

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2022 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 Ginny Kent, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro were all present.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Police Chief, James Slayton
- City Engineer, William Lupien
- Director of Planning and Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- Senior Planner, Tiffany Beebee

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 –

Public to be heard: Mayor Quill asked the Clerk to read the public to be heard rules. No speakers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

January 27, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the January 20, 2022 minutes by Councilor Kent, seconded by Councilor Locastro.

Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report –

- Provided an update on the most recent, February 16, 2022 Nuisance Abatement Committee meeting along with an update on recent action taken with the property known as the Grant Avenue Motel.

Reports from members of Council

Councilor Cuddy: Yes, thank you, Mayor. So last night, we had an AIDA meeting and Roger Beer who had served on the board for the last few years, served as our treasurer, and as I said last night, it was a pleasure serving with him on that board. We have seen a lot of activity over the last few years. A lot of growth over the last few years and he served as our treasurer having experience as a CPA, and he served the board very well and served the people above him very well and we thank him for that. I also am very pleased that we are voting on his successor tonight Lisa Green, former comptroller here at Auburn and and currently serving Auburn School District as their comptroller. So I think AIDA will continue to have the kind of financial oversight and accountability that we have had over the last few years and I look forward to working with Lisa Green on this board.

Councilor Kent: Just report briefly on my weekend. Actually, I went to Albany to the NYCOM conference and I just wanted to mention the three big topics were the Superbowl, budget and cannabis. Actually, Super Bowl wasn't a topic because the Bills weren't in it. So, nobody really wanted to. But just want to mention that they did present the report on their summary of the budget and just as we've mentioned here that the governor's executive budget includes an investment she's interested in making in our infrastructure, putting it in the budget right away and not asking municipalities to go out and reinvent the wheel every year and put it through the other houses. \$500 million increase for drinking water, wastewater, more investment in the Environmental Protection Fund, the Clean Air Bond Act and so forth. A lot of funding and I think we've touched on that here. So, there was a lot of conversation about that. One thing that they didn't like was that the governor would like to impose on municipalities that we need to provide the opportunity for owners to build an ADU, an Accessory Dwelling Unit. We already have it, we already have zoning for it. It's already on the books. But there are a lot of cities there that are like, what if we don't want it? Well, it's mandated. It's they're proposing to mandate it. And it's to help alleviate the costs, you know, in-law apartments, you know, you've got a grown child that doesn't want to live in the house, but they can't afford to buy a house. So, that was discussed a lot. That was just interesting, interesting learning curve for me. But the main thing, people want to talk about is cannabis, and we talked about it last week here, the conversations we're having right now, are similar to what I heard there. So, we had a representative from that Council give a presentation, and talked a lot about locations, as you mentioned, Council last week with Mr. Selvek. But also took us through some of the details. I mean, one of the takeaways I had was the way they tax, it has to do with potency. The State really wants to encourage people to get the lighter potency products, so they're going to be less expensive. But people are very concerned about what you can have in your community, the distances and that is going to be that guidance is going to be given to us by the state because they said we don't

want to have one to five retail shops, and then there's nobody growing it, you know, they have to try drop it in from someplace so and the other thing is, you know, you get a town like Lake Placid that has people coming in from everywhere during seasonal periods, they don't have the capacity to manage this and I felt like we were in a pretty good position when I heard what some of these other communities, villages and towns are going through. So anyway, a lot of conversation about that. I did receive materials if Council wants I'll be happy to share with anyone else.

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) - none

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #23 of 2022

**APPROVING SUBMISSION OF THE 2020 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT FOR
THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

By Councilor Cuddy

February 17, 2022

WHEREAS, The City of Auburn is an Entitlement Community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and is required to submit a Five Year Consolidated Plan with an annual statement of objectives and uses of the CDBG Entitlement Program funds; and

WHEREAS, The City of Auburn has prepared the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment outlining the community development activities, objectives, and budget for the use of the CDBG CV stimulus grant; and

WHEREAS, The City of Auburn published a Notice of Annual Action Plan Amendment on February 6, 2022 to start the local comment period and held a public hearing in Council Chambers on February 11, 2022 during this period; and

WHEREAS, all comments received, including those made at the public hearing, will be included as part of the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York:

1. That the 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment is hereby approved; and

2. That the Mayor, or his designee, is hereby authorized to submit the amended 2020 Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and to sign the Application for Federal Assistance together with any and all documents necessary to carry out this resolution; and
3. That the City Comptroller's Office is hereby authorized to recognize grant revenue and appropriate funding into the correct departmental budget.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

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

APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION #24 OF 2022

CONFIRMING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE AUBURN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

By Councilor Cuddy

February 17, 2022

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title 15, Section 2304 of the New York State Public Authorities Law, the Mayor recommends appointments to the Auburn Industrial Development Authority (AIDA) with said appointment to be approved by City Council; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with said Public Authorities Law, AIDA Board membership must include specific fields representing labor, business, industry and education, two of the members shall be members of the common council of the City, and three of the members are at large board members; and

WHEREAS, there has been one resignation from the AIDA board, from a member that served in an at large board position; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is recommending for appointment to this vacated position Ms. Lisa Green, residing in the City of Auburn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auburn City Council confirms the appointment of Lisa Green residing in the City of Auburn, NY to the Auburn Industrial Development Authority Board for a term to commence immediately and last through January 15, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor Kent	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 – none

Second public to be heard:

Zach Cuipyo, 65 South Street. Thank you for your information earlier on the smoke shops around the city. I'm concerned that we're building our local economy around substance use, if not substance overuse and substance abuse. Might I remind you that Nic's Ride was recently moved from downtown and the location has been replaced by what may be called a smoke shop. Now walking across from a local counseling center, which helps people with their addiction. I see another smoke shop going in catty corner to the police office. It makes me think that it will be safer from robberies. But also that as legal marijuana reaches prominence, we are becoming too dependent around breweries and around medicinal marijuana downtown. Furthermore, I think if there was retroactive legislation, it could spike these businesses and leave more vacant spots without sustainable business to replace them. As our healthcare industry is stressed under the weight of COVID-19, a still very real issue. Substance abuse could detract from their ability to properly care for every city and for every city residents. Again, the dependence on this as business and the dependence on this as a drug is a very real concern to the city. And I encourage the Council to take any necessary measures to regulate it within their power. Thank you.

Executive Session:

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

- One matter pertaining to the employment history of a particular individual

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The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 5:34 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk