

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 13, 2020 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 6:00PM in the City Council Chambers 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Quill.

**1. Roll Call** – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Michael D. Quill and Councilors Debra McCormick, Jimmy Giannettino, Terry Cuddy and Tim Locastro were all present.

**The following City Staff was present for the regular meeting:**

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Joe Morabito
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Engineering Department, Ken Tanner
- Engineering Department, Scott McIntyre
- Assistant Fire Chief, Matt Quill

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** – Mayor Quill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection** – Mayor Quill asked for a moment of silent prayer.

**4. Public Announcements** –

- The City of Auburn and the Cayuga Economic Development Agency are working together to host a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Training and Networking event for the 12 Project Sponsors that were awarded NYS DRI funds last year. This event is scheduled for Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 3:30pm to 6pm at the student lounge at Cayuga Community College, 197 Franklin Street, Auburn, NY. Complete information is listed on the City website.

- The City of Auburn Office of Parks and recreation along with the REV Theater Company have announced the next Free Winter Movie night will be on Friday, February 28, 2020 featuring the movie Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse. This event is free and will be held at the West End Theater, located at 217 Genesee St (formerly West Middle School auditorium) on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, doors open at 5:30pm and the movie begins at 6:30pm.
- The community is invited to find out more about Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and other water quality issues affecting our Owasco Lake at the... “Bob Brower Scientific Symposium regarding the Owasco Lake Watershed” March 7, 2020, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. to be held at the Main Stage at Auburn Public Theater, 8 Exchange Street, Auburn, NY. This event is free and open to the public. Complete information is listed on the City website.
- Harriet Tubman Weekend will be held in Auburn with a series of events to be held March 6 – 8, 2020 at the City’s historic and cultural sites. The community is invited to a kick-off ceremony for the weekend to be held at the Equal Rights Heritage Center on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Complete information is on the City website.

#### **5. Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations.**

Mayor Quill introduced Fire Chief Joe Morabito for remarks upon his retirement following 29 years of service with the Auburn Fire Department. Chief Morabito spoke to thank the many people that he has served with over the years.

#### **6. Public to be Heard –** Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules.

Sean Corcoran, president of the local Auburn Firefighters Union spoke to wish Chief Joe Morabito well in his retirement and to thank him for his many years of service to the department.

#### **7. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

January 23, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the January 23, 2020 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Motion to approve carried 4-0. Mayor Quill voted present.

#### **8. Reports of City Officials**

##### **A. City Manager’s Report**

- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for the replacement of the State St. Bridge near Curley’s Restaurant. Bids are due back March 3 and more information is available on the city webpage under the tab “Bids/RFPs”.
- The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for GIS Services. Bids are due back March 6 and more information is available on the city webpage under the tab “Bids/RFPs.”
- Next week the Comptroller, Assistant Comptroller, and I will begin meeting with individual department heads to review their budget proposals and develop the first draft of the next city budget.

**B. Reports from members of Council**

- Councilor McCormick reported on attending the 2020 Winter Legislative Conference hosted by the New York Conference of Mayors and other Municipal Officials (NYCOM) held in Albany, NY. There were several workshops that she attended and also met with Assemblyman Finch and Senator Helming.

**9. Matters to Come Before Council**

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

**B. Ordinances – none**

**C. Local Laws – none**

**D. Resolutions - none**

**Tabled Items - none**

**STAFF/VENDOR PRESENTATIONS**

**2020 Road Improvement Program**

Scott McIntyre from the Engineering Department presented on the 2020 Road Program. The program will be sent to bid early in the year so that at the request of City Council the work can happen earlier in the construction season.

**Biosolids Dryer Improvement Project; Design Phase**

Seth Jensen, Director of Municipal Utilities presented along with a team of consultants from the City's contractor Brown and Caldwell on the project. The 2020-2024 Capital Improvement Program lists the project description as follows: Biosolids management is the largest operating budget item for the Auburn WWTP. The City currently produces 7600 tons of unstabilized sludge each year. All sludge is currently landfilled, 1/3 disposed at the Auburn landfill while the remaining 2/3 of material is hauled off site to either the Ontario Landfill or the Modern Landfill. With the Auburn landfill closing in 2020, and rising contract pricing for disposal of sludge, there is a great need for Auburn to reduce the volume of biosolids and create a material of higher quality and lower environmental hazard.

The biosolids dryer improvement project will couple sludge digestion and sludge drying to produce a class A biosolid and reduce the weight of disposable material by over 75%. It is anticipated the annual sludge removal budget will reduce from \$600,000 annually to approximately \$75,000 for removal of biosolids. In addition to the direct annual savings associated with this project, the current failing biosolids processing equipment will be upgraded. Incorporation of a digester will also open up future opportunities for the WWTP facility and methane generated from this added process will be incorporated into the fuel demand for drying the sludge.

The current working conditions for WWTP staff (14 full time operators, attendants, and mechanics) will be greatly improved as the existing operations and mechanics office is currently

located in the solids handling building. Indoor air quality, poor heating and ventilation, coupled with low light conditions will be eliminated by construction of a new biosolids handling facility. In addition to the new dryer and digester, the existing trickling filters at the WWTP will be upgraded to provide 6 months of dry storage for the biosolid material. Providing adequate storage for biosolids material will also reduce the cost of material removal.

Finally, the existing solids handling building will be re-purposed into a mechanics workshop and provide adequate dry, temperature controlled storage for pumps, and spare parts for the facility. This will require removal of the decommissioned sludge incinerator and rehabilitation of the current building.

Summary and Next Steps:

- Auburn has significant market exposure risk to sludge disposal costs
- Investment in a capital project significantly reduces operational costs and market risks
- City adopted CIP that supports funding for recommended option (Alt. 4) on February 6, 2020
- Sewer Bond Ordinance will be forthcoming to finance engineering design of this project
- Anticipated first reading for the bond ordinance is February 27, 2020
- Anticipated Bond Approval by Council is March 5, 2020
- Proposed Schedule: Design – Spring 2020 – Spring 2021; Bidding/Award – Spring 2021 – Summer 2021; Construction – Fall 2021 – Fall 2023

## 10. Other Business –

Councilor Giannettino asked that resolutions be prepared for City Council consideration that address AIM funding, Arterial Highway Maintenance Reimbursement funding, CHIPS funding, PAVE NY/BRIDGE NY funding and Extreme Winter Recovery program funding, as well as asking the State to address Criminal Justice Reforms.

Executive Session. Councilor McCormick made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Council voted to enter an executive session at 6:44 p.m. regarding 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.)

Executive session adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m..

Minutes submitted to the City Council on February 27, 2020 by:

Charles Mason  
City Clerk