

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 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. from the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn, NY by Mayor Quill.

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy, Councilor Tim Locastro and Mayor Quill were all present. Councilor Giannettino attended via videoconference.

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
- Director of Planning and Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Police Lieutenant James Slayton
- Senior Planner, Renee Jensen
- Water Meter Service Worker, Joe Sliwka

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 Auburn Beautification Commission is sponsoring a Park Pick-up Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 9 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Genesee Street. Volunteers are welcome to attend.

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

Public to be heard: Mayor Quill asked the Clerk read the public to be heard rules. The following individual spoke:

My name is Zach Ciapello, I live at 65 South Street. Mayor and esteemed members of the council, the historic Mill Street Dam was sprayed with herbicide and bush hog recently. It's destroyed habitat for native species killed native plants and insects and encourage degradation of the soil at the area. Today when I had gone down to fish, I noticed a paucity of aquatic life and a strange odor they were spraying again. I approached the vehicle and the kind workers provided me with information about the engineering department who had instructed them to do the work. The workers did not have safety sheets on hand. Upon calling the engineering department a supervisor kindly and patiently answered all my questions. The employee who authorized the work later returned my call with information about the herbicides. Today, the city authorized Roundup pro-concentrate, Oust XP, Alligare MSM 60, Alligare Dicamba +2, 4-D DMA, the last of which is related to the active ingredient in Agent Orange, and is appealing as an effective broadleaf defoliant but a class 2b carcinogenic compound. These chemicals are also toxic to our aquatic ecosystem. Children play by the river and in our lake, which is just a short walk downstream. Please see the provided material safety data sheets for toxicity specifics. I encourage the city council to evaluate why we are using these dangerous, toxic chemicals where we play, fish and source our valuable drinking water. This is not a sustainable practice and I urge the city to complete a thorough, thoughtful scientific and public review of the chemicals used to kill plants in the city and evaluate their ecological impact. I asked that the MSDS sheets for the chemicals used today be entered into the record and I thank the council.

My name is David Scott. I At 63 South Street, Auburn 13021. Talking today in terms of the pro forma for the Koala center of Auburn. Presentation today 13 of May 2021 is about the lines of businesses for this perspective nonprofit operating within the municipal limits of the city of Auburn New York. Lines of business are the call of business call a society call center for culture and global engagement. And unnamed as of yet a wholly owned subsidiary, a capital company. The funding for this nonprofit is tentatively scheduled to be a \$10 to \$12 million bond issuance from the city of Auburn that is exactly the amount spent on the new public safety building. Interest Rate projected at .25% term 30 years useful life so the capital 20 years average per project. Operating grants also from the CDBG Fund and the CBDG allocation to the city of Auburn. Also, new funding source identified New York State Office of Cannabis Management. Also, potential funding from the Minority Business Development Agency. Today I am pleased to announce the trademark issue. The model we will be using is known as the Auburn Minority Economic Accelerator. It will be a model of targeted local minority economic development within the Municipal Corporation limits of Auburn. The three references are city of Cincinnati Minority Business Accelerator, the Brookings Institute of Washington DC and the United States Department of Commerce and Minority Business Development Agency. Moving quickly to the end, five tenets of this center are visibility, agility and most definitely accountability. Laser like focus on minority, disadvantaged and Small Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the city of Auburn. People who are looking to start expand just locate here de novo. Regular title six equal opportunity audits, regular title seven Equal Employment Opportunity audits and we will most assuredly champion social

and economic stability within a framework of economic justice, not social justice. Concluding, we are not a community development nonprofit. We are not an economic development nonprofit. We are a minority economic development nonprofit.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- April 29, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the April 29, 2021 minutes by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- The City of Auburn is seeking bids for the following projects:
- CDBG Sidewalk Program; bids are due May 19, 2021. More information on this projects is available on the City of Auburn webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs"
- Summary of two Saturdays City Resident Transfer Station Drop Off Days: 298 cars, 114 electronic units, 11 Freon containing units, 199 tires, 24.49 tons refuse
- Federal, American Rescue Plan funding – work sessions
- Wall St. church update
- CDC Mask update

B. Reports from members of Council

Councilor McCormick. Today, the mayor and I and City Police Department officials joined the school board at Herman Avenue School. Senator Mannion was there to tour the school and to present the school district with funds to support our School Resource Officer (SRO) program which is going to help the school district offset that expense and use much needed funds for things, other things that are important, as important, and just wanted to thank Senator Mannion publicly, because I think the connection between our school district and the survival and health of our city is so connected, without a good strong School District all the work we do for making the city a livable family friendly place is handicapped without strong City School District. And it's good that we have a friend in Albany that's working hard for us like that. And I got a chance to talk to the, help me if I say her, the officer's, name wrong with masks. I wasn't sure she'll tell you how goofed up I got it, Officer Flickinger. She's the SRO officer at Herman and I got a chance to talk to her because I have a passion for seeing women in positions and professions that aren't typical. And she shared a lot of just inspiring tidbits and stories about her impact, not only as an SRO in the connection she makes with the kids in elementary schools, but the little girls that talk to her, and are inspired and know that that's something they can aspire to do. And I could tell she loves her job. She was very fun to talk to. And I'm, and she told me, do you have 10 women now? On the APD force? (Police Chief responds) 10 Women are police officers. That's historic, I think. Yes. Thank you. It's great. It's a wonderful thing. I think they've kind of, because of COVID, or whatever, we haven't really gotten a chance to, to realize that and when she told me that, I know, we have, we haven't had the usual swearing ins when they're two weeks. Okay, all right. I just wanted to acknowledge Senator Mannion, and comment on the wonderful advancements. If we say we don't have a diverse

police force or fire department, we have that too now, with women being represented. So, I think we've come a long way. And the other thing I want to report on this morning, I also tuned in to the NYCOM presentation, it was a lot of information, but a lot of questions too. But there was a lot of good information as far as what we can, possibilities that we can address, and can't address, things that are prohibited. But one that stuck with me, and I'm sure everybody will be happy to hear this, drinking water, we'll be able to do things to improve things like drinking water. So, and they specifically mentioned controlling runoff funding for things like that. So, I'm very excited to hear that. But there's a lot more to know. And I'm sure we'll be talking about it. So, this is all for my report. Thank you.

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 –

- **Auburn DRI Projects Update** by Tracy Verrier, CEDA and Christina J. Selvek, Director of Capital Projects
- **2022 Reassessment Update Presentation** by Jeanne Hering, Assessor and Rachel Jacobs, Comptroller

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Members of Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 City Budget and provided the City Manager feedback to include an adjustment to the revenue raised by property tax and to include the purchase of police vehicles. Councilor Locastro stated he was not in favor of the adjustment to the property tax revenue adjustment.

Members of Council also discussed the following changes to the City fee schedule:

Changes to Consolidated Fee Schedule

- **Treasurer's Office**
 - **Foreclosure Fee (currently \$500)**
 - **Proposed Fees**
 - 1st offense

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- \$750
 - 2nd offense within 5 years
 - \$1,000
 - 3rd offense within 5 years
 - \$1,500
 - 4th or more offense within 5 years
 - \$2,000
- Police (Correction)
 - All reports & Faxing
 - 1st 5 pages FREE then \$0.25 per page
 - Photo's (CD Only)
 - FREE
- Fire (Correction)
 - All reports & Faxing
 - 1st 5 pages FREE then \$0.25 per page
- Transfer Station
 - Commercial MSW Rate – Packer Trucks only (No C&D) (**new fee**)
 - \$60 per ton
 - Electronics (currently \$10)
 - \$20 each
- Code Enforcement
 - Reinspection Fees (currently \$25)
 - Proposed Fees
 - After 30 days if violations aren't corrected or NO SHOW
 - \$50
 - 60 days
 - \$100
 - 90 days
 - \$200
 - After 90 days fees double every 30 days violations are not corrected or owner is a NO SHOW for inspection appointment
 - Impound Pick Up Fee (**new fee**)
 - \$100

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ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk