

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 27, 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.

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

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 –

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

HEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, walks of life and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as people; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "*Tell the Full Story*", highlighting the contributions of women, people of color, and all Americans in shaping our nation and leading us forward. It shines a light on the trailblazers and the places where they raised their voices, took their stands, and found the courage to change the world. Enabling all Americans to see their history around us and take pride in our shared heritage.

WHEREAS, in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law and formally recognized historic preservation as an important policy of the United States.; and

WHEREAS, since 1966, 7 local landmarks have been established in the City of Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, since 1966, 2 local historic districts have been established in the City of Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the Auburn, New York South Street Area Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2017 the Harriet Tubman National Park was established; and

WHEREAS, **Preservation Month** and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign are celebrated annually to highlight the work the Auburn community is doing to enrich and preserve the places that make our City unique.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2021 as

Preservation Month

And call upon the people of the City of Auburn to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn, NY to be fixed this Twenty Seventh day of May, 2021.

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

Mayor Quill presented the proclamation to Michael Deming, Chair of the Historic Resources Review Board for the City and Mr. Deming spoke.

WHEREAS, today's society is finding more citizens involved in motorcycling on the roads of our country; and

WHEREAS, motorcyclists are roughly unprotected and much more likely to be injured or killed in a crash than other vehicle drivers; and

WHEREAS, campaigns have helped inform riders and motorists alike on motorcycle safety issues to reduce motorcycle related injuries, and most of all, fatalities, through a comprehensive approach to motorcycle safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all who put themselves behind the wheel to become aware of motorcyclists, regarding them with the same respect as any other vehicle traveling the highways of this country; and it is the responsibility of riders and motorists alike to obey all traffic laws and safety rules; and

WHEREAS, urging all citizens of our community to become aware of the inherent danger involved in operating a motorcycle, and for riders and motorists alike to give each other the mutual respect they deserve.

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 the month of May as

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AND AWARENESS MONTH

and we encourage all motor vehicle operators to join in our efforts to keep our highways and roadways safe.

**In witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand
and caused the seal of the City of
Auburn to be
affixed this Twenty Seventh day of May
2021.**

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

Mayor Quill presented the proclamation to the President of the local motorcycle club Dennis Pelmeare and Mr. Pelmeare spoke.

Mayor Quill and members of City Council joined Police Chief Butler to administer the oaths of office for the following new and promoted officers:

- Stephen Bennett-Academy Graduation joined by Kathy Bennett, Mother and William Bennett, Father
- Nicholas Atkins, Assigned Detective joined by Leanne Musso, Girlfriend
- Adam Rivers, Assigned Detective joined by William Rivers, Father and Samantha Rivers, wife) Monroe Rivers and Daughter
- Connor Gray - Academy Graduation joined by Morgan Gray, Wife
- Megan Palermo – Lateral Transfer, joined by fiancé Zachary
- Angel Gonzalez - Promoted Sergeant, joined by Ashton/Amelia Gonzalez-Son/Daughter and Nichele Gonzalez, Wife

- Nikoli Biljanoski - Academy Graduation joined by Daniel Biljanoski, Brother and Lisa Biljanoski, Mother

Mayor Quill called a 10 minute recess.

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

David Scott 63, South Street, Auburn 13021. I'm also nine weeks into dose two. So, that's why I'm taking off my mask. Real quick ad, just to remind everyone Memorial Day is coming up. Still the 10th anniversary of Operation New Dawn, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn and Inherent Resolve are all done. And as of the 11th of September 2021, all four missions will be completed. That was my end. So, moving very quickly. I have the slide deck prepared and it just does not send to the city's internet technology center. That's fine. Next week, I'm gonna be rolling to you more data on the Cincinnati Minority Business Accelerator. That is the model that is the exemplar for minority economic development. City of Cincinnati is number one, okay. They've been number one in baseball, the first municipal public university in United States of America. And the economic development that's coming out of that Minority Business Accelerator is incredible eyes will spin when you see the data coming from the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Just to note, the SBA really fast pulled a fast one on me and there's this new SBA navigator program. And we'll be applying for that as well. That is a new program, grant application due the 12th of July, in terms of serving historically underutilized businesses. That's all I have this evening. Thank you.

Tim Lattimore. Thank you, Mayor, Council. Thank you, Mr. Scott, for your service. And I hope everybody has a nice Memorial Day. Monday, but I know on the agenda is some ambulance I guess Manager Dygert is gonna dive into that a little bit. But it was funny I was at a conference with Mayor Bloomberg and I asked him one time, what was one of his big problems in the city and he said that the legacy costs for fire and police it was kind of kind of big. And hopefully, if we go that way, and go to a municipal ambulance that we have some actuarial work done on it so we can tell the public exactly how much it's going to cost to do that. As you know, I've always thought that we should have some kind of community policing and fire with the surrounding towns and hopefully a municipal public safety situation. I think it's time but I know that Mr. Bush was here last week talking about taxes, and hopefully we don't have to raise them. Hopefully we can develop economic development, so it supports our public safety and all the other departments that we have. But until that happens, I think that I see Mr. Butler in the audience. I think he's served the city well over many years. And I think it's been a cost saving adventure with public private corporation. So, hopefully we'll have some actuarial numbers to actually work off of. Thank you.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- May 13, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the May 13, 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:
- Parking Garage Rehabilitation Project; bids are due June 14, 2021. More information on this projects is available on the City of Auburn webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs"
- Starting tomorrow Friday May 28, 2021; on-street parking will be free for two hours each day. This will also apply to the lower level of the parking garage. As downtown is limited to two hour parking; enforcement of overtime and improper parking will still be enforced. Violators will be issued a warning for their first offense.
- Today several staff members participated in another neighborhood walk-through in the Orchard St. area.
- This week staff met to organize and schedule what will be the first Nuisance Board meeting. More information will be shared once those procedures and plans are finalized.
- This week we received our latest sales tax report from NYS indicating that in the month of April 2021 the city's sales tax revenue was 60% more than April of last year.
- This week we also received notice and the funds related to our application to NYS for their Shared Service Initiative Program for the joint Falcon Park project with the City of Auburn and Cayuga Community College. We received approximately \$357k which will be used to reduce the amount financed on the project.

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 – none

E. Staff Presentations –

- City of Auburn Ambulance Presentation by Jeff Dygert, City Manager

- Monthly Bar Graph Reports for April 2021 by Jeff Dygert, City Manager

TABLED ITEMS – none

Public Be Heard:

Zach Ciapello located at 65 South Street, and I come up here and first echo Manager Dygert's concerns that our healthcare issues are not being addressed in this community. And I shudder to think, how many of those calls that were not responded to, could have been opioid overdose deaths. I encourage the council to consider consider that as well as they show their support for the new ambulance service, I thank them for that. And then I've been following up with Councilor member Cuddy about the herbicide use down with the dam, and I have a brief summary to follow up with the rest of the Council members that I'd like to leave you with a letter of at the end of the meeting tonight. Thank you for your time.

OTHER BUSINESS –

Councilor Locastro asked about summer concert and events scheduling. The City Manager reported there would be some things able to happen this summer and events would be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk

Auburn City Ambulance Proposal



Jeff Dygert, City Manager

May 27th, 2021

Ambulance Service History

Prior to
1978

- Ambulance Service ran by Auburn Memorial Hospital
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) along with maintenance person to drive the ambulance would respond

1978

- Eastern Ambulance took over service
- Private service. Started as a Basic Life Support (BLS) service
- Would advance to paramedic level service or Advanced Life Support (ALS)

1994

- Rural Metro bought out Eastern Ambulance
- With the buyout they held the Certificate of Need (CON) for the county which included the City of Auburn



Ambulance Service History Cont..

2005

- Rural Metro experienced equipment and personnel issues
- City of Auburn explored to gaining more control of this important service

2006

- City of Auburn received temporary authorization from the Department of Health (DOH) to operate an ambulance
- RFP went out and TLC was awarded the contract taking over the service on August 1, 2006

2008

- City of Auburn was granted CON for Auburn City Ambulance
- TLC was awarded a 5 year contract with a 5 year extension
- Multiple extensions have been awarded to TLC to operate as Auburn City Ambulance and TLC is our current ambulance contractor



City of Auburn's CON

- With the City of Auburn holding the Certificate of Need, the City is ultimately responsible for providing an ambulance service for its citizens.

Agency Code Number 6212 Issued: 7/3/2020 Expires: 7/31/2022

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Ambulance Service Certificate

Auburn City Ambulance

is hereby certified as a New York State ambulance service in accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the Public Health Law

PRIMARY TERRITORY: City of Auburn


Emergency Medical Services Program


Commissioner of Health

This certificate may be revoked, suspended, limited or annulled for violation of the Public Health Law

THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE
Keep conspicuously posted

DOH-3414 (8/91) No. 38100



The City of Auburn's EMS System

- **Auburn Fire Department (AFD) roll in EMS dates back to the 70's**
 - AFD would respond with Auburn Ambulance to critical calls to provide assistance
 - In the mid 80's a rescue truck was added to AFD and would respond with an engine company. Limited number of EMT's at this time, although the rescue truck was always staffed with 1 EMT
 - Through mid to late 80's and moving forward AFD continued to train personnel to the EMT – B level
 - In 1992 AFD purchased its first Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The AED was placed on the rescue truck to go to all EMS calls in the city.
 - Today the small rescue truck no longer exist. All first line vehicles, including the Chiefs car, are equipped with BLS equipment including AED's.
 - All front line vehicles also carry Nar Can, Albuterol and Epinephrine and all AFD members are trained to the EMT – B level within the first year of employment.



Current State of the EMS System, in NYS and Nationwide

🚒 Staffing shortages and manpower concerns

- 🚒 WSYR & WROC reported on 01-21-2020 that New York State has 9% fewer certified providers than 10 years ago.
- 🚒 The shortage is affecting ambulance response times.
- 🚒 Main reason for the shortage is low pay.
- 🚒 Irregularity in scheduling - staff don't know what their shifts look like from week to week because of scheduling is based on manpower needs.

🚒 One of the highest occupational injury rates nationally

- 🚒 Due to lack of physical abilities test and fitness standards.
- 🚒 Manual load systems have been identified as a contributing factor in provider injuries when lifting heavy patients; the proposed power load system helps to address this significant issue.



Current State of the EMS System, Nationwide and NYS

- Private ambulance services are operating a for profit business with assistance from a public tax payers services
 - The fire department is often first on the scene of a 911 call and will provide the initial care and heavy lifting for an emergency.
- Private ambulance services are consolidating or going out of business
 - Should no ambulance service want to serve our municipality who would provide ALS care and transport service when you call 911?



The City of Auburn's EMS System

- Auburn Fire Department (AFD) roll in EMS dates back to the 70's
- In the City of Auburn the Fire Department responds to all EMS calls.
 - AFD is dispatched by Cayuga County 911 center to provide prompt first response to the citizens. All AFD members are EMT Basic level within their first year of employment.
 - After AFD is dispatched immediately and a separate call is made to the TLC dispatcher who in turns dispatches the responding TLC ambulance, causing a slight delay in ALS care
 - Upon arrival the two agencies work together on patient care.



The City of Auburn's EMS System

- Care is then turned over to TLC for transport to the appropriate medical facility.
- When patient care is critical AFD may ride with the ambulance to the hospital to assist in patient care.
- The fire department plays a vital role in the EMS system by providing...
 - Fast and immediate high level EMT Basic life support
 - Patient packaging and handling.
 - Often patients are immobile and need assistance moving across multiple floors that require more than the two personnel that would be on an ambulance.
 - Additional assistance in care and transport for the patient in the ambulance.
 - Additional numbers of certified responders to augment the system in times of high call volume.



Why change the current system?

- ❏ The City of Auburn has looked at a municipal operated service in the past.
 - ❏ Formal studies were performed in 1993, 1997 and an independent study performed by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) in 2003.
 - ❏ In each case it was not feasible for the City of Auburn to operate a not-for-profit ambulance department due to the studies only considering firefighters staffing the ambulance.
- ❏ This study considers a separate ambulance department staffed with a Paramedic Director of Operations, 12 full-time paramedics and 12 full-time EMT's (25 positions in total).
 - ❏ Quality and stability of employees
 - ❏ Managing a city operated ambulance service we would offer a comparable wage with a good benefits package. This would attract dedicated employees, but most importantly give them a reason to stay. With steady employees it would create crews that work together on a regular basis providing an environment for the best patient care.
 - ❏ Employee and equipment standards would be set by the City of Auburn.
 - ❏ With a physical fitness abilities test and power load systems the City would be in the best position to minimize duty related injuries to ambulance and other assisting municipal staff.



Why change the current system?, Cont..

- ❏ City operated ambulance would give City management better control and accountability
- ❏ A separate privately held agency under contract often results in a gap or delay in communications.
 - ❏ The Fire Departments duty chief, who runs emergency operations in the city, could now have access to what ambulance's are available by looking at their computer in the car or at the station.
 - ❏ By contracting the ambulance service the 911 center has to make a separate phone call to the private ambulance dispatchers for the ambulance to be dispatched.
 - ❏ A city ran ambulance service the ambulance would be on our radio system and dispatched at the same time the fire department. Eliminating delays in notification for the ambulance to respond. Resulting in faster advanced life support patient care.



Why change the current system?, Cont..

- ❏ City management would have better control over the employees that are riding the ambulance representing the city.
 - ❏ With the City of Auburn holding the CON, the ambulance vehicle must say “City of Auburn” as directed by the New York State Department of Health.
 - ❏ When the ambulance service is contracted out we rely on the management of that agency to relay information whether it’s praise or discipline. The city run service would take out the extra layer of management so we can handle issues directly.
- ❏ Efficient back-up system
 - ❏ Currently we have a back-up system in place that is used for recalling firefighters during multiple alarm fires.
 - ❏ We would integrate the ambulance into this system for bringing in extra crews when the EMS system gets busy.
 - ❏ Another example of accountability and direct control of the system.



The Proposed Model

- ❏ The ambulance service would be its own department falling under the authority of city management.
- ❏ A paramedic director of operations would oversee the day-to-day operations to include, but not limited to, scheduling, budgeting, record keeping and responding to emergency calls as necessary. Working Monday – Friday.
- ❏ There would be 3 advanced life support (ALS) ambulances assigned 24/7.
 - ❏ This would employ 12 full-time paramedics and 12 full-time emergency medical technicians (EMT's)
 - ❏ There would be 4 shifts, with each shift working a 12 hours on a rotating schedule.
 - ❏ One paramedic would be appointed as a training officer responsible for training.
 - ❏ The designated training officer would receive an additional stipend.
 - ❏ Each shift would assign one paramedic supervisor to assist the director of operations.
 - ❏ Each paramedic supervisor would receive additional compensation for additional duties.



The Proposed Model, Cont..

- Each employee would receive 10 paid vacations days and 3 personal leave days.
- Paid sick days would be earned at a half a day per pay period after 3 months of service.
- Each full-time employee would qualify to enroll in the New York State Retirement System.
- Full-time employees would be offered health benefits. (PPO option J).
- Will receive time and a half pay if employee work a holiday.
- Any time worked beyond 40 hours in a week will be paid at time and a half.
- Any time and employee is called in outside of normal scheduling (i.e call back) they would receive time and a half pay.



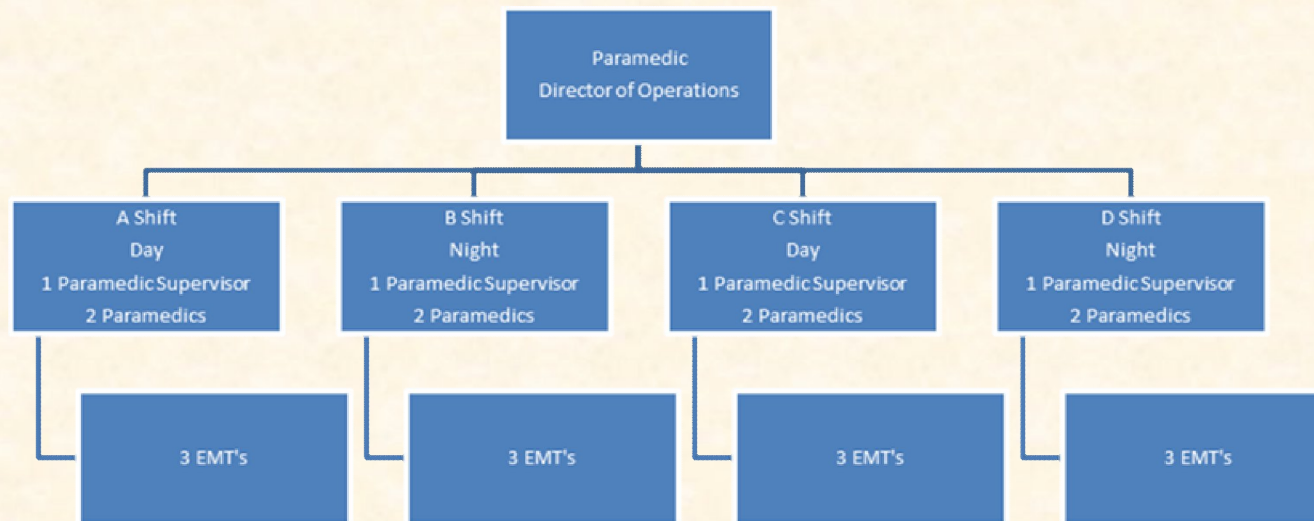
The Proposed Model, Cont..

- ❏ Would create stability with the EMS system by creating careers not just jobs.
- ❏ A back-up system would be integrated into the same system the Fire Department has in place now for recalling personnel.
- ❏ Scheduled overtime funds have been budgeted for.
- ❏ The ambulance service would operate on the same radio system as the Fire Department to increase interoperability with all city entities but they would also have their own radio channel to conduct ambulance only business.



The Proposed Model, Cont..

Organizational Chart



The Proposed Model, Cont..

Employee Schedule

		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total Hours	Overtime Hours
Week 1	Work Group A		12	12			12	12	48	8
Week 2	Day Shift Hours	12			12	12			36	0
Week 1	Work Group B		12	12			12	12	48	8
Week 2	Night Shift Hours	12			12	12			36	0
Week 1	Work Group C	12			12	12			36	0
Week 2	Day Shift Hours		12	12			12	12	48	8
Week 1	Work Group D	12			12	12			36	0
Week 2	Night Shift Hours		12	12			12	12	48	8



Start-Up

Lease all start-up cost associated with the service

- Repayment of lease is budgeted for full payment in the first five years of the ten year plan.
- Leasing would include purchase of ambulance vehicles, stretchers / power load systems, monitors, radios, computers, and other equipment to start up.
- Estimated lease payment of under \$18,000 per month has been figured into financial model. Lease payment would not be supplemented from the general fund and will not generate a tax increase.



Start-Up, Cont..

- Hire Director of Operations.
- Purchase equipment.
- Establish working relationship with a medical billing company.
- Advertise and interview for paramedics and EMT's positions.
- Hire all employees approximately two weeks before start up for orientation and training.



In conclusion

- ❏ Creation of the municipal ambulance service has been analyzed over the years to look for improvements.
- ❏ Transition to a municipal run service was indicated in the original RFP's dating back to 2005.
- ❏ In this study we have had the advantage of analyzing revenue for the past 7 + years which was not the case in all previous studies.
- ❏ With the current state of the EMS system, it is time to take control.
- ❏ We are confident we can provide the service by utilizing state of the art equipment, create EMS careers. All while generating a modest surplus that will be reinvested in the EMS system of Auburn for the local residents.



The Future

- ❏ Re-think the delivery of medical services in our community
- ❏ Collaborate with other community partners to implement a Mobile Community Medicine Program to improve quality of care, access to care, and efficiency.
- ❏ Some of these collaborative partners have already been identified.



Next Steps

- ❏ Establish a temporary service agreement for several months to allow a municipally run service to get up and running.
- ❏ Monitor progress
- ❏ Continue to collect and analyze data to better inform future decisions on operations.
- ❏ Pursue partnerships to improve the delivery of healthcare with a mobile component locally.



Questions?

