

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 18, 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:

- Acting City Manager, Jennifer Haines
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForest
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Police Lieutenant James Slayton

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Quill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection – Mayor Quill asked for a moment of silent prayer.

Public Announcements –

The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting for the City of Auburn will be held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7pm and the meeting will be held via videoconference. The public may participate and the information on how to participate is listed on the ZBA agenda posted to the city website.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

Mayor Quill welcomed NYS Senator John Mannion, 50th District. Mr. Mannion was elected in November 2020 and made his first appearance at a City Council meeting. The Senator spoke and answered questions from the members of Council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – none

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

Jennifer Haines

- Thank you, Mayor. I have a few things from the director of capital projects and grants just some updates on some of our projects:
 - Masonry construction continues at the public safety building with installation of the roofing membrane to start next week.
 - The equipment bid is open for kitchen equipment at the public safety building and bids are due Tuesday, March 9.
 - The city will host next week a construction kickoff meeting for the South Street corridor enhancement project with mobilization and construction expected to start in March. Construction will last for the remainder of 2021.
 - Construction bids are due Wednesday February 24th for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative funded State Street Plaza project.
 - At next week city council meeting the director of capital projects and grants will be presenting on capital needs for the upcoming 2021 construction season. And the road program will also be giving its annual presentation next week as well.
- From the Auburn Fire Department, they have hired three new recruit firefighters, Jessica demandons, Lopez, Badge 406; Ryan Morale, Badge 407; and, Michael Cheney, Badge 408. Their first day of employment will be March 1, 2021. They will spend two weeks completing all necessary city and department employment paperwork followed by preliminary training conducted by our training officer and company officers to ready them for the Fire Academy. The Fire Academy begins March 13, and recruits will graduate on June 4.
- From our comptroller, we received our January sales tax and we are up 1.53% compared to last year. And that's all I had. Mayor. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Any questions from the council? Councilor, Locastro.

Councilor Locastro

Just two questions. And you might not know the answers at this time, any change orders on the public safety building at this time?

Jennifer Haines

I can get an answer to that question for you Councilor. I'll ask Christina to provide that to you by email.

Councilor Locastro

Thank you and the completion date, are we still on track? With the completion, the original completion date of that project?

Jennifer Haines

I'll also get that information for you. Councilor.

Councilor Locatro

Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Councilor. It's an interesting topic because I know our consultants and architect they don't really even believe in change orders. So, it will be interesting to see if that's changed, but it's a very valid question. So, I'd be interested myself. Thank you.

Jennifer Haines

We'll get the council that information. Thank you.

B. Reports from members of Council

Councilor Cuddy

I just wanted to update the Council that I participated in a meeting last night with the City Human Rights Commission. We met with Rev. Patrick Heery, Rhonda Overstreet Wilson and Brian Muldrow, the city manager and also on Kathleen Cuddy, the Health Director for Cayuga County. And the topic of conversation mostly revolved around the rollout of the COVID vaccine and how people can sign up and get access to the list of where, how, basically, it was an update of what we're doing as a city to to basically be a place where people can call, put their name in and just as the county is looking to the city to I guess be a broker for getting people through the county vaccination sign-up. So, basically, you know, I just wanted to update the city about that, and I know it's been in the newspaper. But ultimately, one of the things we want to do is, is just make sure that, you know, this is a place where people would get their name in and when the vaccine is available, we would be able to work with the county to make the vaccines available to those on the wait list.

Mayor Quill

Thank you, Jenny, would you care to touch on what city staff has been doing the last 24 hours or 48 hours or however long we've been into it again?

Jennifer Haines

Sure. What we have been doing is, 1. trying to get a handle on the list of approximately 300 people that we had taken when the COVID vaccine hotline was open a few weeks ago, and ascertain whether folks on that list have received their vaccines. So, we're working on updating that list. In addition, we've had a city staff person, and a light duty firefighter work that hotline, which opened back up yesterday and was open all day yesterday, all day today, with those folks answering phones and taking down folks that have the underlying health conditions that the governor has released for eligibility in that phase 1B group. And we have also been referring folks that live outside the city to their village or town clerks who

are maintaining similar lists for folks that are residents there. The county is working on putting together vaccines when they're received to target folks that have those underlying health conditions, and also do geographic distribution throughout the county. So, so we're putting those lists together as requested by the County Health Department. And so so those two folks, Marshall Greer is the is the light duty firefighter and has been fantastic and our other staff person here, McKenzie and Shelly Lowe have been working to get those things put in order.

Councilor Cuddy

So, if they're 65. and older, we are also taking their their names. It's not just underlying conditions.

Jennifer Haines

Yes. Correct.

Councilor Cuddy

So okay, I was just worried that like there was, so, anyone that calls that is qualified to get the vaccine. You know, if they're above 65, or they have underlying conditions, or they're part of the !B, you know, first responders, teachers and so on. Everyone does get their name on the list.

Jennifer Haines

Correct Councilor.

Councilor Cuddy

Okay. I was just worried that like there was some kind of, because in the conversation last night, it was it was all about the people that are allowed to get the vaccine at this point in time.

Jennifer Haines

Right. Right. And and the county is also interested if there are any folks in the 1A that still need a vaccine, they're interested in making sure that they get their vaccines as well.

Mayor Quill

Councilor Cuddy, all set then sir? All set?

Councilor Cuddy

Thank you. Thank you, Miss Haines. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Councilor Giannettino. Thank you, Mayor, I want to give an update on our AIDA meeting last night. But before I do that, I just want to piggyback on what Councilor Cuddy said, and Miss Haines. I'm glad to hear that we're doing this, I'm glad to hear that the city is assisting and compiling these lists. You know, I think we have a moral obligation to the 27,000 people in the city to get them vaccinated as soon

as possible. I know that there's a shortage at this time, I just have a feeling that, you know, due to the directive of the federal government to ramp up production, you know, it's all going to come at once and next week another vaccine is coming up for emergency authorization use. And I just think we need to be ready when the floodgates open. I really believe that's what's going to happen. I want to make sure, and it sounds like we are, that, you know, not only we're prepared to get people vaccinated, but that'll allow us to open up our economy, you know, that there's going to be another metric coming from the state that so many people have to be vaccinated before everything can be opened up. It'll allow us to get schools back to normal. So, you know, thank you for doing this Councilor Cuddy, thank you for attending that meeting last night. It sounds like you know, we've got a good infrastructure and a foundation to get to get this done.

Jennifer Haines

So, if I can, if I can just add one thing I should have mentioned, we have city staff that are actually working test clinics, vaccine clinics, we have firefighters that have been trained as vaccinators, so we really have jumped in both feet on this and that's obviously the leadership of Jeff Dygert, our city manager in making sure that we are involved in this important community response to this issue.

Councilor Giannettino

Absolutely. You know, I had the opportunity to volunteer a couple times. And the thing I say to everybody that calls me about vaccines is, Cayuga County and the city of Auburn are ready to go. We've got a system that runs flawlessly. We just need the vaccines. Exactly, you know, and it showed we got the 3,000 doses, whatever it was, and they were all administered in a very timely manner.

Councilor McCormick

Councilor, Councilor Giannettino? Yes. Before you go into the AIDA, do you mind if I follow up on the vaccine?

Councilor Giannettino

Not at all.

Councilor McCormick

Thank you. I after, first of all, the I hope that people, the members of the Human Rights Commission, if they have people that have come to them, concerned about getting a vaccine that they don't wait for a monthly meeting, to call the city or get to the city manager.

Councilor Cuddy

I'm sorry, I didn't get to that Councilor McCormick that the plan is, is the immediate communication, through the churches and through through the communities, to call the city and get signed up. And some of the other walkaways we're making videos, and we're going to work with ARMA and the college to make short videos about you know, how to call, you know, and to build trust, one of the ideas was to

build trust, so that people want to get the vaccine and and are excited about the prospect of it. So, we really, as Councilor Giannettino said, want to be ready, when it when it happens. But what we need to do is communicate clearly as to where, you know, where people should call within their towns and villages and municipalities, so that we can help the county do their job, but yes, you're right, you're right.

Councilor McCormick

Oh, good. And the other thing is, like Councilor Giannettino, I, I was scheduled yesterday to volunteer for the vaccine clinic, and it was cancelled because the vaccines didn't come. And I know, it's not the county's fault. And I don't know, it's not a fault. I'm not trying to. It's nobody's fault, because we've got a pandemic, so that's where it starts. But it kills me that Amazon can drop something off before I hit send but we can't get these vaccines. I just can't believe that weather slowed down the delivery. When I got an order today from Amazon. I don't know where it came, from dropped from the sky. But why can't we go through Amazon to get our vaccines? I don't know. But that is my rant.

Jennifer Haines

Yeah, I was on a call today. And both chiefs were on that as well, where one of the folks on the call Dr. Gioia mentioned that it was his understanding that it was the weather in Nashville and Louisiana, I think, was that right chiefs? Were some of these distribution centers are that were the cause of it. So not necessarily our weather, but weather in other places that are kind of the hubs for distribution.

Councilor McCormick

We're at the mercy of states that don't, aren't prepared for bad weather.

Mayor Quill

Travel, you know, air it, you know, the weather is bad and the planes can fly.

Councilor McCormick

Well they need to move the distribution centers up northeast.

Mayor Quill

I can't disagree with you Councilor.

Councilor McCormick

I'll prepare a resolution. Thank you. Yeah.

Mayor Quill

Councilor Giannettino.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you, Mayor. So I want to give a quick update on our AIDA meeting last night Councilor Cuddy and myself were in attendance. It was a busy night. I mentioned last month that Mack Studios had come to AIDA for an expansion project, that public hearing was last night. Their project was approved unanimously, it'll be a 25,000 foot expansion. You know, they're, they're committed long term to this area, so that that's good to hear. Also, last night, Currier Plastics came to us with a proposed expansion. This will be a 90,000 square square foot expansion, I believe over \$17 million investment. It will bring 25 additional jobs, those jobs are forecasted over three years. But the representatives from Currier thought they would happen much quicker than that. Currently, they're employing 168 full time employees. They're actually up from 150 during the pandemic, so they were actually hiring people over the last few months. This expansion will allow them to diversify and expand into the healthcare market. And if approved next month, it's a pretty aggressive construction timeline. They're hoping to get started in July, and it will last 11 months. And they too are committed to hiring local labor. So that that's all good news. We received an update on our marketing strategy and things are moving along there with the firm TGW. At some point once that's finalized and they're ready to go live, we would like to invite them to Council to give a presentation. I think it'd be worthwhile for everybody to see this and for the public to see it as well. And one additional item, on Saturday I attended the Auburn Police Department agility test. I don't know if Chief Butler or Lieutenant Slayton want to give an update on that.

Police Chief Butler

Are you prepared?

Lt. James Slayton

Always sir. So we had 64 people attend the agility exam. Out of that, we were able to get 41 candidates that passed all three stages that will move them on for the next phase of it, which is the backgrounds. I handed those out Sunday, Monday. So, we're aggressively going after the candidates. Everybody had their packets with them and started them this week. So, we will get moving forward with that.

Police Chief Butler

Just to add to that, just ideally, we would like to send five to the Broome County Academy at the end of March. That allows for us to be able to train them when they come back and we're hoping that another area regional academy starts up sometime after the march academy. So, we have a little break in there for our field training officers. And there'll be a break between the two classes, that we would need four, including my pending retirement, four additional vacancies filled. So ideally, we're hoping to interview 10 candidates in the coming weeks that the background investigators hand to us as viable candidates.

Councilor Giannettino

Thank you. All set Mayor, thank you.

Mayor Quill

Chief, can you back up a second, just a second, for you or for the lieutenant. From what figures you gave us approximately two thirds of your list passed the agility test. To the folks that did not make the agility test, do they have a chance to to retry or are they back next time.

Police Chief Butler

So yes, Civil Service has implemented rather recently to keep the viability of our list longer, if you passed two of the three, so you failed one, you have an ability to take a retest. You have to retest for all three sections. But, we don't have that scheduled yet. Mayor, everybody that passed, they obviously get preference. But we will, so, we do have some medical differentials, individuals that missed the last Saturday PT test for medical reasons. So, we'll we'll give a retest with Civil Service when they, when they're ready to give it, but hopefully sooner than later.

Mayor Quill

Okay. All right. Yeah, I guess I was hoping that they weren't washed out completely until the next call around. So then. Great. Thank you. Council all set then?

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION # 24 of 2021

AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF AUBURN AND NORTHBROOK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND COMPANY, INC. AND EXECUTION OF A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX (“PILOT”) AGREEMENT WITH THE AUBURN AND NORTHBROOK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND COMPANY, INC. AND THE AUBURN AND NORTHBROOK APARTMENTS, LLC.

By Councilor Cuddy

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn (the “City”) desires to encourage a sufficient supply of adequate, safe and sanitary housing accommodations to persons and families of low income; and

WHEREAS, Auburn and Northbrook Housing Development Fund Company, Inc. (the “HDFC”) is a not-for-profit corporation established pursuant to Section 402 of the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law and Article XI of the New York State Private Housing Finance Law (“PHFL”); and

WHEREAS the HDFC has been organized exclusively for the charitable purpose of providing housing accommodations to persons and families of low income; and

WHEREAS, Auburn and Northbrook Apartments, LLC (the “Company”) and the HDFC are proposing to redevelop one-hundred (100) residential apartments for persons and families of low-income, which constitutes a “housing project” as that term is defined in Section 572 of the PHFL (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project is commonly known as Northbrook Court Apartments and is located at 169 Murray Street, Auburn, New York 13021 (Tax ID 109.55-1-2.2) and Auburn Heights Apartments which is located at 507 Austin Drive, Auburn, New York 13201 (Tax Map ID 109.54-1-3) (collectively, the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, in order to financing for the Project, the HDFC and Company have obtained (or will obtain) certain construction and permanent mortgage loan financing (“Project Financing”); and

WHEREAS, the HDFC has or will acquire fee title to the Property, as nominee for the Company, and has conveyed (or will convey) its equitable and beneficial interests in the Property to the Company in furtherance of the development of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the HDFC is a “housing development fund company” as the term is defined in Section 572 of the PHFL and Section 577 of the PHFL authorizes the City Council of the City of Auburn to exempt the Project from real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Company and the HDFC now propose an Agreement for the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (the “PILOT”), which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, which has a 40-year term and sets forth payments to the City in the amount of \$142,000 and an annual percentage increase pursuant to the Operating Cost Adjustment Factor (OCAF) released by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Auburn hereby exempts the Project and the Property from real property taxes to the extent authorized by Section 577 of the PHFL, and authorizes the proposed Agreement for Payment In Lieu of Taxes with the HDFC and the Company, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, and provides for annual payments to the City therein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Auburn is hereby authorized on behalf of the City of Auburn to execute and deliver the forgoing Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Comptroller, the Supervising Agency as described in Section 572(14) of the PHFL, is authorized to consent to the formation of the HDFC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a fully executed copy of the Agreement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes will be filed immediately in the Office of the Assessor of the City of Auburn and Office of the Comptroller of the City of Auburn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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		

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #25 OF 2021

**AUTHORIZING A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE SOLAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH
ABUNDANT SOLAR POWER, LLC**

By Councilor Cuddy

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2019, the Auburn City Council passed Agreement Resolution #106, which authorized a Lease with Abundant Solar Power, LLC, for approximately 36 acres of land from the City located at the old landfill number one for a solar array project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Lease, Abundant agreed to pay the City an initial security deposit in the amount of one year's rent plus an initial annual rent payment of \$12,000, until the solar project became commercial operational; and

WHEREAS, the deadline for the project to be commercially operational was on or before September 9, 2021, but, due to delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Abundant has requested an Amendment to the Lease, which would extend this deadline to December 31, 2021, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, Abundant proposes to pay the City an additional \$4,000 as consideration for the execution of the proposed Amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby approve a First Amendment to the Solar Lease Agreement with Abundant Solar Power, LLC, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign any and all documents in order to carry out the purposes of 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		

GRANT RESOLUTION #26 OF 2021

**AUTHORIZING APPLICATIONS TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2021 BRIDGENY GRANT PROGRAM**

By Councilor McCormick

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, in January 2021 the New York State Department of Transportation announced the availability of grant funding for culvert and bridge infrastructure improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) requests for applications may be submitted for consideration by municipalities who are eligible to apply; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Engineering Services proposes to submit funding applications for various culvert and bridge rehabilitation and/or replacement projects which, if awarded, will provide funding for the rehabilitation and/or replacement of culverts and bridges within the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, since the City of Auburn does not currently have the funding to pay for the rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of bridges and culverts it is necessary to obtain New York State grant funding assistance from the 2021 BridgeNY 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 applications to BridgeNY for various culvert and bridge projects in the City of Auburn; and

2. That if awarded BridgeNY 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 BridgeNY funds, the City Comptroller is authorized to set up a capital project budget account for the various culvert and bridge project accounts by the BridgeNY Grant amount with the remaining local match amount from the General Fund – Fund Balance; and
4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #27 OF 2021

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE AID AND INCENTIVES TO MUNICIPALITIES (AIM) FUNDING PROPOSED IN THE GOVERNOR'S 2021-2022 NYS BUDGET

By Councilor Giannettino

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS Aid & Incentive to Municipalities (AIM) funding is the unrestricted State aid that cities and villages in New York receive from the State and such aid is distributed annually via the State budget; and

WHEREAS a strong state and local fiscal partnership is essential to generating economic vitality in all regions of our State and the New York State Budget providing AIM funding to the local governments is a critical component of such a partnership; and

WHEREAS in 2011 AIM funding was cut significantly by the State Legislature and that year the City of Auburn's AIM funding was cut by \$329,449.; and

WHEREAS cities, villages and their taxpayers have suffered through twelve years without an increase in AIM funding following that significant cut to the aid in 2011; and

WHEREAS in June of 2020 the State of New York held back 20% of the City of Auburn's AIM funding due to the coronavirus pandemic and it was recently announced that 15% of the amount held

back will be sent to the City by March 31, 2021, however, the remaining 5% is still being held back by the State; and

WHEREAS in January 2021 the Governor released his Executive Budget proposal for the State fiscal year 2021-2022 and the proposal decreases the City of Auburn's AIM funding by 2.5%; and

WHEREAS just as annual increases in school aid help school districts comply with the New York State tax cap and maintain essential services, municipal governments need and deserve similar annual increases in State aid; and

WHEREAS the fact that the New York State tax cap remains permanent only accentuates the need for annual increases in AIM funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council call upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator John Mannion, Senator Pamela Helming, Assemblyman John Lemondes and all members of the NYS Legislature to restore and increase AIM funding in the 2021-2022 New York State Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor and all of our State representatives.

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		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #28 OF 2021

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE EXISTING CHIPS, PAVE NY, BRIDGE NY AND EXTREME WINTER RECOVERY PROGRAM FUNDING IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 STATE BUDGET

By Councilor McCormick

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, the maintenance, repair and replacement of City streets and bridges is a top priority of the City of Auburn and planning for these essential infrastructure programs is outlined in the City's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program Plan through the annual City Road Improvement Program and locally administered bridge and road replacements projects; and

WHEREAS, for the past several years the City of Auburn receives annually State funding through the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) under the following programs: the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS); the PAVE-NY program; the BRIDGE-NY program; and the Extreme Winter Recovery Program; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council urge the Governor and members of our State Legislative delegation to continue and increase their support of these infrastructure programs as they are an effective partnership between State and local government; and

WHEREAS, as part of his proposed Executive Budget the Governor has funded these programs for the 2021-2022 State fiscal year as follows: the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funded at \$438 million; the PAVE-NY and BRIDGE-NY programs funded at a total of \$100 million; and, the Extreme Winter Recovery Program is not funded; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council wish to express to our State officials that these annual road and bridge funds are essential to the City being able to replace or maintain an aging infrastructure and their inclusion in the State budget is absolutely necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council call upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator John Mannion, Senator Pamela Helming, Assemblyman John Lemondes and all members of the NYS Legislature to consider the following:

- support the Executive Budget proposal to fund the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) at \$438 million; and
- support the Executive Budget proposal to fund the PAVE-NY and BRIDGE-NY programs at \$100 million; and,
- reinstate the funding for the Extreme Winter Recovery Program at \$65 million which is the level the program was funded in the previous fiscal year; and
- increasing funding to all of these programs is the most effective way that the State can partner with the City to address aging infrastructure needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor and all of our State representatives.

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		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #29 OF 2021

**REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE TO INCREASE THE
EXISTING N.Y.S.D.O.T. ARTERIAL MAINTENANCE REIMBURSEMENT RATE**

By Councilor McCormick

February 18, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn has an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for arterial highway maintenance and upkeep of the State Arterial highways that pass through the City and said agreement was entered into between the NYSDOT and the City of Auburn commencing December 1, 1961; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Highway Law, Article XII-B entitled “State Arterial Highways Passing through Cities”, Section 349-c, the annual State reimbursement rate, is currently \$0.85 per square yard for at grade sections and \$0.95 per square yard for elevated sections. The rates were set in 1987 and have not been adjusted by the State for the past 34 years; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 New York State budget was released in January 2021 and the budget does not contain any increase to the arterial highway maintenance reimbursement rate; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council wish to express to our State officials that the adjustment of the State’s reimbursement rate for arterial highway maintenance is long overdue and it will be necessary to adjust the reimbursement rate in the 2021-2022 State Budget to assist the City of Auburn to cover the expense of maintaining the arterial as it runs through our City; and

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2021 NYS Senator Kennedy from Cheektowaga introduced legislation set forth in bill number S. 3529 to amend the State Highway Law in relation to the rate paid by New York State to a city for maintenance and repair of highways and such change to the State Highway Law would increase the reimbursement rate to \$1.87 per square yard, as well as, increase the rate annually thereafter, assuring that the rate paid by New York State to a city for maintenance and repair of highways is adjusted annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council call upon Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator John Mannion, Senator Pamela Helming, Assemblyman John Lemondes and all members of the NYS Legislature to adjust the reimbursement rate for Arterial Highway Maintenance from the 34 year old reimbursement rate of \$0.87 per square yard to \$1.87 per square yard and include this increase in the 2021-2022 New York State Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council asks our State representatives to co-sponsor Bill number S. 3529 “AN ACT to amend the highway law, in relation to the rate paid by the state to a city for maintenance and repair of highways” and do all that they can this year to get this bill passed in their respective legislative bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor and all of our State representatives.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Auburn City Council Meeting, February 18, 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 –

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Ms. Haines. Do you request executive session?

Jennifer Haines

No executive session this evening.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk