

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 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 via Zoom videoconference from the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn, NY by Mayor Quill. The meeting was held by videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy, 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
- Director of Capital Improvement Program, Christina Selvek
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs

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 Christmas and New Year's Day holiday.

The week of Monday, December 21st is Christmas week and trash and recycling will be picked up one day early in the City of Auburn.

The Christmas Week Schedule is as follows:

- If your pick-up day is usually Tuesday,
you will be picked up on Monday, December 21st
- If your pick-up day is usually Wednesday,

- you will be picked up on Tuesday, December 22nd
- If your pick-up day is usually Thursday,
you will be picked up on Wednesday, December 23rd
- If your pick-up day is usually Friday,
you will be picked up on Thursday, December 24th
- There will be no pick-up on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th

The New Year's Day Week Schedule is as follows:

- If your pick-up day is usually Tuesday,
you will be picked up on Monday, December 28th
- If your pick-up day is usually Wednesday,
you will be picked up on Tuesday, December 29th
- If your pick-up day is usually Thursday,
you will be picked up on Wednesday, December 30th
- If your pick-up day is usually Friday,
you will be picked up on Thursday, December 31st
- There will be no pick-up on New Year's Day, Friday, January 1st

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

Secondly, our City's Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is next week on Monday night, December 28, 7pm. That meeting is going to be a zoom meeting very much like these Council meetings have been. All the information for the agenda, and there's only one matter on their agenda next week, is on the city's website.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS – None

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and there were no speakers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

- December 17, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the December 17, 2020 minutes by Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- We received notice this week the City has been awarded a \$30,000 grant for its urban forestry program. The funds will be utilized to create a GIS based inventory of street trees and create a management plan for our trees.
- There is new signage at the entry ways of Tech Park. The signage was designed and manufactured by Mack Studios. Street lighting upgrades are also being gradually implemented.
- The Bradford Street Playground project is moving along. This week new playground equipment has been installed.
- NYS Executive Order 202.83 allows local municipalities to adopt a resolution directing an assessor to grant exemptions on the 2021 roll if the taxpayer received the exemption on the 2020 roll. If Council desires, staff will include an appropriate resolution in an upcoming agenda. The provision would eliminate the need for eligible senior citizens or disabled persons to visit City Hall and complete additional paperwork.
- With the recent availability of Covid-19 vaccines to certain sectors of the workforce, we are engaged in discussions with our Police and Fire Department leadership and labor to work through policy and process. We plan to have a simple document available to all our employees that explains the history, the benefits, the potential impact of receiving the vaccine. First responders in a healthcare role are currently included in phase one. Law enforcement is likely to be included in phase two with several other phases to follow. Those who opt to receive the vaccine will still be required to comply with all existing policies related to PPE and universal precautions. Fire Chief Mark Fritz will be working on a committee headed up by the Cayuga County Health Department to plan and coordinate local vaccination programs.
- The last thing I have, Mayor and Councillors, is the last two meetings we have done virtually. And just curious as to your thoughts or desires moving forward into January and how you'd like to conduct meetings in the relatively short term, at least for the next few meetings. I really expect that after the Christmas holiday, we may see some more Executive Orders from the Governor. I don't know how that will impact our operations. But you know, we'll deal with those as we need to, but if you have particular desires on how we conduct these future meetings, if you could give me that insight now or within the next couple days, so we can plan that. That would be fantastic.

Mayor Quill
Councillors.

Councilor Cuddy

Yes. So I will speak for myself. To the Manager, I think having the remote meetings at this point in time, for the foreseeable future, given the numbers and the trajectory of the amount of COVID cases that are in the area, I personally think it would be prudent that we stay remote as a governing body at least for the month of January. That's my perspective. We have been able to do our governing remotely and I think it also models a behavior that we hope our constituents will see, that we ourselves are taking this very seriously and that staying home and going out only for essential purposes would be only warranted. But that's my perspective.

Mayor Quill
Thank you. Councilor Giannettino?

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. I'll agree with Councilor Cuddy. I think at least for the month of January, we should stay in a remote setting such as this. You know, based on what happened in early December, and having a possible exposure, the amount of time that we're all in the room together, could again lead to possible quarantines. I think it also sets the example as Councilor Cuddy said, the only thing I would ask is that, you know, maybe we reach out to the local paper and let them know why we're doing this. There was some criticism there when this decision was originally made. Let them know that the meetings are still open to the public in a virtual format. That they aren't closed. I think that's important to stress.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilor Locastro?

Councilor Locastro

I'll go along with the two Councilmen, I'm in agreement with that.

Mayor Quill

Councilor McCormick, are you there? I don't see you on my screen, Councilor?

Councilor McCormick

Okay. I'm here. Yes, I am. And I agree for all the right reasons, including the people that have to work to get us to the meeting and keep us in the meeting. It's good for their safety as well. And again, I concur with Councilor Giannettino, even though the editorial did address every meeting, it seemed to be right after we had to cancel. And we do have very public transparent meetings, whether we're on Zoom, or in City Hall. I think it's up to the public to take advantage of the opportunities to participate in the meetings. Even though it's a little challenging, Public To Be Heard is wide open. And I think that the public can take advantage of that if they want to. So I'm good with holding off until the end of January and see how things look.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Council, I'm in agreement with all of you. I do like the idea of stressing it to the media. But our meetings are open, they've always been open. We normally have a few folks that speak at every meeting or just about every meeting. They're well aware of it. Have not heard from them, any of them, that it's inconvenient. So at the very least Mr. Dygert, I'll prefer we stay like this until January, along with Council.

City Manager Dygert

Okay, thank you all for your input. And that's all I have.

B. Reports from members of Council – none

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions - none

**E. Staff Presentations –
Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Thank you. Reports From Members of Council. Anyone, Councilors? I have one item, I will address it the very end of the meeting. It involves all of us. So moving along to Staff Vendor Presentations. Mr. Dygert, who do you have doing that? Is our Comptroller with us?

City Manager Dygert

Yes, our Comptroller is with us as well as the representatives from our auditor's. So Comptroller Rachel Jacobs, if you can do a quick intro on that.

Comptroller Jacobs

Um, so with us tonight, we have Patrick Jordan and Jeremy Gould. They're both from Insero and Company. And they're going to go through a brief presentation and then I will continue with a little bit of an overview and go more in depth.

Patrick Jordan

Okay. Thanks, Rachel. Thank you, Mayor and City Manager. I'll start out. I am the engagement partner, I have been for several years. And I have Jeremy Gould, as mentioned. He is the supervisor. Really responsible for the field work and managing the staff. It's obviously done a little bit differently this year. I think the overall results are still very positive, as they have been. I think that our time on site was very limited. We try to do it that way to be safe for everybody. And I think it worked out well. We really appreciate everything that was uploaded to us in our ShareFile portal by Rachel and the rest of the staff. Like I said, I don't believe, Jeff, Jeremy can definitely chime in on the details of the fieldwork and all that. And I think, as I said, the on site was very limited. So, I will start out, share the screen. Can you see the executive summary? Okay, I'm going to do a little bit differently. Normally I have a PowerPoint, which I do have. I could roll over to but it's basically the PowerPoint has always been just cut right out of this executive summary. But I wanted to put all the documents up just really briefly to see. I think, actually, this gives us a little bit better way to do that. All the documents are the same as what you've seen in the past, I'll just go through the executive summary overall findings. So, there's the main basic financial statements, which is just short of 100 pages. A lot of detail. A lot of footnote disclosures, supplementary information, and all. As well as the fund financial statements, and then the government wide that brings in the capital assets and the various liabilities for retirement system liabilities, and post retirement, health insurance, liabilities, and all. So we can look at that just briefly in a second. But the overall results on the main report were unmodified opinion or a clean opinion, as you want to have. Any modifications or departures from generally accepted accounting principles, that goes on for the supplementary information, again, unmodified or clean. As a governmental organization, and we are required to follow a government auditing standards, which covers internal control compliance with laws and regulations. And we show here that we have no instances to disclose on non compliance, or on internal control weaknesses. Further on, this is a single audit because you spend over \$750,000 of

federal expenditures, or federal awards, you actually spent \$4.6 million, \$4,000,006.41, I think, over probably 15 to 20 different programs. We're required to test those, usually on a rotating basis every, at least test them every third year. This year, we tested these CDBG program, the main CDBG and also there was a big component that was COVID related. And also, I believe we tested assistance to Firefighters, as one of the major programs. We consider all the major programs and make sure that the scheduled expenditures of the federal awards are appropriately complete and appropriate. And then further tests for compliance. Federal compliance tests and all related to more specific programs. So, again, nothing, no problems in that area, everything was fine. There's a data collection form that goes along with that to a federal clearing house. So it basically mirrors the schedule of expenditures of federal awards. It also recaps all of the various documents, all of the reports that we issue. So that's an online certification that we do along with Rachel. That's very important. The Federal government tracks what we test from year to year and make sure that we're covering what's required to be covered as far as testing. There's a communication letter that's required for every audit. It basically talks about in the qualitative aspect area, there's a few different things, whether you adopted any new accounting standards, which you did not have to do this year. There are no new GASBE pronouncements. Government Auditing Standards Board sets the standards that we have to follow, so nothing had to be adopted this year. Existing standards were consistent. It also talks about any estimates, and actually, I will jump right over to that since it's easier to look at real quick. So as I said that talks about the policies. All the policies are identified note one to the financial statements. And again, it's very lengthy, several pages of County policies. No new ones adopted. No transactions that didn't have authoritative guidance and we believe everything was recognized in the financial in the proper period. We are required to point out any estimates. We say that the most sensitive estimates are the collectability of loans receivable, solid waste closure, post closure liability, compensated absences, accumulated depreciation, capital assets, which are depreciated over estimated useful lives. And the the OPEB the (Other Post Employment Benefits) obligation again, the healthcare, present value of the actuarial determined health care liability for retirees and the pension obligations with a State Retirement System. Those are all estimates and they're also part of the next section which are any sensitive disclosures, or important disclosures, to look at in relation to the main financial statements. So we pointed out the notes, 8, 9, 10 11, I'm sorry, 10, 12, 13, 15 are related to those same things, capital assets, the liabilities, on top of that your normal liabilities for bonds and bands and installment purchase debt and all that sort of thing. So those are all pointed out in those notes specifically, this one paragraph I kind of skipped over is just the estimates we usually point out are based on various assumptions, various in house assumptions, actuarial assumptions. And this just talks a little bit more about the methodology, I guess, behind some of those estimates. The rest of this letter is just difficulties encountered more about the audit process. any difficulties encountered corrected uncorrected misstatements, disagreements with management. So, the rest of this is really very positive about the process. As I said, under the unusual circumstances this year that, you know, the pandemic, done much differently, process still aren't very well, the books and records and everything we needed were readily available. We wrap this up, turned it around, again, thanks to Jeremy's work, very quickly, same timeline as in the past you're a June year end. And we're actually still wrapping up some other counties that are December year ends that have kind of dragged out a little bit because of the the working and accessibility to the office and documents and all by the the other County staff. So very positive. There's a management comment letter, we don't really have any that talks again, more on internal control matters and compliance, any significant or material problems with the controls. We don't have anything negative or anything to point out in those areas. We

do also normally point out upcoming accounting standard, so didn't have to adopt anything this year. But there's seven or eight down the line to consider. I don't think many of these will have a significant effect, like some of the ones in the past, but kind of put this in all of our management comment letters just to bring attention to the upcoming standards. Excuse me, I also pointed out in the main executive summary that there is this letter of assurance letter on the requirements for the Municipal Solid Waste, solid waste landfill facilities. So it's just a short letter that that's a result of some testing for that liability and the program and all this is required it has been for as long as I can remember this landfill assurance letter. There's also on top of the main audit and the federal audit is this state single audit with the State's Transportation assistance. It's mainly the highway planning and highway planning CHIPs mainly. Just go to the schedule of that. So you spend about 1.6 million in there and the CHIPs and Marcia Sally programs. So there's a separate program for state purposes. And then the main final financial report. You can see it two parts the government wide that I talked about, which brings in the capital, the infrastructure and the related debt, and then the fund financial statements. The general fund your Sewer Fund, which is a major program, major fund, capital fund, and then there's some other that are consolidated beyond the footnotes. They're considered non major funds and not shown specifically in detail. I just want to swing back to, Rachel has a lot of the financial data analysis but we did put just a couple of things in the executive summary just the general fund over a five year period. Can see you're pretty much right at about at where you were in 2016 at 19 million in assets. Real close from 16 to 20. Funding balance is 5.8 million, went up as far as 6.4, and 6.8 million this year. So general fund looks steady and growing. We have some other information but this is the revenue and expense side. On the revenue side, over the five year period, you can see it had been at about you know 32/33 and then bumped up to 36/37 million The last couple of years offset pretty much by the same numbers on the expenditure side. So the general fund did have income, net income or change in fund balance of about half a million this year, on top of a million last year, which really recovered from that 2018 year of the \$920,000 loss. Put in the sewer, water and special grant revenues and expenditures, I'm sure Rachel is going to get into those more in more detail, but just to point out the sewer sewer fund specifically, I think went from about doesn't show the fund balance here. But it went from about 1.3 million to about 2.6 million fund balance over the five year periods. So there was good growth there. The other areas, special grants, mainly self sustaining, with a grant income going coming in going out. And then the capital fund expenditure activity, you can see we talked last year about the very large amount of capital fund activity in 2019. Again, 15 million running through this capital outlay in the current year, similar to the 18 year but the past three years, a lot of activity there. Well, I'll stop there. Wanted to kind of keep it short and let Rachel talk about the numbers but overall, also let Jeremy chime in. He again was really primarily responsible for all the work and supervision and prepared the financial statements. So anything Jeremy that you'd like to point out specifically?

Jeremy Gould

I just want to know thank Rachel, and Bob, and all the staff, for their help and getting us all this stuff that it really helped us out and I'm sure helped you guys out to be able to be able to do this remotely with everything that's going on.

Councilor Cuddy

Other questions before I unshare and let Rachel? If I can...

Mayor Quill

Councilors, everyone good? Any questions? None. Very well, if we could move on that'd be great. Thank you.

Councilor Cuddy

Okay. If I could only figure out what I have to do to unshare.

Comptroller Jacobs

I think that there's usually a little box on the top of your screen. It's like minimize

Patrick Jordan

Yeah, everything got minimized.

Councilor Cuddy

Chuck, you you can go to View Options and stop participant sharing.

Chuck Mason

It appears as though his, Rachel wants to start yours.

Comptroller Jacobs

I can't I won't let me until he's done.

Councilor Cuddy

Yeah, I don't have the unshare. Let's see. I wonder if I just I might just leave the meeting and if I can. Okay, there we go. So, all right.

Comptroller Jacobs

Yep. Perfect. Okay, fiscal year end review as of June 30 2020. We have 4 fund balance cap classifications at the City of Auburn that we use that's restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. Our City fund balance policy states that the unassigned fund balance should be between 10% and 16.7% of prior year expenditures. So for this year, our range is 3.6 million to 6.1. Refuse, Water and Sewer have no unassigned fund balance due to the fact that it is reserved specifically for those funds and purposes related solely to them. Here are our fund balances as of 6/30. General Fund fund balance was at 6.8 with 4.2 million unassigned, which is within our fund balance policy range. Refuse collection is showing a deficit of 235,000. The reason for this is due to \$380,000 bond issuance. Our Water fund balance is 1.9 million, and our Sewer fund balance is 2.5 million. This shows a 5 year trend of our General fund fund balance for both assigned and unassigned. The General fund balance increased 453,000 this year. The reason for that is favorable revenues and favorable expenditures. Our sales tax collections were 421,000 over budget. And our sale of real property was 325,000 over budget. All departments kept their expenditures under budget. This is a five year trend of our Refuse collection fund balance. There was a decrease in fund balance of 566,000. This was due to the bond financing and purchase of refuse trucks. That will be eliminated once we go to long term debt financing. The revenues were favorable again due to insurance recoveries for the loss of the refuse truck and interest earnings. And the department kept all expenditures under budget which again makes favorable

expenditures. This is a 5 year comparison of our Water fund fund balance. Fund balance in the Water fund was increased by 589,000. Again, we had favorable revenues and expenditures. The department kept all expenditures under budget and our favorable revenues were primarily related to the lead service line grant reimbursement. This is a 5 year trend of our Sewer fund fund balance. The Sewer fund did decrease slightly by \$821 this year, and we did have favorable expenditures and the department again kept all expenditures under budget. Landfill and Power utility fund. Our Landfill fund balance is showing a large deficit, this is due to the bond financing for the transfer station project. This will be eliminated once we transition to bond financing. The power utility fund, this is a 5 year trend analysis, and the net position is primarily due to capital assets. Our actual cash balance is negative 661,000. This is the amount that's due back to the general fund which over time once the Power utility fund starts making more revenues, that money will be transferred back to the general fund. General fund revenue trends. Taking a look at parking violation revenue trends over the past five years. We are down from what we budgeted, which given the COVID situation, and not through that, is understandable. Sales tax revenue trend for the past 5 years, again, as I mentioned, we received more than we had budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year. Franchise fees, again, that's 5 year trend. And we did receive more than we budgeted, again this year. Interest earnings, this is a 5 year trend of our Interest revenues. Again, interest was higher than budgeted this year when we did our adjustments for year end. My recommendations going forward ensure that budgeted revenues are realistic, adjust up or down accordingly, throughout the year. Continued department due diligence, by keeping expenditures under budget and tightening their belts. And finally to continue putting pressure on New York State to return the withheld 20% of AIM funding as well as Grant funding. And that is it. Anybody have any questions?

Mayor Quill

Councilors, questions?

Councilor Giannettino

I have one Mayor, please. Miss Jacobs, in regards to the bond financing and Refuse collection. What is the timeframe for that to switch over to long term bond?

Comptroller Jacobs

We do 5 year bands and that entered its first year last year. So it'll be another four years before we actually transfer that into a long term bond financing.

Councilor Giannettino

This is a normal process?

Comptroller Jacobs

Yes. The only reason it really affects this more I think is because it's such a small fund. So it doesn't have as much assets to offset that to make the net position positive.

Councilor Giannettino

Understood. I don't have any other questions. I just, if it's okay Mayor, like to make a couple comments, please. Based on Patrick and Jeremy's presentation and then Rachel's follow up. A couple things stuck

out to me. Overall, results are positive, as they have been. We are seeing an increase in revenues, pre COVID. You know, this is just further evidence of what we all know that under City Manager Dygert leadership, with Rachel, our financial house is in order. We've worked really hard to get it there. And, you know, I just, I think this is, this is proof of that. And I just want to commend everybody on city staff for the hard work that they do on a daily basis. For for getting us there. It's much appreciated.

Mayor Quill

All set, Councilor Giannettino?

Councilor Giannettino

I am, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Thank you for your comments. Councilor Cuddy.

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, thank you, Mayor. I also would like to echo Councilor Giannettino's accolades for the city staff, particularly Miss Jacobs and Mr. Dygert. You know, when we planned for the budget, 2021 budget, we anticipated hard times coming and I think that, you know, we're steadying the ship. We're being very frugal, as was said, by Miss Jacobs, and for this year ended June 2020. So, you know, I think if we continue to just be very cautious as we are, and getting the good feedback from Incero, and how we are being financially stable, and following all GASBE protocols. We'll just continue to forge ahead in this very uncertain time. So it's good to have a sense of solid ground to stand on. And we appreciate all the work that you're doing to keep our financial house in order.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Anyone else?

Councilor McCormick

Um, Mayor, I just would concur with Councilor Giannettino and Councilor Cuddy and reinforced that a lot of work goes into a short, or it's not a short presentation, but between the audit and year end, as of June 30. A lot of staff effort and hard work goes into making the news as positive as it is. And really appreciate all the work that goes into it from staff. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilor Locastro. Anything to add in? Or are you all set, sir?

Councilor Locastro

I would just say the numbers don't lie and keep up the good work.

Mayor Quill

From from my, Thank you, my perspective is it's very nice to have a report such as we had this evening. There's been many years where it wasn't that optimistic or positive. So thank you both, Mr.

Dygert, Miss Jacobs, and all the staff for all their hard work. It's not one or two individuals. It's a team effort. So thank you very much. Mr. Dygert, anything you'd like to add in, sir?

City Manager Dygert

No, Mayor, but I tend to agree. The next thing I think on the agenda is typically the month and bargraph reports and financials. And if any of you've had a chance to take a peek at those, we're in good shape there. Again, our expenditures mostly are what are represented in those graphs, are what typically comes to mind. Our department heads and department staff are doing a great job keeping us within budget. That's always important. But to all the points that you and the Councilors have made, our staff are constantly looking for new innovative ways to get the job done, and leverage grants fund, find new grant programs, create partnerships, and all of those things that I think are certainly important to the success of the City. And being able to accomplish Capital Projects in pretty tough financial times, by a lot of accounts. So we owe a lot to our staff that works really hard to dig up some obscure programs, on occasion, and keep pushing forward and do the right thing. So thank you, and thank them.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. As an old Department Head, the holiday seasons were always great. But that was always when the upcoming budget preliminaries would come out. So I don't know if that's the same, but it has to be done. And they're all doing a great job. So thank you. Other Business From The Council, Councilors? No one? Councilor Locastro, I can't see you. So I don't know if you have anything.

Councilor Locastro

No. I'm all set, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Usually, after the first year of someone being on Council, we asked them to talk for 20 minutes about how wonderful it is to work with the other four of us. So we'll let you prep so you can do that in person. Fair enough?

Councilor Locastro

Fair enough. Mayor, I'll be ready.

Mayor Quill

All right. Great. Thank you. Ah, 2 items. Councilors, like most of you, I been following Washington, and everything going on. I was very disappointed in this last action by the Congress and the Senate, in regards to financial assistance. It's great that some folks are getting money that's well deserved, well needed. I understand that. But I'm disappointed that municipalities, including the City of Auburn, were left out of it, as was promised we would be included this time. I work together with Mr. Mason earlier today, to draft a letter. I will ask him to read. Can you hear me all right? Okay, I'd like to ask Mr. Mason to read the letter. I would hope that Council be willing to sign on with myself, but if not, I will sign the letter and send it off. So no opposition Mr. Mason, if you would read that letter please.

Chuck Mason

Thank you, Mayor. This letter would be sent to Congressman John Katko and Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand: I am writing today on behalf of the entire Auburn City Council regarding the serious financial harm that the COVID 19 pandemic has had, and is continuing to have, on the City of Auburn. Within our community, many small businesses and people are suffering. Fortunately, the latest COVID assistance bill passed by Congress on Monday provides some temporary assistance for those that are struggling. We will do everything we can locally to continue to assist our local people to navigate their way through these assistance programs. Please know that they are desperately needed and their inclusion is essential for many. Earlier this year, when the CARES Act was passed by Congress, I wrote to you to outline the potential negative financial impact that the pandemic would have on our City Organization. As you are aware the CARES Act did not provide direct financial assistance to localities. Eight months later, it is disheartening, to say the least, that the latest round of COVID assistance also contains zero for cities and counties. Now that we are a full nine months into this crisis, we know with certainty about the financial impact that Auburn faces. Our sales tax revenues have declined, shorting in our general fund revenues by hundreds of 1000s of dollars. Our financial assistance from New York State has been cut by 20%, which amounts to \$1 million of our annual general fund revenue. The pandemic has impacted our organization with increased expenses as we maintain frontline public safety response and meet the requirements of the Governor's executive orders and the other Centers for Disease Control recommendations for dealing with the pandemic. Our Police, Fire and other personnel are going above and beyond the call of duty as they provide local services under pandemic conditions. The financial impact that our small city is up against is significant, and we cannot imagine the impact that is having on much larger cities. If there is no aid to cities, it will be detrimental for Auburn. And if it is detrimental to our small city, it is likely going to have a devastating impact on all of upstate New York. I would like to again thank you for your efforts so far during the crisis. We need you to work in the new year with the President elect, and our United States Senators and Congressmen, to make certain that aid to local cities and counties is included in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Once again, Councilors, I will not put you on the spot here. But if you're willing to sign on, please contact Mr. Mason or myself in the next day or two so we can get that sent out. Other Business From The Council. That was it, right? Councilor Giannettino, please.

Councilor Giannettino

Just one quick thing, Mayor. As this is the last meeting of the year. You know, we all know and understand, and appreciate that the city staff works extremely hard on a daily basis, during normal times. The last eight months has been anything but normal, throughout the City of Auburn, throughout the country. And I just, I want to recognize the city workforce as a whole, for not only what they do on an on a normal basis, but what they've done this year. You know, I've had the luxury in my day job of being able to work from home for the last eight months. I stay safe and not have to worry about contracting this at work. Many of our work force that are out there on a daily basis, assisting the public providing the essential services, that they rely on. And at the same time, they have the stress and anxiety of while they're doing this, are they going to contract COVID and go home to their families with it. So I just want to recognize them. I want to wish them all, I want to thank them and I want to wish them all safe and happy holiday season.

Mayor Quill

Very good. Thank you. Those are my sentiments, which you said, did much better job Councilor. So thank you very much for that.

Councilor Giannettino

You're welcome, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Mr. Mason, I don't believe we had anyone else sign on the Public To Be Heard. Is that correct?

Chuck Mason

You are correct, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Mr. Dygert. The next time we will be seeing you in this format is January 7. Is that correct?

City Manager Dygert

That's correct.

Mayor Quill

So with that, I'll entertain a Motion to Adjourn. Do we have a request for Executive Session?

City Manager Dygert

Not from staff, Mayor.

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 there were no speakers.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk