

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 4, 2021 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 5:00 p.m. 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 DeForest
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien

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 –
Chuck Mason**

Thanks, Mayor. We do have just a couple of announcements this evening. The first is that the next meeting for the city of our Civil Service Commission will be held next week on February 8, it's a Monday night 6:30pm. That meeting will be a internet zoom meetings just like this. And you can check the city website for the information if you are looking to participate in that meeting. And then the next meeting of the Auburn Human Rights Commission will be out Wednesday, February 10. That meeting Human Rights Commission meeting is also going to be held by zoom and starts at 5:30pm. And again, the information to participate for anybody looking to participate with that meeting is on the city's website as well. And I'll be members of the public and always call the ops the mayor council or the opposite city clerk if they need assistance with trying to find their ways to these internet meetings.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

WHEREAS, the Black experience throughout history is an enduring foundation upon which the Black community is built and stands, and the struggle and challenges overcome by African Americans throughout the centuries are inspiring to all Americans and reminders of the principles we share as a society; and

WHEREAS, Black History Week was initiated in February 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, The theme for 2021, "*The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity*", explores the wide-ranging diversity of black family life - from single to two-parent households to nuclear, extended and, more recently, bi-racial; and

WHEREAS, Throughout black history, factors such as slavery, inequality and poverty have put pressure on maintaining family ties, when a better life meant traveling far from home; and

WHEREAS, Throughout American history, the black community has always exhibited an unwavering understanding of the value of family - as an incomparable source of comfort, strength, and even survival; and

WHEREAS, as we take this opportunity to study the accomplishments of all African Americans throughout history, we reflect on the role of the Black community in our nation's past, present, and future; to enrich our understanding of the history of Black America is to broaden our understanding of our nation's history, and, during Black History Month, with appreciation for their contributions to all areas of American life and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael D Quill, Mayor, do hereby proclaim February 2021 as the 45th year of

Black History Month

in the City of Auburn and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the seal of

the City of Auburn to be affixed this
Fourth day of February 2021.

Michael D. Quill, Mayor
City of Auburn, New York

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilors, with us this evening we have Rhoda Overstreet Wilson to accept the proclamation. Rhoda would you care to say a few words?

Rhoda Oversteet Wilson

Sure, thank you. On behalf of the President Dr. Elizer Hernandez and the Cayuga County Chapter of the NAACP, good evening. Thank you, Mayor, city council and other members of city leadership for this honor. The NAACP thanks the city for honoring Black History Month with this proclamation. The city this year has partnered numerous times with social justice organizations and we view that as progress, we know that much more is needed so that all of Auburn's citizens can experience equity but we are hopeful that 2020 is an indicator of what's to come. Thank you all.

Mayor Quill

Rhoda. If and when we get our community back together, we can have our meetings in the open. we'd certainly love to be invited to the Booker T. Washington, to hold a City Council meeting.

Rhoda Oversteet Wilson

Absolutely. Absolutely.

Mayor Quill

So just one more, just one more reason we all want COVID to be behind us. So, if I forget, don't be afraid to call me and yell at me. All right?

Rhoda Oversteet Wilson

I will definitely remind you all of that, and we appreciate that. That would be very nice. Very good. Thank you all.

Mayor Quill

Thank you.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you Rhoda.

Mayor Quill

Mr. Clerk, I believe we have another proclamation this evening.

WHEREAS, Travis Backs passed away unexpectedly on February 6th, 2020, he is survived by his mother Holly Kline, and step-father Jeffery Kline, his sister Amanda Backs, his niece Makenna, and nephew Trystan, and the many family and friends that he loved, and loved him in return; and

WHEREAS, Travis resided in Seneca Falls, and had a strong passion for helping those with Alzheimer's as his Nana passed away in 2014 with Alzheimer's, and often volunteered his time, especially around holidays at Seneca Falls Nursing Home; and

WHEREAS, Travis was employed at Gould's Pumps in Seneca Falls, and was working diligently to get his life back on track. He served his community, his family, and his friends. His commitment and faith to take on the challenges that society and life presented, never let him lose focus on his future; and

WHEREAS, his family and friends describe him as funny, genuine, tender hearted, giving, unique, loving, and handsome; and

WHEREAS, Travis was an avid outdoorsman. He especially enjoyed fishing and hunting on the weekends with his step-father Jeffery. He also loved to surprise his mother, Holly, at work with flowers, and treat her to frequent dinner dates, as a token of his gratitude to her; and

WHEREAS, Travis had compassion and love for all. He had a way about him that would light up a room as soon as he walked in. His comedic side was always showing, and his love for his family and friends was self-evident. To be in Travis's presence was beautiful and honorable.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and the Citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2021 as

Travis Backs Day

In the City of Auburn and we encourage our citizens and visitors to paying tribute to, and celebrating the life of this special person that has been lost to our community.

In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand affixed this Fourth day
of February 2021.

Michael D. Quill, Mayor
City of Auburn, New York

Mayor Quill

Thank you, council with us this evening we have Mr. Collin, Rieley and Holly Kline?

Colin Reilly

Yes. Hello, we are here.

Mayor Quill

Go ahead, please.

Holly Kline

I as Travis's mom would like to thank you all very, very much for dedicating a day to my son, on behalf of Jeff, his stepfather and sister Amanda as well. I think it's a wonderful thing that you are doing this for us, obviously means the world and we miss him terribly. So, to bring some remembrance is a wonderful thing. Thank you very much.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Thank you. Collin, did you have anything offer? You are the force behind this. yeah, I

Colin Reilly

I just want to thank you guys so much. It means a lot. I mean, obviously, you saw the emails and things. Obviously, this is a very close topic to my heart and very close thing for me. As the years go on, definitely will be remembering Travis continually, we're just getting started with something that's going to be so much bigger than the world has ever seen.

Mayor Quill

Very well. Thank you. Thank you. We're sorry for your loss but carry on.

Holly Kline

Thank you. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Have a good evening. Thank you. You're welcome to stay or are welcome to sign off, whatever your, whatever you're comfortable with. Okay. Thank you.

Colin Reilly

Thank you so much, Mayor. I appreciate it. Bye. Bye.

PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting. There were no members of the public that had requested to speak.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- January 21, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor

Giannettino. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

City Manager Dygert

The city of Auburn is currently accepting bid proposals on the following projects. The water filtration plant upgrade project, which would include design, construction administration and construction inspection. Those are due back February 12. The State Street Public Plaza development those bids are due back February 24. And the supply of fire hydrants which is due back February 16. The city is also helping the Cayuga County Industrial Development Agency in spreading the word for a project they're working on and that is a sewer and sewer force main project that will service the Cayuga County Industrial Park and allow for increased production at Cayuga Milk Ingredients. So, we've provided a little bit of assistance there and all of these projects. Further information is available on the city webpage under bids and RFPs. Most of those replies come back to the city and obviously the one for Kubik Industrial Development Agency goes back to them. The fire department currently has three vacancies and recently had a test for new firefighter candidates. I think they broke a recent record with 185 total candidates sitting for that test. I believe all 185 folks that took that test did pass it, we had 24 individuals scoring 100 and that made them eligible for the next step which was a physical agility test. That test was conducted last Saturday, and 19 of the 24 eligible candidates participated and 15 completed successfully. Interviews are in progress with the goal of getting three new recruits into the New York State Fire Academy in either February or March depending on their EMT status. There's been some reports out in the local media, again of sales tax performance. Our most recent sales tax performance report shows that our December, excuse me 2020 sales tax revenues were 18.25 percent higher than last year and so far this fiscal year, our sales tax revenues are down approximately 4% as compared to the last fiscal year at this time. Of note is that when the budget was being developed last year, that the budget was developed around an anticipated 12% decrease. So, we are performing better than we anticipated during budget development, significantly better. Council, the other thing I have on my list here is more of a discussion item and that is something that our comptroller Rachel Jacobs oversees, the internet technology aspect of things we do here at the city. As you can imagine, during COVID and with all of the remote things that have been going on, whether it's zoom meetings or workers working remote for almost a year now it's been a pretty significant impact on our IT department, and there had been a plan in the works to try to reinforce our IT department over the course of the next couple of years. And we'd like Council to offer us some input on the possibility of possibly moving along an IT position a little sooner than expected to try to start getting ahead of some of these things. We're also planning some pretty significant IT upgrades over the next year or so and we'd like to get somebody on board for that. So, Rachel's on on the call here, and she could provide some more details of that for you, Rachel.

Comptroller Jacobs

yep, I'm here now. My video is not working for some reason. So, I'm just gonna, if you can hear me, I'll just do it through audio.

Mayor Quill

Go right ahead. You're doing fine.

Comptroller Jacobs

Okay, great. So originally, as Jeff mentioned, we had presented this position in the last budget year for a technical support specialist. Due to the budget cuts that we did to kind of try to keep things lean, we did not fill this position and did not fund it in the budget. However, with all the ongoing projects that we have, most notably, the PSB building, we're working on security upgrades for city hall, as well as the Equal Rights Heritage Center and the parking garage. We're undergoing the dark fiber project soon, we just finished our copier project to standardize the entire fleet. And the primary purpose of this specific position would be more of a help desk person, as well as a backup, if something were to happen to our current supervisor. As most of you know, our IT department is basically run by one person. And then we do have one part time person a couple days a week to assist with the AS-400 side of things. Those are the majority of the reasons that we're looking to try to kind of push it through now rather than wait until the new budget year. One thing that Jesse did mention to me today is that we are looking at the possibility of reconfiguring and upgrading our phone system. And that will provide some cost savings, which we hope can be used for other upgrades. We did also just recently move forward with a lease on all computers. So we're doing basically a new cycle, I guess you would call it of PC replacements. So, we can standardize it so that everyone in the city has the same PC, and they're on the same operating system. So, doing that has also saved us a little bit of money. Upfront, it was a little bit of a cost, but we are doing a lease for that. We just finished up with the copier consolidation, which again, that is going to save us money and also standardize the fleet for the entire city. I think that's pretty much it

Mayor Quill

Councilor Cuddy? Yes, I am assuming that it's in regards to what we're discussing here.

Councilor Cuddy

Absolutely. Yes. I'm in support of, of moving this along and hiring an assistant for Mr. Chehovich. You know, for the, for the several reasons that Miss Jacobs and Mr. Dygert have outlined. Specifically, I think security is very important, along with just, you know, somebody to help all the work that Mr. Chehovich is doing. I think it's just, it's prudent. You know, we just got the numbers back from, from the sales tax and I think what we did as a council was the right thing, which was to err on the side of caution but as we get numbers and as we adapt, we do want to look at some of the things that were in the works, and adjust accordingly, because timing is very important, especially when it comes to technology, and cybersecurity. And he does need that help. So, I am in support of moving this forward.

Mayor Quill

Thank you.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. I'm in agreement that we need to get some help in this department for all the reasons that were mentioned. I'm glad that Councilor Cuddy mentioned the security aspect of it. I think, as a municipality, a small municipality, that's something that we need to be very conscious of. You hear stories repeatedly how municipalities are attacked cyberly, so I'm in agreement. My only hesitation is, I need to see on paper how we're going to pay for it. I understand sales tax was up in December. I think that we need to be very cautious moving forward. I think we're going to see some dry months here in January, February and March as people continue to hunker down. Again, I'm in favor of adding it, I just I'd like to know a little bit more how we plan on funding that. Are we going to keep this part time

position that we have? Is this an addition to that part time position? So, if I could just get some more details, and it doesn't have to be tonight but if those details could be shared.

Comptroller Jacobs

We are planning on keeping the part timer for now until we're done with the AS-400. Because obviously, that's, you know, his primary focus is on the AS-400 projects and while we're moving those off, we still need to keep him on staff for that. As far as my estimates for paying for this position in the current year, I did estimate that if we could work on creating the position, which is already actually created through civil service, but moving forward with the application process and posting this, my anticipated amount that we would need to cover the salary and health insurance would be approximately 15%. And I plan to take that from my specific budget. We do have funds available, because we did not fill the part time clerk position when she moved up to the assessor's office. So, I do have money available in my budget for this current year to cover it.

Councilor Giannettino

What is the plan? Miss Jacobs long term for that part time clerk? I understand it hasn't been filled now. But is that the plan on going to not fill it?

Comptroller Jacobs

Correct?

Councilor Giannettino

Because I think in the past, there has been some confusion it may have been before your time, I'm not sure. But there was some confusion over that position and whether or not it was going to be left vacant and then it was it was kept. So, if we plan on not filling that long term. That makes me a little more comfortable. Again, I'd just like to see the numbers on paper if that's possible.

Comptroller Jacobs

I can email it to you.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Councilor McCormick, please.

Councilor McCormick

Hi. I agree with everything. Having the unique experience of working at City Hall before I was a city councilor. I think we had more people back then, in IT than we do now. I can't even believe, it's hard to understand how we can keep up with everything. Because the Help Desk aspect of that job, I think, I don't know if that's what Jesse does, but I know it's needed, and security, the expense, the risk of not having a good, the right number of people with the right skills, I think would in the long run, it could be more costly than not. I'm totally in support and I agree with Councilor Giannettino regarding that the part time position, that's a good way to fill it, if you're not going to plan on replacing that part timer in the future, I think it's more important that this position be the primary focus to get a full time person. Just like when we worked on HR having a human resource, we didn't have a human resource

department. It was a big a big pill to swallow to find that. But look at the results. I think it's paid for, Todd has paid for his position quite quite well. So, I think this in the long run is a is a good way to go. And I'm 100% supportive of it.

Mayor Quill

Councilor Locastro anything?

Councilor Locastro

I support the position 100% but I'd just like to see some numbers. I mean, I think we got a couple rough months coming and there's no doubt the position would be great, and it would help everybody out. Like I said, I just like to see some more numbers.

Mayor Quill

Mr. Dygert and to our comptroller, I'm in total agreement with Council, I too would like to I support the position but I would like to see some figures. What it's going to cost us, where it's gonna come from and so forth and so on. Rachel, I was on a conference call with NYMIR today and Internet Security came up which they are responsible for our, as our insurance carrier, and that I would hope that with the replacement of our software and our systems that we are working directly with them as to what direction we should be going.

Comptroller Jacobs

I believe we are.

City Manager Dygert

Well, no we we regularly have discussions with our insurance carriers because that certainly is a big concern of our insurance carriers as Councilor Giannettino mentioned. Some of the, it sounds like something crazy out of a movie, ut some of these ransom situations that have happened to municipalities around the country are pretty significant and real. So, that is always a, a focal point of the insurance. And you may recall that I think it was two years ago when the State Comptroller's office came in, and they did an audit, that was of such concern to them that the internet security was a focal point of their's as well. Really, what I wanted to do is just have this brief discussion with you all here tonight to see if you were open to the idea of us coming back with more detailed figures and some information on what the position would entail, and maybe a little bit of information on where we stand with our IT department right now. And what we are anticipating for all these new things happening. So, we can we can get that stuff together, get it to you in a couple of weeks to look at. We just wanted to make sure we were at least had your interest.

Councilor McCormick

Could I add one request? Included with the numbers could you give us a rough idea, or, a day to day, what the the life, what is the IT department and what does it do on a daily basis, or weekly, or monthly, just to give the public an idea of, and Council, of what is done in IT?

City Manager Dygert

So Councilor, are you looking for information like I guess, as you're saying that, I'm thinking about how many different PCs and laptops and tablets we have and how many different programs we have out there that have to be managed?

Councilor McCormick

Yes, that's a great, that's a good picture of what that is. Yes, that's better way to put it. Okay. Thank you.

City Manager Dygert

We could certainly do that. And with that, that's all I have. Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Very good. Thank you. Mr. Dygert, you mentioned police and fire. How many openings in each department do we have presently? Do you know off hand or do you need get back to us?

City Manager Dygert

Currently, there are three in fire. And I believe there are currently seven and eight total pending in the police department. I see the Police Chief and Lieutenant Slayton are on the line, they could verify that.

Police Chief Butler

Yes, that's affirmative Manager. We have currently seven and then with the announcement of a detective retiring soon, that'll bring us to eight.

Mayor Quill

Do, Chief do we, both Chiefs, do we have an active, fire apparently has an active list, how about the police? Do they have an active list? Chief? Yes, Mayor. Just returned at the first of the year and we have our PT test scheduled for the 13th, Saturday, February 13, where we're gonna test all, the whole list or whoever wants to respond. So it's gonna be an all day affair for us. Very good. Thank you.

Councilor. Locastro.

Councilor Locastro

Do we have anybody in the academies fire and police right now?

Police Chief Butler

No, nope, not for police. There are no active academies right now. But there are, there is one scheduled for the end of March and Broome County.

Councilor Locastro

And the Academy is how long?

Police Chief Butler

Just over seven months.

City Manager Dygert

And the Fire Academy started. There's two sessions one starts in February one starts on March.

Councilor Locastro

They are a little bit shorter, aren't they?

City Manager Dygert

Yeah, they typically end sometime in May, early June.

Councilor Locastro

So, we're gonna go through a time with the police where we're really going to be short.

City Manager Dygert

That has been the pretty much the status quo for probably, I don't know, chief for about two years now? Roughly?

Police Chief Butler

I was actually looking through our annual report today. And the last time we were at full staffing 67 was when I started in 2016. We were a low of 55 in 2018, I believe and 57 in 2019. So yeah, we've been short for a number of years,

Councilor Locastro

Chief what causes us to be short. What's the major reason why we're short?

Police Chief Butler

Well, that's, I think, a multi pronged problem. We did have a large amount of officers that came up on retirement eligibility. So, as you know, 20 years, 20 years is our eligibility to retire. But we had some long term employees that it was just time, I think society, societal issues have brought about some retirements quicker than we imagined. So, the way we're hiring now and the future Chiefs, this is definitely going to be something that they're going to want to keep a keen eye on and plan for accordingly. Because it's cyclical. You hire a bunch of people out at a certain time and they all come, obviously, come do for retirement eligibility at the same time as well. And it just happens to be that. A lot of our officers chose to retire at the same time.

Councilor Locastro

Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Mr. Dygert. Are you all set?

City Manager Dygert

I'm all set. Than you, Mayor.

B. Reports from members of Council

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

Grant Resolution #17 of 2021

**AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR A FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY (FEMA) ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) FOR SELF CONTAINED
BREATHING APPARATUS**

By Councilor McCormick

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, every year the Auburn Fire Department applies for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (“FEMA AFG Program”); and

WHEREAS, the FEMA AFG Program has allowed the Auburn Fire Department to purchase apparatus and equipment, provide firefighting training and to hire Firefighters; and

WHEREAS, each year the FEMA AFG Program includes grant priorities and, in 2021, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is listed as a High Priority; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn Fire Department currently has 47 SCBA in its inventory, all of which are behind by at least two National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) SCBA Standard Editions, with some up to four editions behind. The Department’s current SCBA were manufactured between 1999 and 2011, making the newest units 10 years old; and

WHEREAS, the FEMA AFG Program would be used to replace the Auburn Fire Department’s Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), so that it will be in line with current NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) SCBA Standards and further enhance the safety of Firefighters operating in Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmospheres while in the performance of their duties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn Fire Department proposes to apply for the FEMA AFG Program funding to cover the cost of \$500,000 for the purchase of replacement Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA); and

WHEREAS, the FEMA AFG application will, if awarded, cover up to 90% of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), requiring the City of Auburn to match 10% or \$50,000 in general funds; and

WHEREAS, the current City of Auburn Fire Department budget does not contain sufficient funds to replace the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), so it is necessary to apply for funding assistance from the FEMA AFG Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Auburn Fire Chief is authorized to execute any and all forms or applications necessary to complete the grant application;

2. That the Mayor, or authorized representative, upon notice of the funding award, is authorized to execute a FEMA AFG contract and any reimbursement forms or other necessary documents to complete the project;
3. That the City Comptroller's Office is authorized and directed to create a city expense and revenue capital account to track project finances; and
4. This resolution takes effect immediately upon its approval and adoption.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

Mayor Quill

Thank you, discussion Council.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. Chief Fritz. So the way I'm understanding this is the grant will replace all of the apparatus.

Fire Chief Fritz

That's correct, it will replace 47 SCBA themselves and the air bottles that are used within units that provide the breathing air necessary when you enter a burning building.

Councilor Giannettino

And the resolution states that were at least two behind in meeting certain certifications?

Fire Chief Fritz

That's correct. The NFPA sets standards relative to SCBA and we are two additions behind on some and up to four, not 14, as a matter of clarification, 4 additions behind on some of the other ones, some of the older models.

Councilor Giannettino

I mean, obviously it's a safety issue, and it's something we should absolutely pursue but does things like this affect our ISO ratings as well?

Fire Chief Fritz

Yes, they're part of the ISO rating, as far as the equipment that we carry, to be able to provide a level of service.

Councilor Giannettino

Okay, thank you.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else?

Councilor McCormick

One quick note, just to clarify, I have, I learned this through, the ISO rating affects homeowners home insurance, is that correct?

Fire Chief Fritz

So it affects insurance, fire insurance. Our businesses probably see a bigger impact than our homeowners. But the ISO rating does have a positive, the lower the rating, the better, positive effect it has for all our businesses.

Councilor McCormick

I thought it was interesting. I don't know if everybody's aware of that. But it was, it's good to know. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Anyone else?

Chuck Mason

Councilor Locastro. It looks like he has his hand up. Mayor.

Mayor Quill

I can't see you, can't see Councilor Locastro

Councilor Locastro

I can't afford to turn the lights on here. That's okay. Chief, what would it take to get us up to standards?

Fire Chief Fritz

This grant replacing these would get us in line with all the current standards. Okay.

Councilor Locastro

We still won't be behind with this grant?

Fire Chief Fritz

No, this grant this grant literally would bring us up to current standards.

Councilor Locastro

Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Clerk we will have you call the roll then in regards to resolution number 17.

Chuck Mason

Resolution 17 of 2021	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

GRANT RESOLUTION #18 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING A GREEN INNOVATIVE GRANT PROGRAM APPLCIATION TO NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION

By Councilor Giannettino

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, in December 2020 the Office of the Governor of New York announced the availability of \$19 million in water quality grant funding for infrastructure improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, through the New York Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) the Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) has released request for proposals for Green Innovative Grant Program Funding, for which municipalities are eligible to apply; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Municipal Utilities proposes to submit a funding application for a collection system Infiltration & Inflow (I & I) detection project, which, if awarded, will provide for the installation of equipment designed to identify I & I issues within the City's sewer system; and

WHEREAS, the Infiltration & Inflow Detection Project would consist of the installation of temporary and permanent flow meters to track wet weather flows along the City's sewer interceptors that will provide data to inform the prioritization of future sewer separations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is estimated to cost of \$180,000 with a local match requirement of 25% or \$45,000, consisting of funds from the existing CSO Facilities capital account #HG 8130 440 KE; and

WHEREAS, since the City of Auburn does not currently have the funding to pay for 100% of the Infiltration & Inflow Detection Project and it is necessary to obtain New York State grant funding assistance from the Green Innovative Grant Program.

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

1. That the Mayor, or appointed designee, is authorized to submit a Green Innovative Grant Program (GIGP) application to NYS EFC in the amount not to exceed \$180,000 in total project costs; and
2. That if awarded GIGP funds, the Mayor or appointed designee is authorized to accept the grant funds and sign any and all agreements, documents and reimbursements in association with the grant project; and
3. That if awarded GIGP funds, the City Comptroller is authorized to increase the capital project budget for the CSO Facility account HG 8130 440 KE by the State Grant amount of \$135,000 with the remaining local match amount from the existing capital account; and
4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilors, discussion? No one, very well Clerk could you call the roll in regard to Resolution Number 18.

Chuck Mason

Resolution #18 of 2021	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #19 OF 2021

**AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR
THE AURELIUS AVE. BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT PIN #375688**

By Councilor Cuddy

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, in 2020, the City Council of the City of Auburn passed Agreement Resolution #118 of 2020, which authorized an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation to proceed with the Aurelius Ave. Bridge Replacement Project (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the City solicited Request for Qualifications from various engineering firms, approved by New York State Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, City staff interviewed and rated all qualified firms in accordance with NYSDOT regulations and Popli Design Group exhibited the best qualifications and rating for the Project; and

WHEREAS, City staff now recommends that Popli Design Group be chosen to begin the engineering and design phases for the Project in an amount not to exceed \$655,000. The award is contingent upon approval by the New York State Department of Transportation and the cost of the Project is eligible for 80% federal reimbursement and may be eligible for an additional 15% NYS Marchiselli funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby an agreement with Popli Design Group to begin the engineering and design phases of the Aurelius Ave. Bridge Replacement Project, with said agreement being contingent upon approval by the New York State Department of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, or named designee, be authorized to execute the Agreement referenced herein and any and all documents necessary to carry out this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of the Resolution is \$655,000 and is to be charged to Aurelius Ave. Bridge Account #HA 5110-440-KO.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilors, discussion, questions?

Councilor Cuddy

Yes. Yes, Mayor. This may be directed to Mr. Lupien. But I wanted to know, is the historical significance of the bridge, and is that going to be part of the, I guess the, the the project and making sure that is being considered for the bridge itself?

Bill Lupien

Yes, that is correct. Councilor, that's part of all the process. Even though because of the age of the bridge, it will have to be going through the reviews, both state and federal. We'll be investigating it. Whether or not this is a bridge that needs to be rehabilitated versus replaced. There is a horizontal, vertical curve, the road isn't wide enough, we're advocating for its replacement, but there is an involved process with many reviews. And we'll have to show alternates in the process, and then hopefully, we will be given permission to replace it with a bridge that meets the current standards. But it is a review process and there's no short cutting it. We will probably spend an extra year going through the process and all the phases because of its age.

Councilor Cuddy

Great. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Councilor Giannettino.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you Mayor. To follow up on what Mr. Lupien said, I actually sat in on the review committee for this project and this was one of the major topics that was discussed in the interviews. It was actually very close between the three firms. Mr. Lupien, was it a .25 between the three firms or something like that?

Bill Lupien

It was one third of a point.

Councilor Giannettino

Yeah, one third, I mean, that's how close it was. But this was one of the significant topics that we discussed and in my mind, and in my review, Popli had a significant amount of experience in this whole process. So, I think they'll serve us well and if the bridge is replaced, one of the conversations that we had with all three firms was what will they do with the materials, and all three firms offered different ways that we could repurpose those materials, whether it be in that bridge setting or in a park, so that those material materials won't be discarded. So, that just to reassure you, Councilor Cuddy and I know that you're being contacted by members of the public that all of that was discussed, and I'm confident that Popli will do their due diligence in this.

Councilor Cuddy

Great, thank you, Councilor.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Clerk could you call the roll in regards to Resolution Number 19 of 2021?

Chuck Mason

Resolution 19 of 2021	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #20 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING THE REASSESSMENT OF CITY PROPERTIES

By Councilor Giannettino

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, in 2013, the City Council of the City of Auburn passed Council Resolution No. 56 of 2013, requiring that the real property tax assessment rolls be updated every four years commencing in 2014 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the City Assessor that a re-valuation of all real properties in the City of Auburn commence on or about May 1, 2021, so that said properties have an established market value and may be subject to an assessment according to condition and ownership as of February 1, 2022, which is the taxable status date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Auburn that the next update of real property tax assessment rolls be commenced on or about May 1, 2021 in order to meet valuation and assessment dates as of February 1, 2022, and said updates of assessments shall continue every four years thereafter.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Discussion Council? Mr. Dygert, as I recall, and I'm sure I'm probably not correct. This does not involve the entrance of our employees into any establishment, any residence or any building? Am I correct or incorrect?

City Manager Dygert

That's correct. To my knowledge, we've got the Comptroller here as well, but I don't believe now that, these are pretty much done as sidewalk views, street views, review of property, sales of similar

properties and properties in their individual neighborhoods, as well as documented building improvements and things like that.

Mayor Quill

Okay. My mind is concerned with COVID, in relationship between our residents and our our employees. So, that that's good news, if that's the case, so that they will not be entering each of these properties. So thank you. Anyone else? Clerk we will have you call the roll please.

Chuck Mason

Resolution #20 of 2021	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

Financial Resolution #21 of 2021

AUTHORIZING VARIOUS OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET TRANSFERS

By Councilor Cuddy

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn staff is requesting various operating and non-operating budget transfers for the fiscal 2020-2021 year as outlined in attachment A; and,

WHEREAS, there is no fund balance being requested for these transfers; and,

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

1. That the Auburn City Council does hereby authorize the transfers in Attachment A for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; and,
2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

Attachment A: 20-21 FY					
2/4/2021					
Amount	Account to		Account From		Reason
\$15,000.00	A1620.440	Buildings - Contractual Svs	A1990.455	Contingency	Geothermal repairs at City Hall

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Discussion Councilors?

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, it says it's a for geothermal repairs. Is it something we should be concerned about or is this more maintenance?

Comptroller Jacobs

This is maintenance.

Councilor Cuddy

Okay, great. Thanks.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Clerk will you call the roll please?

Chuck Mason

Resolution #21 of 2021	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #22 OF 2021

**SUPPORTING PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE U.S.
TREASURY WILL TAKE STEPS TO RESUME EFFORTS TO PLACE THE IMAGE OF
HARRIET TUBMAN ON THE FUTURE 20-DOLLAR NOTE**

By Councilor McCormick

February 4, 2021

WHEREAS, the life of Harriet Tubman within the story of America's pursuit of what our founders called a more perfect union is significant; and

WHEREAS, most known for her role fighting for her own freedom and the freedom of dozens of others, escaping slavery as the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad, she is certainly one of our nation's greatest historical figures; and

WHEREAS, following her escape from slavery she joined with the Union Army and served as a nurse, scout, cook and spy in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, following the war she met Secretary William H. Seward and his wife Frances here in Auburn, through whom she contracted seven acres of land on South Street to build a home for herself and other family members; and

WHEREAS, in 1896 she purchased an additional twenty-five adjoining acres to her home, including a frame house that would become known as her Home for the Aged to expand her charitable work providing for poor, sick and elderly formerly enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, over the 50 years that she lived in Auburn she took everything she earned and gave it back in service to others and she fought for racial and gender equality with civil rights and suffrage activism; and

WHEREAS, on the 10th day of March 1913, following a life full of service to others she was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2014 President Barack Obama signed the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 which included creating the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park which will protect in perpetuity sites associated with Tubman in both Cambridge, Maryland and Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 a grassroots initiative advocating to place women on our U.S. currency was organized by women known as Women on 20s and on Women's Equality Day in 2015 a town hall meeting was held in Auburn to call for Harriet Tubman to be included on the future \$20 note; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 President Barack Obama announced that Tubman would appear on the \$20 bill, an initiative he intended would be completed by 2020 to mark the centennial celebration of women's suffrage; and

WHEREAS, following delays in the implementation, the Tubman 20 did not come to fruition by its intended 2020 release; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2021 the administration of President Joseph R. Biden announced that the U.S. Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of future 20-dollar notes and that news is celebrated in Harriet Tubman's hometown of Auburn, New York.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, along with members of the City Council extend our sincerest thanks to President Joseph R. Biden for resuming efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of new U.S. 20-dollar notes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council members concur with the President that our U. S. currency should reflect the history and diversity of our country, and Harriet Tubman's image gracing the new 20-dollar note would start an effort to accomplish such; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we thank our federal representatives U. S. Senator Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand and Representative John Katko, longtime champions of both the Tubman 20 and Tubman National Historical Park initiatives, and we encourage them to work with the President and Vice President to do everything in their control to find ways to expeditiously move the Tubman 20 into print and circulation, as well as, provide the resources necessary to complete the development of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park sites here in Auburn so that the story of Harriet Tubman's life work may be shared with generations to come.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Councilors? Councilor McCormick.

Councilor McCormick

Thank you, Mayor. Harriet Tubman, the mission, I guess you'd say to get her image on the \$20 bill began with the idea that a woman should be represented on our currency, which I wholeheartedly endorse. And through the process, Harriet Tubman was the favorite. Not that all that, there was 15 or so women that were put forward and Harriet Tubman could have lived all her life in any city or state in the United States and I still would advocate wholeheartedly that she represent, be represented, on our currency. The fact that she chose Auburn, New York to live most of the end of her life and the things that she did throughout her life are, are a blessing to the city because of the heroism, the things that she did, and even it did, she's known for being persistent and the long journeys she took. Well, the journey to get her recognized is consistent with the journeys that she had taken to free slaves to be recognized for what she did all these years. So, I think the city should, and I think the city does, given the celebration we had in 2015 when we all got together at City Hall, to celebrate the fact that she was put forward to be on the \$20 bill. I'm so excited for the city, it may be, I'm sad that it didn't happen when it was supposed to happen, but then again, things happen for a reason and this year, we need some good news and some good things to happen. And for this to move forward in 2021, as long as it's moving forward, I think that we've got something to celebrate. And I think between this magnificent significant moment of having a woman and in it being Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill, it will mean a lot to a lot of

people, the black community, especially women, and to the city of Auburn, I think. So, I wholeheartedly thank everyone in Washington that's pushing this forward. And I'm grateful to all the people in the city for coming forward to support that. And as a bonus, hopefully we'll be able to get this high school renamed as well. So, thank you all for supporting this and I look forward to spending my Tubmans sometime soon.

Mayor Quill

Thank you, Councilor. Sure, Councilor Cuddy.

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, Mayor. I'd like to follow up on Councilor McCormick's statement and completely agree with everything she said. And to just reiterate on that, symbols matter, and having Harriet Tubman grace the \$20 bill just signifies and symbolizes, freedom and, and the right to vote, women's right to vote. And I think that now more than ever, it's important that she graced the \$20 bill. She symbolizes freedom and democracy.

Mayor Quill

Very good. Thank you. Councilor Giannettino.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to start by thanking Councilor McCormick for asking for this resolution last week, I think it's necessary to underscore our desire to have this happen. Thank you to the Clerk for putting it together. You know, it's just we talked about this last week, and it's time, it's well beyond time, but It's time. It's time that the United States join other developed countries in this world that have women on their currency. And I'd also like to acknowledge the Clerk for mentioning the Tubman Park. I hope you know, this isn't a knock to the National Park Service and those Park employees who have for the last five years, four to five years, been spending time at the Tubman Park. But it's really an acknowledgment that, for whatever reason, the necessary resources today have not been dedicated to that park, to move it to the level that it deserves. So, I'm glad that we included that in this resolution and I hope that happens as well.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Anyone else? I personally I think it's a terrific idea that Councilor McCormick come forward. I think it's great for our community. And with the tie in with President Biden with his first wife coming from the city of Auburn, and with Harriet Tubman it's almost like the moon and the stars, all the stars and the sun all lined up for this. Councilor, McCormick, thank you for pushing this forward. So with no further discussion. Clerk, could you call the roll in regard to Resolution Number 22.

Chuck Mason

Resolution #22 of 2021	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 – none

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Mayor Quill

Clerk, I do not believe we have any table items or staff presentations. Other business from the council, councilors?

Councilor Giannettino

Just one quick comment, Mayor. We, you know, the last couple days had our first really significant snow event of the season. And I just want to acknowledge the crews at DPW for doing a great job. They really did a fantastic job of clearing that snow in a short amount of time.

Mayor Quill

Yeah, absolutely. They did a good job as always. So the clerk just changed some of our optics here.

Chuck Mason

Earlier today, they were downtown clearing out some snow, so, we took some pictures and put some social media posts up to thank our crews. The forecast said three to six inches the other day and next thing you knew in about 12 hours, we got close to 16 inches. So, them and everybody else out there at our county and state that was a substantial storm and we haven't had a lot of snow this winter. So, they did a great job.

Mayor Quill

In the mayor's office the last few days, we received one one phone call regarding the storm, but it really wasn't a lot to do with our employees or their snow removal. So, things went well and to Mr. Talbot and all his crews thank you very much, they did a terrific job. Nothing else Councilors?

Councilor McCormick

Mayor I have one quick thing, I think, Chief Butler still on the line, he sent his annual report out to us today and I was wondering if there were plans to, I know it's tough with zoom, but down the road soon,

if we can have some kind of a presentation for the public of highlights, which I think the whole thing is a lot of highlights. It's all highlights. But I think it's worth it, given the things that we've been doing with the community and the awareness that a lot of people have more so on the on the struggles of the community and law enforcement. And there's so much positive in the work that our police department has done. And there's a lot of information to share on what they do. I'm wondering if maybe, I don't know if it's part, could be part of the budget process or just on its own if there's a night where we don't have a heavy agenda to do something like that if Chief Butler wouldn't mind?

Police Chief Butler

Yeah, I'd be happy to. Absolutely. So we'll, Manager I guess we'll discuss it at the department head and schedule something in the near future.

Councilor McCormick

That would be great. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? Great idea. Councilor thanks. Anyone else? Councilors earlier this evening, we were talking with Rhoda Overstreet Wilson, I'd like to move the Council meeting once we get back to somewhat normal where we get out to the Booker T. and I believe we should take our show on the road once in a while. If we hit about, you know, the four corners of the cities over the summer months when it's a little nicer, just get out in the community. Our community members get to meet us, get to talk with us. Maybe they want to sit in on our meeting, maybe they don't, but I feel it's important for us to be out with the citizens as well. We just can't do it presently.

Councilor McCormick

That's a great idea especially after COVID.

Mayor Quill

Again, without a doubt we couldn't do it before that but hopefully we can work with the Clerk and City Manager and set something up into the summer time frame. So, I don't think anyone wants us to take our budget battles to their community for Council meetings so we will wait until we have that put to rest. So, nothing else from the Council then, Mr. Clerk, do we have any members public from the public to be heard or are we still free?

Chuck Mason

Nobody else this evening, Mayor, I did have one thing I forgot to mention earlier during the announcements, I told you about the two meetings that are happening next week, but I forgot to state that the Historic Resources Review Board meeting for the month of February will not be held because there's no applications to go before that board. That meeting was originally scheduled for next week, Tuesday night, but that will not be held, their next meeting will be in March.

Mayor Quill

Very good. Thank you. Mr. Dygert. Any requests for executive session?

Executive Session:

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

- One matter pertaining to potential litigation.
- Two matters made confidential by Federal or State law. (Section 4503 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules which establishes that a confidential communication between attorney and client shall be privileged. Pursuant to this section, Council will be receiving legal advice from its attorney which fulfills the requirement provided in Section 108(3) of the Public Officers Law allowing this exemption.)

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk