Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 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 –

WHEREAS on the 22nd day of September, 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William H. Seward containing the following direction: "That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the

military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom."; and

WHEREAS, June 19, 1865, is recognized as the day that Galveston, Texas received word that all slaves had been formally emancipated, nearly 2 ½ years after the initial proclamation; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth celebrates African American freedom and achievement, we come together, young and old, to listen, to learn, and to refresh the drive to achieve. It is a day where we all take one step closer together to better utilize the energy wasted on racism; and

WHEREAS, we pay tribute to the journey, we acknowledge the many roles and contributions of the African American spirit to our society, from Harriet Tubman's work as a conductor of the Underground Railroad to the trail blazers of today; and

WHEREAS, no matter our race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, we recommit ourselves to honoring the efforts of those who fought so hard to steer our country toward our highest ideals; and

WHEREAS, on October 14, 2020, Juneteenth became an official public holiday in the State of New York and on June 17, 2021 President Joseph R. Biden signed into law that Juneteenth be recognized as an official public holiday in the United States of America.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and Citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as,

Juneteenth Day

in the City of Auburn, and encourage all Citizens to observe this day with appropriate civic, community and activities embracing the past as well as the future that only unity, respect and appreciation can bring.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Eighteenth day of June 2020.

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

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

Tim Lattinore, 63 South Street. Mayor Council. I know there's a resolution on the, on the board tonight to move ahead with the ambulance service. I had my lawyer send over Freedom of Information regarding documents, complaints and problems involving, I know that there were some statements made about that. I know that from 2006 when, when we brought it in. It's been a no cost situation to the city

and I think that it's, just this moment in time with finances being the way it is, I know that there's, you know the feds have come through with some monies, but I don't think it's going to be enough going forward I know that we had to have a SAFER grant in order to keep some of the manning that we had down there. And I think that sooner than later, you know right now, sales tax is up and what have you but I don't see it going forward in the future, so, I would hope that you would postpone this session tonight for at least 20 days until the information gets back to, to us, public, to decide whether or not you know the complaints are serious, not serious.

Dr. Adam Ducket (County Coroner) My name is Dr. Adam Duckett Chief Medical Officer of East Hill Medical Center 144 Genesee Street. You know, I also want to speak in terms of the city run ambulance proposal before us tonight. You know I've been a physician for 14 years now and I haven't seen medicine change as much as I have in the past year. Medicine has been evolving spending has been out of control. New York state spends approximately \$80 billion a year on Medicaid services, to give context to everybody, the entire state of Florida, their state budget is \$101 billion. So, what that means is that state that has 1 million more people than we do, has, we almost spend that just in Medicaid, every single year, well, at least for 2021. You know it's our responsibility now more than ever to redefine the delivery of health care. Part of that would be in my opinion, to actually embrace the idea of a city run ambulance. It opens up to a collaboration, working with other organizations in the community to bring federal taxpayer dollar back to the community to help offset startup costs, and actually redefine how we deliver care. There's other programs out that we've seen throughout the country and, actually, a few of the state Paramedicine is one of them. That's going to really try to be an integral part of how we do things. And I really think in the in the long term when you think of \$80 billion a year. If we can save money by having a little bit more kind of control over how we do things and how who we collaborate with, we'll save that money, exponentially because again I want everybody to remember tonight \$80 billion in Medicaid we spend every year, and we have the responsibility as a community to help do our part to lower that. Thank you.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

• June 3, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve the June 3, 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.
- 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 -

GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION #73 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

By Councilor McCormick

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, on March 11th, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA); and

WHEREAS, this \$1.9 trillion stimulus package includes \$360 billion in direct financial relief for state and local governments, including \$65 billion for cities, villages and towns, as well as \$65 billion for counties in response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health and economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is slated to receive \$21,395,055, which will be received in two tranches, with 50% provided in May 2021 and balance delivered 12 months later; and

WHEREAS, recipients may use these funds to: support public health expenditures, address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, replace lost public sector revenue, provide premium pay for essential workers, and investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, to be eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN:

- 1. Authorizes the Mayor of the City of Auburn, or a designated representative, to execute the grant contract and all other documents necessary for the acceptance of these funds; and
- **2.** Authorizes the City Comptroller to recognize this revenue in the amount of \$21,395,055 to Account HA99.280.ARPA; and
- 3. Authorizes the City Comptroller to appropriate the funds into Account HA8760.440.ARPA; and
- **4.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval and adoption.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro	X	
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION #74 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF 2021-22 TOURING ROUTE APPORTIONMENT FROM NYS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYSDOT)

By Councilor Giannettino

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, the enacted State fiscal year (SFY) 2021-22 Budget provides \$100 million in enhanced State assistance to cities, towns, and villages that have capital maintenance responsibility for New York signed touring routes; and

WHEREAS, the NYSDOT will make the first SFY 2021-22 reimbursements on July 29, 2021 under this new funding initiative and the City of Auburn has a SFY 2021-22 Touring Route apportionment of \$1,540,275.44; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement requests for these funds will require similar supporting documentation and forms as required for the existing CHIPS, EWR, and PAVE-NY Programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN:

- **5.** Authorizes the Mayor, or other named designee, to execute the grant contract and all other documents necessary for the acceptance of these funds; and
- **6.** Authorizes the City Comptroller to recognize this revenue in the amount of \$1,540,275.44 to Account HA99.359.KV; and
- **7.** Authorizes the City Comptroller to appropriate said revenue funds into Account HA5110.440.KV; and
- **8.** That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval and adoption.

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		

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION #75 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING FINANCING FOR THE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAMS

By Councilor McCormick

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn maintains a revolving loan program, which allows property owners to finance the cost of sidewalk and/or curb installation and the cost of water and sewer line repair or replacement over a five year period; and

WHEREAS, Attachment A contains a list of all property owners who have requested to participate in the revolving loan programs; and

WHEREAS, approval is required in order to process the property owners' requests to participate in the program(s) for 2021 year and the cost of the programs are detailed in Attachment A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby approve the expenditure of \$80,131.80 to be charged to HA5497.440.001 to fund the sidewalk and curbing

revolving loan program, \$10,275.00 to be charged to HF8340.440.002 to fund the water repair and replacement revolving loan program, and \$58,907.23 to be charged to HG8120.440.003 to fund the sewer repair and replacement revolving loan program.

Seconded by Councilor Cuddy

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #76 OF 2021

RE-AUTHORIZING A CITY OF AUBURN AMBULANCE SERVICE

By Councilor Giannettino

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2006, the City Council of the City of Auburn passed Council Resolution #10 of 2006, which "determined the need for high quality, reliable, rapidly delivered, and state of the art emergency medical services" for the health, safety and welfare of its residents; and

WHEREAS, Council Resolution #10 of 2006, also authorized the Mayor to apply for a Certificate of Need from the New York State Department of Health, which enabled the City to either operate its own ambulance service or contract with a qualified provider; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the City received a temporary Certificate of Need from the New York State Department of Health, which thereafter became permanent in 2008 and is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the City has contracted with TLC Emergency Medical Services, Inc., for ambulance services, but has observed increases in calls for ambulance services coupled with problems within the emergency medical services system; and

WHEREAS, as a result of working with various medical professional providers within the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is now in a position to establish and operate its own ambulance service in order to provide the high quality, reliable, rapid and state-of-the-art emergency medical services to its residents that were identified by the City Council in 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Auburn, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to establish an ambulance service for the City of Auburn, which shall

include, without limitation, the employment of necessary personnel and procurement of equipment for the operation of said services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to establish all necessary expenditure accounts (A4540) and revenue accounts (A99.1640) related to the establishment of said ambulance services.

Seconded by Councilor Cuddy

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro		X
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #77 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH TLC EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, INC

By Councilor Cuddy

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2020, City Council passed Agreement Resolution No. 72 of 2020, which authorized an Agreement with TLC Emergency Medical Services, Inc. ("TLC"); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement expires on June 30, 2021, and the City would like to continue working with TLC as it transitions to establishing its own City ambulance service; and

WHEREAS, the parties have agreed to extend the Agreement through October 31, 2021, at which time the City will begin providing ambulance services within the City of Auburn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby approve an Extension of Agreement, attached hereto and incorporated herein, with TLC Emergency Medical Services, Inc., which shall extend the term of the existing Agreement until October 31, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to carry out this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

Ayes	Noes

Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro		X
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION #78 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING VARIOUS OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET TRANSFERS

By Councilor Giannettino

June 17, 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 \$141,000 of General Fund - fund balance and \$140,000 of Water Fund – 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 Locastro

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

	6/17/2021					
	Amount	Ac	count to	Ac	count From	Reason
\$:	10,000.00	A3620.250	Codes - Other Equipment	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	Replace broken 27 year old Zero Turn mower for Codes Cleanup Crew
\$	6,900.00	G9710.690	Sewer Debt Svs - Principal	G1990.455	Sewer - Contingency	
\$	1,600.00	G9710.790	Sewer Debt Svs - Interest	G1990.455	Sewer - Contingency	
\$	21,500.00	G8120.110	San Sewer - Salaries	G1990.455	Sewer - Contingency	
\$	5,000.00	A1355.110	Assessor - Salaries	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	
\$	6,000.00	A1670.130	Central Svs - Temp/PT	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	Fiscal Year End Cleanups for
\$	45,000.00	A9060.841	Health Insurance	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	overbudget accounts related to Retirement
\$	6,000.00	A9710.690	General Debt Svs - Principal	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	Payouts, mid year borrowing from
\$	24,000.00	A9710.790	General Debt Svs - Interest	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	EFC, Health Insurance
\$	45,000.00	A3620.110	Codes - Salaries	A 909	General Fund - Fund Balance	Buyouts/PPO incentives, etc.
\$	73,000.00	F9710.690	Water Debt Svs - Principal	F 909	Water Fund - Fund Balance	
\$	37,000.00	F9710.790	Water Debt Svs - Interest	F 909	Water Fund - Fund Balance	
\$	15,000.00	F9710.895	Water Debt Svs - Admin Fees	F 909	Water Fund - Fund Balance	
\$	15,000.00	F9812.919	Water Transfers to Solid Waste/Transfer	10 - F 909	Water Fund - Fund Balance	

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #79 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE AUBURN ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND SPECIAL PATROL OFFICERS

By Councilor McCormick

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, for many years, the City of Auburn and the Auburn Enlarged City School District (the "School District") have partnered to provide Student Resource Officers ("SRO"), assigned from the Auburn Police Department, to the School District in order to promote communication, safety, and cooperation among students, faculty and staff within the schools; and

WHEREAS, the existing agreement for SRO services expires on June 30, 2021, and it is necessary to authorize an updated Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed Agreement, the City shall provide to the School District three (3) full-time Student Resource Officers and, also, Special Patrol Officers covering two (2) full-time positions, over a five-year term; and

WHEREAS, the School District shall reimburse the City the amount of \$339,135 for the cost of services provided by the Auburn Police Department for the 2021-2022 school year and, also, the costs for the remaining school years, which shall be determined on an annual basis and include adjustments for staffing and compensation rate changes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Auburn does hereby approve an Agreement with the Auburn Enlarged City School District, attached hereto and incorporated herein, which shall provide Auburn Police Department School Resource Officers and Special Patrol Officers to the District for the 2021-2026 school years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auburn Enlarged City School District shall pay to the City the sum of \$339,135 as reimbursement for the cost of the Police Officers so assigned for the 2021-2022 school year and, also, shall pay the reimbursement costs for the remaining years based on an annual calculation adjusted for staffing and compensation rate changes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign the Agreement attached hereto and any and all documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

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 #80 OF 2021

APPROVING SALARY INCREASES FOR THE AUBURN HOUSING AUTHORITY

By Councilor McCormick

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, the Auburn Housing Authority by Resolution #2021-8, dated June 7, 2021, authorized salary increases for its employees, Legal Counsel and Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Housing Law §32, compensation paid by the Auburn Housing Authority is subject to approval by the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn Housing Authority has requested approval of the salary increases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York that pursuant to Public Housing Law §32 it does hereby approve salary increases to be paid by the Auburn Housing Authority for its employees, Legal Counsel and Executive Director, all as are more fully set forth in the Authority's Resolution #2021-8, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution.

Seconded by Giannettino

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

LAND SALE RESOLUTION #81 OF 2021

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF

REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 23 PERRINE STREET

By Councilor McCormick

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2020, the City of Auburn acquired title to real property commonly known as 23 Perrine Street (the "Property") by tax foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the Property is approximately 3.23 acres and consists of a vacant lot with a 60' x 80' steel building; and

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, Mr. Brian Polcovich proposed a Purchase Offer and Sale Contract, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, for the purchase of the Property at a price of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City's Land Sale Policy, the City notified all adjacent property owners of the potential sale and received no responses; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Auburn City Council approve the sale of the Property to Brian M. Polcovich, since the Property is a surplus parcel and not needed for City purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Auburn does hereby approve the Purchase Offer and Sale Contract from Brian M. Polcovich, which is incorporated herein, for the sale of 23 Perrine Street, for the sum of \$25,000.00, subject to the conditions that Mr. Polcovich receive a Quit Claim Deed from the City and pay all title and recording costs for this real estate transaction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign the Purchase Offer and Sale Contract together with any and all documents in order to finalize the closing of this sale.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro	X	
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION #82 OF 2021

APPOINTING A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

By Councilor Giannettino

June 17, 2021

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Charter, Section C-10A in part requires that three (3) Civil Service Commissioners shall be appointed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2021 a vacancy exists on the City of Auburn Civil Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council is desirous of appointing a Commissioner to fulfil the unexpired term of a Commissioner who has resigned and is desirous of appointing Ms. Christina Tomasso of Auburn, New York to be appointed as a Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Auburn to a term beginning immediately upon adoption of this resolution and lasting until June 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Christina Tomasso of Auburn, New York is hereby appointed as a Civil Service Commissioner of the City of Auburn to a term of office effective July 1, 2021 and lasting through June 1, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

	Ayes	Noes
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 –

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

One matter pertaining to the impact of the Juneteenth holiday on collective bargaining agreements.

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:14 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk