

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 28, 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 Councilor Cuddy.

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

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Director of Planning and Economic Development, Jenny Haines
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Director of Operations for Auburn City Ambulance, Kezia Sullivan
- City Engineer, William Lupien
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Talbot
- Director of Code Enforcement, Brian Hicks
- Code Enforcement Officer, Geno Franczek
- Finance Office Clerk, Karen Franczek
- Recycling and Refuse Enforcement Officer, Jeremy Hutson

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, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 150th anniversary of the tree planter's holiday, Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy, spiritual renewal, and beautify the community; and

WHEREAS, trees express the order of the nature, and show us all the strength of diversity, and the advantages of interdependency in adapting to a changing world; and

WHEREAS, trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, and; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, and fuel for our fires; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Auburn has been designated a Tree City USA for more than 20 years; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and the Citizens of Auburn, do hereby do hereby proclaim April 29, 2022 as

ARBOR DAY

in the City of Auburn, and we encourage our citizens and visitors to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our city's community forestry program. Furthermore, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Twenty-Eighth day of April 2022.

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

WHEREAS: The First Workers Memorial Day was observed in 1989; and

WHEREAS: The date was chosen to honor the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and to correspond with a day of a similar remembrance in Canada; and

WHEREAS: Trade unionists around the world now mark April 28th as an International Day of Mourning; and

WHEREAS: Every year tens of thousands of American workers are killed by workplace injuries and occupational disease; and

WHEREAS: Tens of thousands more are permanently disabled; while millions are injured or made ill; and

WHEREAS: This year's theme is: *"Make occupational health and safety a fundamental right at work."* During this national crisis, it is even more important that we stand together against the ongoing attacks on workers' rights and protections. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated beyond doubt that working people can't wait for this any longer. Workplace deaths are preventable deaths and the latest figures show that a worker dies at least once every ten seconds. Every worker has the right to a safe workplace.

WHEREAS: Concerned Americans are determined to prevent these tragedies by:

1. Observing Workers Memorial Day on April 28, as a day to remember these victims of workplace injuries and disease;
2. Renewing our efforts to seek stronger safety and health protections, better standards and enforcement, and fair and just compensation; and
3. Rededicating ourselves to improving safety and health in every American workplace; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and the working Men and Women of Auburn do hereby proclaim **April 28th** as

Workers Memorial Day

giving recognition to the workers killed, injured and disabled on the job and encourage the continuing improvement in the workplace to prevent further tragedies.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Twenty-Eighth day of April 2022.

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

Public to be heard: Mayor Quill asked the Clerk to read the public to be heard rules.

Ed from Waterloo, NY spoke about the proposed law he is advocating in New York to stop abuse in nursing homes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – none

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report –

- Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) applications for small business recovery funds are available on the City of Auburn webpage. Eligible expense categories include grants to mitigate financial hardship, rehabilitation of commercial properties or other improvements, business incubators, and start up or expansion assistance, and enhanced support to microbusinesses. There is a maximum of \$40,000 per applicant and applications are due April 30. The application process is on-line only. If potential applicants have questions or need assistance, they should contact Julia Foster, Small Business Development Specialist for CEDA, 315-252-3500 x232, jfoster@cayugaeda.org at the Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA). As of today we have received 18 completed applications, 14 applications submitted for review and there are 39 in draft. The City prepared a Frequently Asked Questions list that is posted on the webpage.
- The City is accepting bids for the Revolving Loan Sidewalk Program; responses are due May 9. More details on these Bids and RFPs is available on the City webpage under the tab “Bids/RFPs.”
- Work on the East Genesee St hill on manhole replacements, will begin May 2 and last for about two weeks. Our Planning, Engineering, and Municipal Utility Departments are coordinating communication will impacted businesses and building owners.
- While not yet an official notification of funding, we did hear this week we will be receiving the following NYS appropriations for street and road work from the new state budget: CHIPS funding \$755,091; Extreme Winter Recovery \$141,678; PAVE NY \$210,027; Pave Our Potholes Program \$140,018; and NYS Touring Routes \$1,540,275. Next week we will have a resolution before Council for our basic annual road program contract. Staff will be preparing a list of other projects to potentially utilize the additional funding and input from Council is welcome.
- NYS DHSES has announced the availability of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for projects related to Presidential Declaration Disasters 4480 and 4625. As an impacted community of those events and due to our participation in the Cayuga County Hazard Mitigation Planning process, the city of Auburn is eligible to apply for federal funding for several local projects. Staff is recommending applications for funding be submitted for the following previously identified projects: Sewer Separation Project (already under design with construction estimates). Canoga Street Bridge reconstruction (constructed in 1930 and is an area of flow restriction). Burgess St. Culvert at Woodbrook. Council's approval in the form of resolutions will be requested mid to late May with an application deadline of June 1.

Reports from members of Council

Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions – none

E. Staff Presentations –

- Solid Waste Fee Update by Mike Talbot, Department of Public Works
- Final Balanced Budget Based on Council Input and Revised Revenue Estimates presented by City Comptroller Rachel Jacobs
- March 2022 Bar Graph Reports by Jeff Dygert, City Manager
- Auburn Community Cats – Trap, Neuter, Release – presentation by Clair Lovell

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

- Councilor Cuddy asked Council to include \$5,000 in the City Budget for Auburn Community Cats. Council agreed.
- Councilor Giannettino announced that there has been news of a new director being hired for the Cayuga County Economic Development Agency (CEDA). He would like to ask for an update on City projects involving CEDA.

Second Public to be Heard:

- Karen Walter from Case Avenue spoke about cat ordinance and matters pertaining to the cat proposals.
- Walt Aikman of Liberty Street spoke about trees and cat proposals.
- Susan Secaur from Union Springs, NY spoke about cat proposals.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk