

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 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 was excused from the meeting at 6:55 p.m..

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 –

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

Mayor Quill and City Council and Fire Chief Mark Fritz welcomed three new Auburn NY Fire Department firefighters to the department. The new firefighters, Jesica Dominguez, Ryan Morrell and Michael Cheney were administered their oaths of office.

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

Gilda Brower 40 Grover Street, Secretary of the Human Rights Commission. The city of Auburn's Human Rights Commission is offering implicit bias training from eight o'clock in the morning to 4pm on June 21, or 22nd, or 23rd at the Auburn Public Theater. Some pizza and refreshments will be available, as well, an hour for lunch is part of the day. The training builds upon the bias trainings offered five years ago to our police department, and is now part of most police cadet training. The city manager, thank you, has arranged all city supervisory personnel will attend. And interestingly, you know, bias training is not Democrat or Republican, or male or female. It's not black or white. We all have bias. Bias is part of humanity, and some bias is conscious, explicit and known to us like our preference for our baseball teams or our communities. Some bias is unconscious and therefore unknown to the individual, and that is called implicit bias. Becoming aware of implicit bias allows each citizen to identify for themselves and articulate impacts that were unseen before. There have always been logical and wise individuals throughout time, who could respect and protect their families and their communities. However, the laws passed to protect men, women and children of all genders, races and ages, where it is necessary to address abuse, causes the laws. So, up until civil rights legislation was passed, domestic violence, child abuse, gender and racial injustices were legal and condoned. The past 50 years have allowed civil rights to be applied according to the constitutional right to live with liberty and justice for all. It's interesting to note that the reason why it took 200 years to give women the vote in 1920, when my grandmother was 20, is because women were legally considered the property of their spouses for almost 2000 years. And it took 200 years to overcome the structural implicit bias deeply embedded in our culture against women. And so yes, I am at the end. Thank you. Thank you. I'm so sorry. Please call the Human Rights Commission telephone number 315-252-2929 and will I contact you and welcome you, your congregation, your organization, all are welcome. Thank you.

Tim Lattimore, 63 South Street. Mayor, Council it was nice being with you earlier in regards to the bidge being down by the prison. Years ago I, when I was a younger man, I worked on that bridge. So, has some meaning to me, being in the mud. But congratulations on another bridge completed. Last week, we heard a presentation from city manager and not I've worked with a lot of city managers and county managers and the ones that I really appreciated we're always the ones that put the numbers to the contracts that were being discussed. And hopefully we can get, as I asked for a couple of weeks ago, some kind of fiduciary study in regards to what what is our long term liability to the employees and, and what have you, but I know that we need of public safety. And I think the private public relationships, save the taxpayers money.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

- May 27, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the May 27, 2021 minutes by Councilor McCormick, 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.
- Bradford St. Park Improvements Project due June 16, 2021.
- Casey Park Skate Park Design-Build Project due July 2, 2021.
- More information on these projects is available on the City of Auburn webpage under the tab "Bids/RFPs"
- The Nuisance Board will meet regularly on the third Tuesday of each month beginning June 15. The first meeting will be used to discuss goals, process, and responsibilities. There will be a process for staff or community members to recommend a property for consideration. More information will be shared as it is developed.
- A few weeks ago a concern was raised by one of our citizens regarding the use of herbicides near the Mill St. Dam. Our Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen has researched the concern and the operation and can provide Council with an update on his findings.
- Last Saturday at Falcon Park, the new Auburn Doubledays collegiate baseball team had their home opener. Falcon Park hosted over 2,000 spectators for that game.

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 –

State Touring Route Program Funding Presentation by Christina J. Selvek, Director of Capital Projects & Jeff Dygert, City Manager

Enacted in the SFY 2021-22 Budget, New York State allocated \$100 million in state funding to create a new transportation initiative entitled: State Touring Route Program. This program directed funds to local municipalities that have capital maintenance responsibilities for signed touring routes. In

the City of Auburn the touring routes are US 20, NY 5, NY 34, NY 38, NY 38A and NY 326. The NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) is the responsible state agency for overseeing the program. Since Auburn is one of 38 Cities in New York that maintain the state arterial highways within its boundaries the City of Auburn was eligible to receive State Touring Route Funding starting April 1, 2021. The City of Auburn's total allocation of State Touring Route program funds is \$1,540,275.44. This is a reimbursement program with the first eligible reimbursement due by July 30th, 2021. The State Touring Route program period will run through December 31, 2022 to allow local governments to complete projects and submit project documentation. State Touring Route Program guidance on eligibility and allocations has been provided through the NYS DOT and is fairly similar to other reimbursement programs including CHIPS, Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR) and PAVE-NY. The State Touring Route program has an established eligible project activities list (see attached). There is a preference for the funds to be used on State highways however funds may be used on an eligible roadway listed on the 2020 Local Highway Inventory (LHI). In addition to the eligible project activities, funds may be used for the following: □Municipal Force Account Construction Reimbursement- projects between \$100,000 and \$350,000; & □Local Match on other State or Federally funded highway capital projects such as: oSouth Street Corridor Enhancement Project (Construction Phase) after April 1st Similar to other NYS DOT reimbursement programs, the State Touring Route Program must comply with ADA Standards and the NYS Complete Streets Act of 2011.

Federal Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Presentation - Jeff Dygert, City Manager and Christina Selvek, Director of Capital Projects

On March 11, 2021 President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act, also known as ARPA, which directed fiscal recovery funds to local municipalities including the City of Auburn. This authorization is further described in Section 9901 of the Law entitled: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF). The U.S. Department of Treasury is the responsible federal agency for overseeing the program. As an Entitlement Community, the City of Auburn's total allocation of CLFRF program funds is \$21,395,055.00. The funds will be released to the City by US Treasury in two tranches. The City has received the first tranche in May 2021. The US Treasury is requiring local governments to obligate funds by December 31, 2024. The CLFRF program period will run through December 31, 2026 to allow local governments to complete projects and submit project documentation. CLFRF Program guidance on eligibility and allocations has been provided through the US Treasury Interim Final Rule. In addition, the NYCOM and National League of Cities have provided additional guidance and FAQs regarding the CLFRF. Based upon these resources, the CLFRF program has established five (5) categories of eligible uses. These are as follows: Replace lost public sector revenue; □Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency; Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; Support public health expenditures; Provide premium pay for essential workers. Within each of the 5 categories the City has flexibility in deciding how best to use the funding to meet the needs of the community. The flexibility must align with a long list of predetermined eligible and non-eligible uses of the funds. City staff will be

presenting initial thoughts and recommendations for partial use of the first tranche of City CLFRF program funds. The discussion will focus on the replacement of lost public sector revenue and touch on potential uses in the other four categories.

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Executive Session

Councilor McCormick made a motion for executive session, seconded by Councilor Locastro on the following matters:

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.) Councilors McCormick, Cuddy, Locastro and Mayor Quill voted to enter an executive session at 6:55 p.m..

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk