch was joined by his wife Marcia and other family members and staff from his Assembly office. Assemblyman Finch spoke to thank the Mayor and Council members, as well as, the people of Auburn.

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 Scott, 63 South Street spoke regarding Minority Owned Business Enterprises in the City.
- Dale Bush, Standart Woods Apts, spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Cayuga County Conservative Party and stated that they did not support the proposed increase of salary in the City Manager's new contract.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for Backflow Management Software. Bids are due back Nov. 30, 2020 and further information is available on the city webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs".
- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for the South St Corridor Enhancement Project. Bids are due back Dec. 1, 2020 and further information is available on the city webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs".
- The Parking Garage Repair Project, the result of a fire in May of 2019, is progressing well. The second large section of concrete is scheduled to be poured next Tuesday.
- Work on the new Public Safety Building site is progressing well and the move in date for the summer of 2021 is currently achievable.

- Work is progressing on Buonocore Park next to Hunter's Diner. New fence and benches have been installed and new landscaping began today.
- Bids for Bradford Park were received on November 9. Titan Development of Gasport was the low bid at \$109,512. Work will consist of new playground equipment, safety surfacing, and a concrete walkway. Work is expected to begin on November 30. Letters to neighbors were mailed out today to update them on the project.
- The city continues to work collaboratively with Cayuga County to address NYS Executive Order 203 that requires all municipalities to engage in community discussion of their police forces and create a plan to address a number of topics. We are fortunate to have a very proactive Police Department and Sheriff's Department that have been collaborating for years to engage the community and provide services based upon our local need. We have established a group of community leaders that represent a variety of organizations with varying perspectives to begin the next phase of discussions that will inform the project. In the future there will also be public meetings to share information and thoughts. Both APD and the CCSD have posted on-line surveys where the public can participate as well. These survey links can be found on the City of Auburn, APD, and CCSD webpages and social media platforms. As this project progresses, meetings will be recorded and will be viewable, along with related documents through a link on the city of Auburn webpage.
- There was a meeting today to discuss the Downtown Revitalization Initiative's small business grant program. You may recall the DRI contained a \$600k allocation to be administered at the local level for a variety of smaller projects within the designated zone. We anticipate more information on the program will roll out in the very near future.
- We'd like to remind the community to consider shopping locally as the holidays approach. Supporting local businesses is especially important this year as many have struggled through the Covid-19 crisis. Please remember that all businesses are subject to state imposed regulations and your cooperation by masking up helps protect those businesses from avoidable stress and penalties.
- Unfortunately, as we look around the state and the country it seems inevitable that our Covid numbers locally will be rising. The Fire Department has begun to check in regularly with local nursing facilities and senior housing facilities to make sure they have the resources necessary to safely provide their services.
- We have had a discussion with our partners at CEDA and BID about the possibility of facilitating a forum for businesses to share their experiences navigating Covid in an effort to improve their situation should future restriction be put in place.
- Finally, we have had approximately 80 city staff impacted by Covid-19, either as positive cases, or quarantined as B cases or C cases. We are concerned about the health and wellbeing of our staff that represents a very diverse group of ages and physical conditions. It is undeniable that the absence of these employees creates operational stresses and comes with a financial impact as well. Other municipalities across NY are dealing with these same issues. Based on the surge in cases we have seen locally after the Halloween holiday, it is very safe to assume that the effect of gatherings for Thanksgiving will be even greater. We ask that everyone practice responsible and safe social distancing during their holiday activities so that we can avoid future surges that stress our local health care system, put our friends and family at risk, and that could negatively impact our local businesses.

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 – none

D. Resolutions

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #109 of 2020

**APPROVING SUBMISSION OF THE 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT
FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

By Councilor McCormick

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is an Entitlement Community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and is required to submit a Five Year Consolidated Plan with an annual statement of objectives and uses of the CDBG Entitlement Program funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn has prepared an Amendment to its 2020 Annual Action Plan, which outlines the community development activities, objectives, and budget for the use of the CDBG CV3 stimulus grant; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2020, the City of Auburn published a Notice of the Annual Action Plan Amendment to start the local comment period; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2020, the City held two public hearings concerning the Annual Action Plan Amendment, one that was held virtually and another that was held in-person; and

WHEREAS, all comments received during the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment local comment period including the public hearings will be included as part of the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York as follows:

1. The City Council does hereby approve the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment; and
2. The City Council does hereby authorize the Mayor to sign the Application for Federal Assistance and submit the amended 2020 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG CV3 stimulus grant to complete the objectives of the amended 2020 Annual Action Plan; and

3. The City Council does hereby authorize and direct the Mayor to sign the Funding Approval / Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development necessary to further the objectives of the amended 2020 Annual Action Plan and all related Subrecipient and other agreements necessary to further the objectives of the Annual Action Plan; and
4. The City Council does hereby authorize the City Comptroller's Office to recognize grant revenue and appropriate funding into the correct departmental budget.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

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

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION #110 of 2020

**AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FROM THE TOWN OF OWASCO,
TOWN OF SENNETT, TOWN OF FLEMING AND TOWN OF AURELIUS FOR THE
WHOLESALE SEWER METER UPGRADES PROJECT**

By Councilor Giannettino

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn provides wholesale sewer services to the Towns of Owasco, Sennett, Fleming and Aurelius; and

WHEREAS, the agreements for these sewer services provide for future system developments and projects, which include the design and replacement of sewer meters; and

WHEREAS, City staff has discussed the updating of sewer meters at length with all of the Towns and is now ready to move forward with the construction phase of the Wholesale Sewer Meter Upgrade project; and

WHEREAS, the City will be splitting this project cost equally between each of the Towns, such that each Town will fund 50% of their specific project cost; and

WHEREAS, The City will contract directly with all awarded vendors. The current estimated total construction budget is \$564,506.79, and the Towns will submit their payments to the City directly as follows for this construction phase:

- Town of Aurelius \$67,982.57
- Town of Fleming \$50,607.36
- Town of Owasco \$97,256.67
- Town of Sennett \$66,406.81

and;

WHEREAS, the costs are estimated based on bid prices and contractor estimates, therefore, final costs will likely change during construction. The City will reconcile each towns share to ensure they are charged for the actual cost; and

WHEREAS, the City Capital budget should be amended to reflect the anticipated revenues from the Towns, as well as the increase to the Wholesale Meter Project expenditure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN that the Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed to make the following changes to the 2020 budget:

1. Increase Town Contributions - Wholesale Meter Project (HG99.278.IU) by \$282,253.41
2. Increase Wholesale Meter Project Expenditure (HG8120.250.IU) by \$282,253.41

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Auburn is hereby authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents in connection with this funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Seconded by Councilor Cuddy

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

Council Resolution #111 of 2020

Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for the Biosolids Processing & Drying Improvement Project Engineering Contract

By Councilor McCormick

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Auburn City Council authorized Bond Ordinance #4 of 2020, approving funding for the Biosolids Processing & Dryer Improvement Project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2020, Auburn City Council passed Award Resolution #81 of 2020, Awarding a Professional Service Contract for the Biosolids Processing and Drying Improvement Project to Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$63,000 to complete a Basis of Design Report, and

WHEREAS, the Basis of Design report is now complete and supports the continual consideration of completing permitting, dryer procurement assistance and 90% design for the project; and

WHEREAS, City staff has reviewed the scope and fee of Change Order No 1 and recommends that Brown and Caldwell of Syracuse, NY to complete the following tasks:

Task 1 - Project and Design Management to provide an overall management of Project and Design activities including dryer procurement assistance,

Task 2 - Evaluations to include 3D Building Scanning, Geotechnical Investigation, Hazardous Materials Analysis, Financial Rate and Capital Planning Assistance, Sludge Stabilization Tank Material Selection, Structural Analysis of existing facilities, and Electrical investigations of existing facilities,

Task 3 - Design Document Packages to provide approximately 240 Design Drawings and project Specifications required for all necessary design disciplines including but not limited to Electrical, Mechanical, HVAC, Structural, Site/Civil, Architectural and SCADA Controls to 90% Design,

Task 4 - Permitting to complete all Stormwater Pollution Prevention, Part 360 solid waste, air emission, and State Environmental Quality Review Act required permits; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends that Brown & Caldwell of Syracuse, NY, perform the aforementioned tasks as part of Change Order No 1 in the amount not to exceed \$1,898,450; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby authorize Change Order No 1 to Brown & Caldwell of Syracuse, NY for professional engineering services for the permitting, dryer procurement assistance, and 90% design for the Biosolids Processing & Drying Improvement Project in an amount of \$1,898,450; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, or appointed designee, is authorized to sign Change Order No 1 and related documents for the Biosolids Processing & Dryer Project on behalf of the City of Auburn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of this resolution in the amount of \$1,898,450 is to be charged to the Biosolid Dryer capital account (#HG8130-440-KM).

Seconded by Councilor: Cuddy

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

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #112 of 2020

Authorizing an Agreement to Re-appoint A City Manager

By Councilor Giannettino

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2016, the City Council of the City of Auburn appointed Mr. Jeffrey J. Dygert as Interim City Manager; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dygert satisfactorily served as Interim City Manager until October 10, 2016, at which time the City Council appointed him to the position of City Manager, pursuant to an Agreement, which expired on October 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dygert has satisfactorily served as City Manager to the present; and,

WHEREAS, now, it is the desire of the Mayor and City Council that Jeffrey J. Dygert be reappointed as the City Manager for the City of Auburn, New York, pursuant to the terms of an updated Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and Jeffrey J. Dygert, which shall take effect retroactively as of October 10, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby approve an Agreement, attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and Jeffrey J. Dygert, whereby Mr. Dygert accepts the reappointment to the position of City Manager and whereby the terms shall take effect retroactively as of October 10, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to duly execute the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary to carry out this resolution.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilors, I'm going to take the lead here if I may. When Mr. Dygert advised that he was probably going to be leaving us. I think we all felt a hole in our stomach, knowing how well Jeff has been and how great he's been for our City. Thought about it, thought about it and I took it upon myself. I did notify the other members of Council that I would want to ask Councilor Giannettino and Councilor Locastro to sit down with our City Manager and try to iron out an agreement, if one could be had, on behalf of all of us in the entire City of Auburn. So with that, I would like first turn to Councilor Giannettino, and then Councilor Locastro for their thoughts, impressions, in everything going on with Mr. Dygert's contract.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. Thank you for the opportunity to work with Mr. Dygert, and Councilor Locastro. I have a prepared statement. I'm going to apologize in advance. It's a little lengthy, but I feel that it's important to state all this into the record. The single most important decision any Council makes is determining who the City Manager will be. Five years ago, following the departure of Doug Selby, my colleagues and I went through the process of interviewing several candidates from all over the country. During that time, two things became abundantly clear. First, the candidates that we interviewed bounced from city to city, and were simply looking for a job, and the City of Auburn would be nothing more than the next line on their resume. And second, the ideal candidate was the very person who stepped up to fill in as interim manager. That person was Jeff Dygert. Mr. Dygert leadership style and skills were well known for his time in the Fire Department. In the few short months that he was interim manager, he took the leadership to the next level. The term City Manager isn't my favorite term, and I'm going to explain why. Management consists of controlling a group to accomplish a goal. Leadership is an individual's ability to influence, motivate and empower those around him to contribute to the collective good of an organization. Mr. Dygert embodies leadership and the results are undeniable. I would argue that he has redefined the role of City Manager in the last five years. In his tenure as City Manager he and city staff have collectively worked to address the many challenges our City has faced and have had significant

success. And I'd like to take some time to talk about those. They've been successful in securing 10's of millions of dollars in economic development and infrastructure funding from the State and Federal government \$10 million in DRI funding, \$10 million in URI funding, nearly \$14 million in bridge and culvert projects and another one is on the way for Aurelius Ave. Bridge, \$5 million to reconstruct Genesee Street, \$3 million in funding for Public Safety Building, a project nearly three decades in the making. They addressed the drinking water crisis head on by securing funding for and implementing a new treatment system in a matter of months, ensuring that 45,000 people would be able to continue to have clean drinking water. Since then, they have worked diligently to enact measures to protect the long term health of Owasco Lake, including the formation of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, and the recent local adoption of Watershed Rules and Regulations. Mr Dygert was initially tasked with hiring a new Police Chief that on day one had to address a department that suffered from extremely low morale. That same Police Chief, like others across the country, has had to deal with increased public scrutiny and calls for increased transparency. He has risen to the occasion, and Mr. Dygert has been right there by his side. This was evident yesterday in the meeting that we had. When we had large protests locally, they were done so in a peaceful manner. And this was due in large part to the hard work and proactive approach the Chief and Mr. Dygert took early on. Mr. Dygert was success. Excuse me, Mr. Dygert, has successfully negotiated agreements with all of our collective bargaining units. These agreements were fair and equitable to the employees and the taxpayers that city employees serve. They were handled completely in house, where in the past outside lawyers were hired. This saved taxpayers a significant amount of money as Mr. Dygert efforts to reduce health care costs by requiring a new lower cost health insurance plan. It was brought up tonight in the Public be Heard that we were decreasing Mr. Dygert contribution to the health insurance plan. This is in line with the agreements that had been negotiated with the collective bargaining agreements. He was able to build much needed trust with our city workforce that provides the essential services we all rely on daily. Over the last eight months, Mr. Dygert and his staff have had to address the reality of a pandemic and its impact on our community. Both the public health aspect and the financial impact. I have personally sat in on the weekly conference calls and I can assure you we are all in good and capable hands as we continue to navigate through this crisis. When the pandemic initially hit, Mr. Dygert reached out to the County. We had a group meeting on a Sunday afternoon, and Mr. Dygert made it extremely clear to the Chairperson of the County Legislature and to the County Health Department that the City was here to assist in any way that we possibly could. I also personally witnessed him going from business to business on a Friday afternoon, reaching out to see how the City could help them. He has consistently worked with other entities such as Cayuga Community, Cayuga County and Cayuga Community College, to share services and ultimately save us all money. An example of this is a partnership with CCC to utilize Falcon Park. This save millions of dollars and with the potential departure of minor league baseball from Auburn, it late left us with a long term use for Falcon Park. I want to talk a little bit about the numbers and how we reached the number that is ultimately in this contract. Five years ago, Mr. Dygert's initial contract had a starting salary of \$115,000. If you compare this to other salaries for similar positions, this was a low number. But we all felt, including Mr. Dygert, that it was justifiable because he did not have prior experience. Since successfully fulfilling the obligations of his original contract, Mr. Dygert has gained

that experience and has a proven track record. In negotiating the terms of this new contract, we took into consideration how other administrators in our area are compensated. Not every city has a City Manager form of government. So we had to look at administrators not only in cities, but in other similar organizations. For example, the City Manager of Norwich is compensated at a rate of \$150,000 per year, but has a population of 7,500 citizens. The City Manager of Corning is compensated \$165,000 per year. The Superintendent of Auburn Schools is compensated \$172,000 a year. The College President of Community College is compensated at \$204,000 per year, and the CEO of our local hospital is compensated at \$430,000 a year. I feel that we've come to a fair agreement. I hope that it will be unanimous. As the Mayor mentioned Councilor Locastro stepped up and worked with us on this and I'd like to thank him for working with us in a bipartisan manner to get this done. It's for the betterment of the City and for the people of the city of Auburn. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilor Locastro, if you'd like to weigh in. You're the other part of our bargaining team.

Councilor Locastro

Maybe I should have went first Jim after that. With so much going on with the COVID, I feel it could get very costly with personnel changes at City Hall right now. Do we live in a perfectly run City? Probably not. But I do believe that Jeff Dygert cares and gives 100% daily. For that reason. I will vote yes.

Mayor Quill

Thank you Councilor. Councilor Cuddy, please.

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, thank you, Mayor. This is a statement in support of the renewal of the contract for City Manager Jeff Dygert. Along with the deserved affirmation of the proposed pay increased. As most Auburnians know, we have a City Manager form of government. This form of government has served City for generations and continues to do so in the present. The City Manager is the chief executive of the City and serves at the behest of the five member Council that sits before you all today. We are elected by the people of Auburn and make the laws and major decisions that guide the City of Auburn on a weekly basis. But it is the City Manager who makes the day to day decisions on the behalf of the people of Auburn. There is no body I trust more, no person I trust more to serve the City of Auburn at this time than Mr. Jeff Dygert. Mr. Dygert has served the City of Auburn for most of his adult life, in public safety as a Firefighter, and worked up the ranks to become Fire Chief. Over five years ago, when the City Council had to hire a new city manager, then City Manager Doug Selby, suggested that Mr. Dygert be considered as the interim manager as the City conducted a search for the next City Manager. Over the preceding months, during the search, it became apparent that the interim city manager was the right person for the job. Even though it appeared to the public that the council was taking a risk hiring City Manager without to traditional experienced City Managers have, we knew we were hiring the right

person for the job. We then negotiate a contract based on his experience with the support that any manager would need from an elected body that represents the people of the City. I would characterize Mr. Dygert's tenure as City Manager of success. A track record that includes creating a Code Cleanup Crew that maintains the abandoned properties throughout Auburn, helping bring 10s of millions of dollars of grant money into the City of Auburn, working with local employers and businesses to expand, grow and hire more employees in the City of Auburn, working closely with the Comptroller to keep our financial house in order and increase our credit rating with Moody's, hiring a Human Resources Director to streamline employee workflows. I could go on and on with many successes like this, but I would be remiss if I didn't bring up the most important facet of Mr. Dygert time as City Manager. He has been at the helm during this pandemic. He is here early in the morning, stays late in the day. On a daily basis, he draws upon his public safety experience, his even handed management style, and his keen intuition to keep the City of Auburn moving, and its people safe. Every day, clean water comes through our spouts. Our roads and parks are maintained. Our refuse is picked up weekly. Every day, the Police and Fire Departments are ever ready to show up at a moment's notice. Every day City staff is planning to navigate through this crisis and are preparing for when Auburn will thrive after the pandemic ends. All of this is done under the day to day leadership of Mr. Dygert. This renewed contract is acknowledging all that Mr. Dygert already does for the people of this City. The renewed contract re-commits Mr. Dygert to this most important role. The people of Auburn deserve the best with Jeff Dygert. They have this and they will continue to have him working for them over the next five years. Thank you.

Councilor McCormick

Yes, pretty much anything I could say has already been said I don't want to repeat it. But I do have a few things to add. Without COVID, without this pandemic crisis, if that had never happened, our City Manager Jeff Dygert was doing an outstanding job. There was crisis day to day fires, no pun intended, to put out that he did with confidence and he just handled the things that were coming up. When he first took on the responsibility of City Manager was when our water crisis was just unfolding, and we'd had to do a search for a new Police Chief. All of this happened. We had to face that Auburn Doubledays may, or may not, be staying with us and he worked with us. And the other thing that I recall from the first year, are the morale of city employees was very poor and in that included City Management, the managers within the administration. Jeff, Jeff worked with people he earned their trust, as we've talked about, he earned the trust of our our towns and a lot of the other stakeholders that rely on the community. But in facing with the City and the County, facing the pandemic, and all the fallout that it brings to our well-being, the well-being of residents and the economy of a small city. It does take a strong, experienced, compassionate and consistent leader to see us through this. And that is what we have in Jeff Dygert. We have that and more. As the crisis is happening with no sign of slowing down many other critical issues. Along with day to day operations of the City are happening. The operations of the City are essential services to our city residents. And in the case of delivering clean, safe drinking water to 45,000 County residents, it's even more critical. And Mr. Dygert has been a key player key person in leading us to get through this crisis, along with Seth Jensen. We will be recovering from this crisis for years, the economy, the city businesses, everything is going to rely on leadership. Mr. Dygert,

has built a team of outstanding managers and leaders within the City Administration. He knows how to delegate and give responsibility to make things happen. In the last four or five years, things that took that weren't moving anywhere that were just dragging and dragging. For example, hiring a Human Resource Director. It just wasn't happening. Mr. Dygert made it happen. There's other examples of that that I won't go into. But he made things happen that either saved the City money, city taxpayers, or saved money or brought in money for the City. The city staff has come together with a City Manager to take on all the challenges as a team. I think the City is in good hands. I think that as Assemblyman Finch said, leadership does matter. There's a long list as you've heard of things that Mr. Dygert has done to strengthen and improve the City. I can't say enough about what he's done to keep the boat afloat, as you will. When I first met, Mr. Dygert, I was a brand new City Councilor and he was Fire Chief, he had just had to lay off because of budget cuts, six firefighters. That was something devastating to not only the firefighters, but not anything that Chief, at the time Dygert, wanted to do. But in talking with him and working through it, we managed to hire people back. He worked hard to get grants. And in talking with him. I also learned he has a vision for Public Safety that he has, because we're so busy, I think he has yet to even talk about, but it's something that will be good for the entire community. He looks forward and he plans and he's proactive. And I think we are fortunate to have Jeff Dygert as our City Manager and I will be proud to vote to renew his contract. It's a good thing. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. As it turns out 47 years ago today, I started with the City of Auburn is a backstep Firefighter. They said "kid, here's your helmet, your boots, and your coat, if the bell hits, get on the truck, stay out of the way and don't say nothing". So I tried for as many days as I could then I had to say something like, "what's for lunch?" or whatever. But during that time, we've been through so many City Managers, one or two of them have, excuse me have served two terms. Others, I wish they had stayed in the Midwest, and some that were from the East Coast, here, I wish they had stayed on. But everything in life is meant for a reason. You may not know at the time, what the reason is, what the outcome is going to be, but it works out for the better. To be very honest, when when I was fire chief Jeff was Union President. Our conversations always became animated at times - fair? Okay. But he had one goal in mind, to take care of his firefighters and the City of Auburn, and depending on the situation, either was in first place. Today, he's the same way. He has a great knack of looking ahead, where we should be going, where we are, and how are we going to get here? Myself, as many of you, know other city workers. And it's very seldom that I don't run into a city worker off property here and they tell me what a good job Jeff is doing. For members that rank and file to acknowledge the City Manager is doing a good job. That says an awful lot that it was not prompted out of them. It comes out of a clear blue. So that that tells me we're doing something right. In regards to the newspaper article today, 22% pay raise. I was disturbed about that. But if you think about it, if you have \$1, and you have 22% of that, would you be getting a 22% or 22 cent raise? It was 100 million dollars and you got 22% of that. Probably could buy all of us for that amount of money. It's a considerable difference. I didn't care for the reporting or the headline. But that's, I was taught long ago, don't pick a fight with a company that buys ink by the barrel, so I won't go further down that road. But Jeff, has meant an awful lot to the Council to the City in

general, all everything going on was was COVID, and such. I'm very proud and pleased that he's decided to stay, and I'm very proud and pleased to continue to work with him for in the near future, you know, for length of his contract anyway, whatever it amounts to. Years ago on Council, and then work my way up to the ranks, we would be getting a new City Manager and everybody met on the street says "Why can't we get one that lives here in the city of Auburn? Why do we have to go outside the City to hire a City Manager?" Now we do that. And everyone's against what his pay rate may be. I would just love for Jeff, one time to sit down and and figure out a week's schedule, how many hours he works, and what his pay rate is. It probably doesn't come out to more than four or five dollars an hour. So just knowing him for the number of hours he puts in. Jeff, after tonight you feel you can walk on water, but we'll come back to work tomorrow and it changes. But I thank Councilor Giannettino and Locastro for working on this contract and I think other Councilors, Cuddy and McCormick, for supporting this and supporting our fellow Councilors. And Jeff, I'm thankful and hopeful that you're going to say yes when we get done voting here this evening. So, and we're not going to give you any time to second guess.

Councilor McCormick.

One more thing that I want to add to address the issue of the City Manager's evaluation and if you want to. We've been meticulous in doing that year after year, we do, you know, the grading and the comments and we sit down with the City Manager. We've done that with every City Manager since I've been a Councilor. We absolutely do an evaluation.

Mayor Quill

Absolutely, and they are locked in the file cabinet in the Mayor's office. They're there. That's where they will remain locked for as far as till I'm done, as far as I'm concerned. Something else came to mind, but I guess I'll just cut myself off at this point. Any further discussion? Clerk, if you'd call the roll please.

City Clerk Chuck Mason -roll call on Resolution 112 of 2020:

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

Mayor Quill

Congratulations, Mr. Dygert. Now that we voted, would you like to say anything or just want to hold off for another day?

City Manager Dygert

Well, I just want to say a couple things. First of all, thank you for your support. Thank you for your confidence. Four and a half years ago, and tonight, obviously, it's an uncomfortable position, if you can imagine being sitting here in a public session, having people discuss you and your compensation. Right? So I, I appreciate your, your kind words. I appreciate a lot of the things you've said. But as I look out here, and I see five Department Heads from the City of Auburn, who are largely responsible for a lot of the projects that and successes that you talked about, I want to make sure that they know that I appreciate everything they do, because essentially, in my mind, they are the pilots of this wide variety of aircraft and I have the role of the air traffic controller. Really, they're, they're doing the work and I'm just trying to keep them from crashing into each other and making sure they're landing and taking off appropriately. And that can certainly be its own task at times. We've got a great team. I consider all those folks, colleagues and friends. And I just want to make sure that they understand that I realize that as well. And I know you do, the Council does as well. You're very open and appreciative about that and share that on a regular basis. But that's what's making this all work. I think we've got great stuff going on. But I think we've got great challenges ahead as well. Because everything we thought we knew was going to be different here. I think when we get through, between COVID and everything else, the world changes at a pace that seems to increase on a daily basis. And we've got to be nimble enough to keep up with those changes and anticipate what's happening. I don't think government typically is good at that. And I think we've gotten better at that. And that's thanks to a lot of forward thinking staff that we have here. So I want to thank them. And then thank you and know that I'll continue to probably will be one of the biggest ambassadors for the City of Auburn that you've got. Thank you.

AGREEMENT Resolution #113 of 2020

**AUTHORIZING A Shared Services Agreement with NYS Department of Transportation for
Emergency Assistance**

By Councilor McCormick

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 99-r of General Municipal Law the State of New York is allowed to provide emergency assistance to local municipalities in the absence of a Governor's Emergency Declaration; and

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) wishes to share services with the City of Auburn related to materials or equipment that assist in the maintenance of State and/or municipal roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, NYS DOT has provided the City with a shared services agreement outlining the details of the shared services that would not exceed a total of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City's Department of Public Works to enter into a two (2) year term shared services agreement with NYS DOT pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and NYS DOT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby authorized a two (2) year Shared Services Agreement, attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and New York State Department of Transportation, whereby the terms shall take effect upon adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City's Superintendent of Public Works is authorized to duly execute the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary to carry out this resolution.

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		

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #113 OF 2020

AUTHORIZING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

By Councilor McCormick

November 19, 2020

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 99-r of General Municipal Law the State of New York is allowed to provide emergency assistance to local municipalities in the absence of a Governor's Emergency Declaration; and

WHEREAS, New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) wishes to share services with the City of Auburn related to materials or equipment that assist in the maintenance of State and/or municipal roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, NYS DOT has provided the City with a shared services agreement outlining the details of the shared services that would not exceed a total of \$25,000; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City's Department of Public Works to enter into a two (2) year term shared services agreement with NYS DOT pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and NYS DOT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby authorized a two (2) year Shared Services Agreement, attached hereto and incorporated herein, between the City of Auburn and New York State Department of Transportation, whereby the terms shall take effect upon adoption of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City's Superintendent of Public Works is authorized to duly execute the Agreement and any and all other documents necessary to carry out this resolution.

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		

E. Staff Presentations –

South Street Corridor Enhancement Project Update, presented by Christina Selvek, Director of Capital Projects & Grants and Jeff Reina, PE, Managing Engineer with C&S Companies.

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 6:54 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Auburn City Council Meeting, November 19, 2020

Chuck Mason, City Clerk