

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 9, 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 Councilor McCormick.

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

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForest
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Talbot
- Police Chief, 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 – none

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –

Mayor Quill and Chief Slayton provided a swearing in ceremony for recent promotions at Auburn Police Department. Congratulations on your promotions Lt. David Walters and Sgt. Michael Merkley.

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

Maryl Mendillo, resident of Aurora. Ms. Mendillo stated she is a former resident of the City, she spoke regarding her concerns with the City selling property on John Walsh Boulevard. She handed in her written comments to the Council along with written comments from local resident Dominic Gambaiani.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager’s Report

- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for the replacement of HVAC equipment and a boiler at the DPW garage. Bids are due back Sept. 21.
- The City of Auburn is currently accepting proposals for the provision of Ambulance Billing Services. Responses are due Sept. 22.

B. Reports from members of Council

- Councilor McCormick reported on a meeting she attended at the Benton Street Playground with the neighbors from the Orchard Avenue area.

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #102 of 2021

**ASKING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO REVIEW THE STATE’S CRITERIA AND DEADLINE
CONCERNING THE OWASCO LAKE COMMUNITY CONSENSUS UPDATED
WATERSHED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Sponsored by Councilor Cuddy

September 9, 2021

WHEREAS, Owasco Lake is a critical source of public water supply for the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco, and approximately forty-five thousand water users within Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, scientific research has shown that water quality of Owasco Lake is directly impacted by its watershed, which includes the lake, its tributaries, and all watercourses tributary thereto, and comprises approximately 205-square miles over Cayuga, Onondaga and Tompkins counties; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Rules and Regulations were initially adopted in 1984, whereby local and state officials recognized the importance of a bottom-up environmental management approach, with the goal of enhancing the protection and preservation of water quality in Owasco Lake; and

WHEREAS, over a three year period prior to December 2020, the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco facilitated community leadership to embark upon a robust public process led by Cayuga County, in a coordinated effort to create the science-driven revised draft of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, with the ultimate goal of community consensus; and

WHEREAS, full transparency and inclusion were paramount at every step of the community consensus updated Watershed Rules and Regulations, resulting in a cooperative document developed by watershed residents, farmers, businesses, and stakeholders throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed, and the final update of the Watershed Rules and Regulations was sent to the NYS Department of Health in December of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the greatest current threat to Owasco Lake water quality are the annual occurrences of toxic algae blooms referred to as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), the first observed bloom of this year documented on August 5, 2021, the first occurrence of toxins detected in the raw water supply on August 16, 2021, and the highest concentration ever measured in the raw water on August 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, local and regional experts recommend that water managers prioritize the reduction of nutrient transport from watersheds to reduce the occurrence of HABs in lake systems; and

WHEREAS, provisions set forth within the community consensus updated Watershed Rules and Regulations are well-recognized within, and recommended by, the local and broader scientific community to reduce nutrient loading to lake systems that are dominated by non-point source nutrient (watershed) nutrient loading; and

WHEREAS, the community consensus updated Watershed Rules and Regulations are science based, enhancing well-known environmental standards developed by New York State and Federal government; and

WHEREAS, the community consensus updated Watershed Rules and Regulations incorporate many of the short- and long-term priority action items outlined by the New York State Department of Health, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and NYS Agriculture and Markets within the HABs Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, in a public email delivered by the NYSDOH on August 2, 2021, NYSDOH leadership recognized the importance and precedent set by the Owasco Lake watershed community's undertaking of the Watershed Rules and Regulations update and concurrent Nine Element Watershed and Source Water Protection Planning projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is committed to completing the Watershed Rules and Regulations update process to protect public health and, thereby, advance source water protection for the benefit of safe public drinking water; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is concerned with the process and evaluation criteria used by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Water Supply Protection for the timely adoption of the community consensus Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and has been waiting for final response since the rules were submitted to the State in December of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn respectfully asks Governor Kathy Hochul to review and respond to the City's recommendations for the State review process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby require the following actions incumbent upon New York State as part of its review process:

- 1) Transparency: The State's review process should be an open and transparent process, similar to how the proposed rules and regulations were developed locally.
- 2) Inclusion: Representation from our municipalities shall be offered participation during the four-agency state review meetings.
- 3) Timeline: A clear timeline for internal New York State review shall be provided with milestone progress updates with an ultimate deadline by April 1, 2022; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council respectfully asks Governor Kathy Hochul to review and respond to the City's recommendations for the State review process; and

BE IT RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the NYS Commissioner of Health, The NYS Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and markets, the Secretary of the NYS Department of State and all of our State representatives.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

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

APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION #104 OF 2020

FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS

By Councilor Cuddy

September 9, 2021

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council appoints individuals as Commissioners of Deeds in order to authorize them to take affidavits, depositions and acknowledgments for use in the City, which gives them powers similar to that of a Notary Public; and

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WHEREAS, the law for appointment of Commissioners of Deeds is set forth in New York State Executive Law, Section 139, and the Auburn City Code, Section 62-1, which provide that the City Council shall appoint Commissioners of Deeds for a designated term; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2020, the City Council passed Appointment Resolution #121 of 2020, which stated that a total of 50 Commissioner of Deeds appointments would be allotted during the years 2021-2022; and

WHEREAS, the following individuals have filed applications with the Office of City Clerk for City Council consideration to be appointed Commissioner of Deeds:

1. Kimberly Dawn Patch

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auburn City Council does hereby appoint as Commissioners of Deeds, pursuant to the authority provided by New York State Executive Law, Section 139, the following individuals:

1. Kimberly Dawn Patch

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the foregoing appointment shall be effective immediately and shall continue until December 31, 2022.

Seconded by Councilor McCormick

	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 –

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

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk