

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, August 19, 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. Mayor Quill, Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro 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
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Police Chief, James Slayton
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs

**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 –**

This evening's concert at Market Street park has been canceled due to the weather.

The morning of August 19, 2021 the City issued a High Flow Event Notice for the Owasco River due to 7.6 inches of rain having fallen in the previous 48 hours due to Hurricane Fred. Residents are cautioned to stay away from the river during these high flows and the high flows are expected to last through the weekend.

The next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting for the City will be held Monday, August 23, 2021 at 7 p.m. and the meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 24 South Street.

**CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –**

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

Donna Lamb. My name is Donna Lamb, I live at 20 Tuxill Square here in Auburn and I'm the Director of the Schweinfurth Art Center. Like all of our cultural partners this year COVID-19 forced us to cancel programs, costing us a significant loss of revenue. We are extremely grateful for the government grants, foundations and individual donors that have helped us survive. In spite of the difficulties and challenges of the past year and a half, we have every reason to be optimistic and we are looking forward to our future. We had a great summer 2021 attendance for our summer made in New York exhibit. Attendance was nearly double our 2019 attendance before COVID. It was triple compared to last year. The exhibit has always been popular and features primarily Central New York artists, which it did this year. But we also attracted a lot of artists from other parts of this state, which helped bring new people to Auburn and to the Art Center. Our zip code tracking shows that we have seen a steady increase in visitors from Rochester and Ithaca in particular. One of our summer exhibits featured an African American quilt maker from Philadelphia, and her family story about quilting. Our press releases published in Syracuse, Rochester and Ithaca, along with the marketing done through the Historical and Cultural Sites Commission attracted significant numbers of visitors from those locations. An exhibit of work by African American artists Terry Plater featured places associated with Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad at the Schweinfurth, and the images of family and family history at the Cayuga Museum. For this collaboration, we offered a shared admission discount to encourage visitors to go to both places, which was a resounding success. The final two weeks of the exhibit were extremely busy with visitors. And we had a noticeable increase in the number of tourists, many of whom reported visiting other sites, asking for recommendations for lunch or places to get coffee. Admission gift shops, sales and sales of artwork from the exhibits were up significantly. All signs indicate to us that Auburn is becoming increasingly popular as a regional destination. The other reason for our optimism is our collaboration with the Cayuga Museum to develop the West End Arts Campus, our DRI project. This project affords us the opportunity to address significant issues related to accessibility for our visitors, but it also creates opportunities.

Kirsten Wise Gosch. My name is Kirsten Gosh, the Executive Director of the Cayuga Museum of History and Art. I also serve as the Chair of the Historic and Cultural Sites Commission, and I'm the Auburn City Historian. I'd like to start by thanking the members of council and Mayor Quill. Your dedication to the cultural assets of this city is paramount to everyone's success. And your investments in the DRI projects through Financial Resolution Number 98 will have a significant and lasting impact on all the individual organizations but also on the city as a whole. Regarding the resolution, I'd like to say a few words about the marketing funds in particular, through the Market New York grant, all of the cultural sites have seen a significant increase in visitation this summer, which I do believe is a direct result of the marketing campaign. We are seeing a different type of tourists this year the majority are coming for an overnight or multi night stay. And they're coming in places far from driving distance only. A lot of the increase in cultural tourism is very welcome after setbacks last year, and we're seeing that visitors are ready to travel again. Many of them are choosing Auburn for the very first time. In addition to the digital marketing campaigns a portion of the Market New York funds are also used to create city wide events like the PRIDE celebration and Harriet Tubman weekend. These allow us to build community working as a collective to provide experiences that individual sites would not be able to do on their own. I also want to continue with what Donna was saying about how your investment with our DRI project the West End Arts Campus will make a lasting impact on the city and particularly the revitalization of the West End.

The art campus project will combine the Cayuga Museum and Schweinfurth Art Center properties which will increase accessibility by improving our infrastructure. At its core, the West End Arts Campus is a placemaking opportunity with the idea that designing our grounds so they are more open, inviting and appealing will draw more audiences and creating a safe space within our neighborhood. Upgrades to our property including formal parking lot, upgrades to driveways and ADA accessibility throughout the grounds and each building. We will have a more concerted focus on our green space, which includes lighting and signage upgrades. These will directly impact our neighbors as many local residents use our space as a short cut or a place to rest. We do believe that creating a safer space for our neighbors and increasing our capacity for cultural tourism will allow us to make stronger connections within the community. On the west end of Auburn, it does serve as a gateway to the city and the West End Arts Campus will be the anchor project to spur additional economic development. Much like what has happened downtown in recent years. Donna and I are working closely with Bound West, which is a consortium of local business leaders and west end residents whose mission is to revitalize the west side of the city, the West End Arts Campus will help us position us to adapt to the changing role of museums in their communities, reaching more diverse audiences and encouraging all who visit to connect and feel belonging. And we are looking forward to the future. Thank you.

Billye Chabot, 6798 East Lake Road, Auburn. I'm also the Executive Director of the Seward House Museum at 33 South Street just across the street. And I'm just here tonight to say thank you. And I'm joined by my board president, Mr. Edward Kochian, to say thank you to Mayor Quill and to the City Council for the resolution. This is transformative funding for us. It is truly a legacy gift, our DRI project, which is to rehabilitate the two stone structures behind the Seward House Museum. One is the barn, one is the carriage house. They've been on our to do list since I've been here. And I've been here for 11 and a half years now. And we have always had the support of the city and the support of the City Council. And I just can't thank you enough. You've always understood that Auburn could and is now a destination for tourists. And that we're positioned, really positioned to use that for economic growth. But even more importantly, we are, all of our sites, educational pillars of this community. And now and in the future, this is just so important. So I'm just here to say thank you and supporting the resolution and I think we're perfectly positioned as a community and it's go time for history's hometown.

Carey Eidel. Hi, everybody. My name is Carey Eidel, 5907 Broadway Road in Auburn and I'm the Executive Director of Auburn Public Theater. I sit on the board of the BID. I'm a professor adjunct at Cayuga Community College. I'm wearing my special shirt today because this is a special day. Holy cow, holy cow for a town this size to give that much support in one fell swoop to all of these really well deserving organizations is outstanding. And it should be marked for a very long time. You people are amazing. And I'm very, very proud to have moved to this town over 20 years ago with a native I'll never be a native, but I am just so overwhelmed. We did not know how we were going to finish our DRI project. Okay, between cost overruns and all of the obvious circumstances that have affected every single one of us. We were going well, we can't even get back to programming yet. Really. Just so you know, we've been doing our free and pay what you can educational classes in film and music all year. And we were in the schools, five Auburn schools, Booker T Community Center, Booker T Washington Community Center, and of course we did them in house, keeping jobs and hiring new people. And we've increased the wages of the people that have worked for us. We obviously opened Cafe 108, which is become a tremendous success for us so far. And everything that Donna first said, except for the quilting,

applies to, we can get into that, it applies to Auburn Public Theater, and what what the other executive directors said as well. We're all in the same boat and you have just lifted that boat up and we are very, very grateful. Thank you.

Angela Daddabo. Hello, I'm Angela Daddabbo, 3908 East Street in Skaneateles. I'm the Artistic Director of Auburn Public Theater and the cashier at Cafe 108, some of you have seen me in that role. And I just want to echo what Carey said, what my other associates have said, this grant is a game changer. It will allow us to complete our DRI project on the lower level. We started this project at Auburn Public Theater in 2006, we thought it would take five years, we're still at it. But it's a project that's run on faith for the entire time that we've been doing it. And I hope this is the end of COVID-19. But whatever part of whatever phase, we're in a COVID-19, and this belief that you all have in us, all of us, all of the historic and cultural sites, is a shot in the arm in a very, very good way. As we know, cultural tourism is an asset that can never be exported, it will always remain here. All of the development work that's done for all these sites will pay dividends for decades and decades and decades to come. And I want to use the end of my time to ask all of you here to give these fine people a standing ovation.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- August 5, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve the August 5, 2021 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Locastro. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

### **Reports of City Officials**

#### **A. City Manager's Report**

The following are some of the details of the impact of Hurricane Fred and what we've been up to over the course of the past 48 hours.

#### **Lake Elevation:**

Target Elevation – 712.75 msl

Current Elevation – 714.47 msl and rising. We anticipate lake elevation to increase potentially beyond 715 (minor flood stage according to Army Corp Rule Curve)

#### **Owasco River Flow: Current Flow in Auburn – 2200 cfs**

Flow conditions of the river are very high. DMU staff will be monitoring all dams and Bridge overpasses (specifically Genesee Street Bridge by Hunters and Washington St Bridge) every hour thru the night as this high flow condition continues.

#### **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP):**

Record flows for record duration was observed today at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Flows came up to a maximum capacity of 52 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and the plant, although inundated, performed very well under the careful direction of operations staff. We expect flows to continue to decline over the next 24 hours as our system drains. Normal plant flows are 8 MGD.

#### **Sewer Collection System:**

Miller Street, Genesee Street, and Wadsworth Street Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) all activated during the wet weather but are now inactive.

The North, South, and Owasco Interceptor were all at capacity but as of 2:30 pm flows have begun to recede.  
Storage and Release Facility – pump failures and electrical issues required staff to run the facility in hand – trying to best optimize flow thru the facility and the South Interceptor during the day.  
All small streams and brooks were at record capacity today. Cranebrook overflowed its banks completely surrounding Xylem’s facility, forcing evacuation and closure of the business for the day.

Genesee Street Water Main Work:  
Water Department is planning to continue and complete this work tomorrow. Once the water main is repaired, we will do our best to complete the blacktop restoration as well.

**B. Reports from members of Council - none**

**Matters to Come Before Council**

**A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)**

**B. Ordinances – none**

**C. Local Laws – none**

**D. Resolutions –**

**FINANCIAL RESOLUTION #98 OF 2021**

**AUTHORIZING VARIOUS OPERATING AND  
CAPITAL BUDGET TRANSFERS**

By Councilor McCormick

August 19, 2021

**WHEREAS**, the City of Auburn staff is requesting various operating and non-operating budget transfers for the fiscal 2021-2022 year as outlined in attachment A; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is no 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 2021-2022 fiscal year; and,
2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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	

**Attachment A: 21-22 FY****8/19/2021**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Account to</b>		<b>Account From</b>		<b>Reason</b>
\$ 250,000	HA8760.440.TREE	ARPA – Tree Program	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create 5 year Tree Program – Removal & Replanting
\$ 340,000	HA8760.440.DEMO	ARPA – Neighborhood Revitalization	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create 5 year Neighborhood Revitalization – Demolitions & Curbside Cleanups
\$ 250,000	HA8760.440.HSC	ARPA – Historical & Cultural Sites	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create 5 year Historical & Cultural Sites – \$50k Marketing & Events, \$50k Founders Day, \$50k Tubman Bicentennial, \$100k Marketing Grant Match
\$ 1,250,000	HA8760.440.DRI	ARPA – DRI Capital Match	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create 5 year DRI Capital Match – up to

City of Auburn, New York

					250k each to Willard Memorial Chapel, Schweinfurth Art Center, Cayuga Museum, Auburn Public Theater, Seward House Museum
\$ 500,000	HA8760.440.SBR	ARPA – Small Business Recovery	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create COVID related recovery funds for pandemic impacted small businesses – City Wide
\$ 1,250,000	HA8760.440.HSFP	ARPA – Human Service & Food Pantry Recovery	HA8760.440.ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act	Use ARPA funds to create COVID related recovery funds for pandemic impacted human service agencies and food pantries



**AWARD RESOLUTION #99 OF 2021  
AWARDING BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2021-2022 CHEMICALS**

By Councilor Cuddy

August 19, 2021

**WHEREAS**, every twelve months the City advertises for bids for the purchase of chemicals to be used on an as-needed basis at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Water Filtration Plant and at Casey Park Pool; and,

**WHEREAS**, on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, bids were opened for the purchase of 2021-2022 Chemicals and the bids set forth in the document attached hereto were received; and,

**WHEREAS**, City staff have reviewed the bids and recommend awarding the 2021-2022 Chemical bids as follows:

**Amrex Chemicals of Binghamton, New York:**

- Item 2 -       Alt. 5 - Sodium Hypochlorite 5-15 gal. carboys (WFP)  
\$ 10.00/5-gal & \$ 30.00/15-gal
- Item 2 -       Alt. 7 – Sodium Hypochlorite 5-15 gal. carboys (Casey Park)  
\$ 10.00/5-gal & \$ 30.00/15-gal
- Item 6 -       Sodium Bisulfite 2,000-gallon tanker (WWTP)  
\$ 3,300.00/tanker
- Item 6 -       Sodium Bisulfite 500-gal. truck (WWTP)  
\$ 925.00/truck

**Bison Laboratories of Buffalo, New York:**

- Item 2 -       Alt. 1 - Sodium Hypochlorite 4000-gal. tanker (WWTP)  
\$ 3,160.00/tanker
- Item 2 -       Alt. 2 - Sodium Hypochlorite 2000-gal. tanker (WWTP)  
\$ 1,900.00/tanker
- Item 2 -       Alt. 3 – Sodium Hypochlorite 500-gal. truck (WWTP)  
\$ 625.00/truck
- Item 2 -       Alt. 4 - Sodium Hypochlorite 5000-gal. tanker (WFP)  
\$ 3,900.00/tanker
- Item 2 -       Alt. 6 – Sodium Hypochlorite 1,000-gal. tanker (Casey Park)  
\$ 1,250.00/tanker

**Cabot Norit Americas Inc. of Marshall, Texas:**

City of Auburn, New York

Item 7 - Powdered Activated Carbon 14,400 lbs. min (16 Pallets) (WFP)  
\$ 18,000.00/shipment

Item 7 - Powdered Activated Carbon 21,600 lbs. min. (24 Pallets) (WFP)  
\$ 24,192.00/shipment

**CDI Chemical Distributors Inc. of Buffalo, New York:**

Item 8 - Ferric Chloride 275-gallon tote (WWTP)  
\$ 775.00/tote

**Holland Co. of Adams, Massachusetts:**

Item 3 - Poly-Aluminum Chloride 55-gal. drum (WFP)  
\$ 375.00/drum

Item 3 - Poly-Aluminum Chloride 5000-gal. tanker (WFP)  
\$ 9,250.00/tanker

**Polydyne Inc. of Riceboro, Georgia:**

Item 5 - Sludge Conditioner (Liquid) 55-gal. drum (WWTP)  
\$ 603.00/drum

**Slack Chemical Co., Inc. of Carthage, New York:**

Item 1 - Sodium Hydroxide 55-gal drum (WWTP)  
\$ 199.32/drum + \$45 deposit

**Thatcher Co. of New York of Salt Lake City, Utah:**

Item 4 - Aluminum Sulfate 4000-gal. tanker (WWTP)  
\$ 4,260.00/tanker

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Auburn City Council does hereby award bids for the purchase of the 2021-2022 chemicals to be used by the City as follows:

**Amrex Chemicals of Binghamton, New York:**

Item 2 - Alt. 5 - Sodium Hypochlorite 5-15 gal. carboys (WFP)  
\$ 10.00/5-gal & \$ 30.00/15-gal

Item 2 - Alt. 7 – Sodium Hypochlorite 5-15 gal. carboys (Casey Park)  
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City of Auburn, New York

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\$ 1,900.00/tanker

Item 2 - Alt. 3 – Sodium Hypochlorite 500-gal. truck (WWTP)  
\$ 625.00/truck

Item 2 - Alt. 4 - Sodium Hypochlorite 5000-gal. tanker (WFP)  
\$ 3,900.00/tanker

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\$ 4,260.00/tanker

and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of the Resolution is paid under department budget accounts as appropriate and the above pricing is valid for a period of 12 months, with the option to extend pricing for up to three one-year periods. A price adjustment factor, Consumer Price Index from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, shall be used for each 1 year extension.

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	

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION #100 OF 2021**

**AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT  
PROCEEDINGS, KEY BANK, N.A. v. BOARD OF  
ASSESSMENT REVIEW OF THE CITY OF AUBURN ET AL., CONCERNING TWO PARCELS OF  
REAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF AUBURN**

By Councilor Locastro

August 19, 2021

**WHEREAS**, In 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Key Bank, N.A.. and its predecessor-in-interest, First Niagara Bank, commenced proceedings challenging the property tax assessment for separate parcels of real property located along Genesee Street and Grant Avenue, in the City of Auburn, Auburn City School District, Cayuga County; and

**WHEREAS**, the properties disputed are commonly known as 115 Genesee Street and 268 Grant Avenue and designated as the “Downtown Branch” and “Grant Avenue Drive-Thru respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the Downtown Branch is located along the north side of Genesee Street between North Street and State Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grant Avenue Drive-Thru is located along the east side of Grant Avenue at the intersection of Grant Avenue and Brookside Drive; and

**WHEREAS**, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nathan J. Garland Esq., appeared in the foregoing proceedings on behalf of the City of Auburn and Rebecca Speno, Esq. appeared and intervened in these proceedings on behalf of Cayuga County; and, attorney Katherine E. Gavett, Esq., appeared and intervened in these proceedings on behalf of the Auburn Enlarged City School District; and

**WHEREAS**, after extensive settlement negotiations, the Parties and their attorneys have agreed that a settlement as outlined in the attached proposed Stipulation of Settlement and Judicial Order would be in the best interests of all parties and would avoid further litigation expense; and

**WHEREAS**, the Auburn City School District Board of Education and the Cayuga County legislature have already approved, or will soon approve the proposed settlement as outlined in the attached; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Auburn City Council does hereby authorize Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nathan J. Garland to execute the attached Stipulation of Settlement and Judicial Order, wherein (1) tax assessment of the properties in dispute shall be adjusted as set forth therein, and (2) refunds shall issue in the amount set forth therein.

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		

**E. Staff Presentations –**

**TABLED ITEMS - none**

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

Councilor Giannettino stated that Jennifer Haines mentioned that they'll be looking for some feedback from Council on how to distribute some of the funding for businesses and not for profits. He asks that during that process, and we kind of already have a framework in place from previous COVID funding programs, if we could ask any organization or business to give us full disclosure of any previous funding that they've received, not only from the city, but from the federal government as well.

Councilor Cuddy stated that he was looking for the City Manager to bring other items from the City Council's American Rescue Plan funding list before the Council such as programs pertaining to housing and watershed protection of Owasco Lake. He also asked that the City look into renovation/expansion of the locker rooms for City employees at the landfill because he has heard feedback that the facility needs an upgrade.

**ADJOURNMENT:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk