

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 2, 2023 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 and Councilor Ginny Kent, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Tim Locastro and Councilor Terry Cuddy were present.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- Police Chief, James Slayton
- Director of Planning & Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Talbot
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz

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 –

Public notice from the Cayuga County Health Department:

Lead is a toxic metal that when disturbed can cause harmful effects, especially in children. Cayuga County has many older homes. This means there is a chance that your children may have been exposed to lead through lead paint, soil or other household sources.

If you reside in an older home or apartment, are pregnant and/or have children under 7 years old, you are eligible for a FREE home lead risk assessment. During an assessment, we will test chipping and peeling paint for lead and teach you how to protect yourself and your children from being exposed to lead.

Any household that schedules an assessment in the month of January will be entered in a drawing to win a HEPA vacuum and other household cleaning supplies!

Call the Cayuga County Health Department today to schedule your free home lead risk assessment. (315) 253-1560

The City Clerk read a letter from NYS Senator Rachel May that she wrote to the NYS Department of Health Commissioner regarding the stalled process of state approval of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations. (see attached)

Ceremonial Presentations –

WHEREAS, the Black experience throughout history is an enduring foundation upon which the Black community is built and stands, and the struggle and challenges overcome by African Americans throughout the centuries are inspiring to all Americans and reminders of the principles we share as a society; and

WHEREAS, Black History Week was initiated in February 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen so as to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by African Americans in the United States, and

WHEREAS, in 1976, as part of the nation’s bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America; and

WHEREAS, the theme for 2023, “*Black Resistance*” explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms since the nation's earliest days. Black resistance strategies have served as a model for every other social movement in the country, therefore, the legacy and importance of these actions cannot be understated; and

WHEREAS, As the-late Congressman John Lewis advised, “Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”; and

WHEREAS, as we take this opportunity to study the accomplishments of all African Americans throughout history, we reflect on the role of the Black community in our nation’s past, present, and future; to enrich our understanding of the history of Black America is to broaden our understanding of our nation’s history, and, during Black History Month, with appreciation for their contributions to all areas of American life and culture; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 thanks to the leadership of Ms. Pauline Copes Johnson, the City of Auburn will denote the story of the work of Mrs. Frances Brown who served as matron of the Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged and Indigent Negroes and John Brown Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael D Quill, Mayor, do hereby proclaim February 2022 as the 46th year of

Black History Month

in the City of Auburn and urge all citizens to celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful and prosperous for all.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Second day of February 2023.

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

WHEREAS, Parent Partnership is a critical and effective way to help families identify and build upon their strengths for themselves and their families and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, authentic Parent Partnership occurs when parents have the opportunity to partner with others and present a "parent perspective and lens" to inform policies and programs that support the growth of protective factors leading to strong families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, as a national prevention organization, supports, encourages and acknowledges partnerships between parents and community stakeholders, leaders, and policy makers as critical to developing strong communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Parent Partnership can help with building strengths-based communities that thrive based on protective factors; and

WHEREAS, Parent Partnership is successfully achieved when parents are partners in the planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation of policies, practices, and programs that affect families and communities by receiving support and training and having multiple opportunities to share their expertise; and

WHEREAS, parents each year are partnering with others so together they can build stronger, safer communities where all children can thrive; and

WHEREAS, parents can have a powerful impact by sharing their lived expertise and they will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of families across our nation and world; and

WHEREAS, many organizations across the community and state support and provide such partnership opportunities for parents; and

WHEREAS, National Parent Leadership Month is an opportunity to recognize, honor, and celebrate these parents. They have a vital role in their local community, state and nation and across the world;

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 declare February as

NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH

and we encourage our citizens and visitors to acknowledging their wisdom and contributions and show appreciation for Parent Leaders.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Second day of February 2023.

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

Public to be heard – none

Approval of Meeting Minutes – none

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report –

- The City has finally received approval of three of four reimbursement applications from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in regards to expenses incurred during the first months of the COVID pandemic. This has been a long time in coming with significant amounts of staff time be designated to the FEMA reimbursement application process.
- Chief Slayton updated the Council on a partnership between APD and the US Marshal Service regarding sex offender registry. The detail was a success and the expense was reimbursed by the US Marshall Service. The detailed involved eight APD police officers over a five day period of time.

Reports from members of Council –

- Councilor Giannettino thanked the City manager for the update on FEMA reimbursement of COVID pandemic expenses. He stated that staff from U.S. Senator Schumer's office were also involved in assisting City staff and recognized all the City staff for their work on this matter.

Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

APPOINTMENT RESOLUTION #18 OF 2023

**CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS TO THE
AUBURN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

By Councilor Giannettino

February 2, 2023

Auburn City Council Meeting, February 2, 2023

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title 15, Section 2304 of the New York State Public Authorities Law, the Mayor hereby recommends confirmation of a Chairman and eight (8) members to be appointed to the Auburn Industrial Development Authority; and

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

WHEREAS, the City Council Member positions will be served by Councilor Jimmy Giannettino and Councilor Terry Cuddy as representatives for the duration of their respective elected terms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Auburn City Council confirms the appointment of the following persons to the Auburn Industrial Development Authority Board for a term of three (3) years, which term is set to expire on January 31, 2026:

At-Large Member:	Katie MacIntyre
At-Large Member:	Lisa Green
At-Large Member:	Gwen Webber-McLeod
Member of Labor:	William Andre
Member of Business:	James Dacey
School Board Member:	Dan Lovell, Member, Board of Education, Auburn School District

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that James Dacey is to be appointed to serve as the Chairperson of the Auburn Industrial Development Authority Board for a term effective immediately and lasting through December 31, 2023; and

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

Seconded by Councilor Cuddy

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #19 OF 2023

**AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A
COMPREHENSIVE TREE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AUBURN**

By Councilor Cuddy

February 2, 2023

WHEREAS, Chapter 277, Section 2, of the Auburn City Code, entitled “Trees,” requires that the City adopt an official written plan “for the inventory, care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas;” and,

WHEREAS, the City Department of Engineering Services secured a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forestry program, which funds the preparation of an inventory and management plan for trees in the City’s streets and parks; and,

WHEREAS, on August 11, 2022, the Auburn City Council reviewed the “Community Forest Management Plan for Auburn, NY;” and,

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation gave approval of the October 31, 2022 “Community Forest Management Plan for Auburn, NY.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Auburn that the City hereby adopts the October 31, 2022 “Community Forest Management Plan for Auburn, NY” as “the official comprehensive tree plan for the City of Auburn.”

Seconded by Councilor Kent

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

E. Staff or Vendor Presentations – none

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Councilor Kent thanked the City Clerk for adding to the city website information from the NYS Department of Public Service Public Notice regarding Virtual and In-Person Public Forums Set Regarding NYSEG Billing Errors. ALBANY — The New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) and the DPS Consumer Advocate, will hold a virtual public forum on Tuesday, January 31, and in-person public forums on Wednesday, February 1, Tuesday, February 7, and Wednesday, February 8, 2023, to receive public comments regarding alleged delayed or erroneous billing, delayed or inaccurate meter reading, and customer service problems affecting customers of New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and/or Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation (RG&E) (the companies). Comments submitted will become part of the official record for this matter.

Second Public to be Heard. None

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

- One matter made confidential due to attorney client privilege.

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 5:42 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



RACHEL MAY
SENATOR, 48TH DISTRICT

Chair
Cities 2
Legislative Commission on
Rural Resources
Committees
Aging
Agriculture
Elections
Environmental Conservation
Health
Housing, Construction and
Community Development

Albany Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 803
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(518) 455-2838

District Office
State Office Building
Room 805
333 East Washington St.
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 478-8745
may@nysenate.gov

February 1, 2023

Dr. James V. McDonald M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Acting Commissioner McDonald,

As you may be aware, the Owasco Lake watershed faces serious challenges. Though not the largest of the Finger Lakes, it punches above its weight in terms of importance. The lake provides the City of Auburn with its primary drinking water supply and its tourism and recreational value is critical to the economy and quality of life in Cayuga County. Increasing use of the lake, development in the large watershed, and global warming are creating a number of pressures on this important watershed.

For these reasons, County and local officials, experts, and volunteers have put enormous time and effort into updating best practices for watershed management. On October 29, 2020, the Auburn City Council and the Owasco Town Board voted to express their support for the adoption of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and in December 2020 the Cayuga County Health Department formally transmitted the final proposed Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations to the New York State Department of Health.

That was more than two years ago. In 2021 the response and communication from the State government about the review of the proposed changes to the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations was slow. In 2022, a State Interagency Workgroup that included local representatives had been meeting to review the proposed changes to the rules and regulations. The process was originally intended to be complete by the end of 2022, however, the State Interagency Workgroup, at the time of writing, has not met since November 4, 2022, and the current timeline for completion is undetermined.

For the last 6 years Owasco Lake was repeatedly polluted by massive HABs that closed beaches, impaired the best uses of the lake and contaminated raw water supplied from the lake with microcystins. On December 13, 2022, the Cayuga County Health Department received disinfection byproduct sample results from the City of Auburn for the fourth quarter of 2022 found the locational running annual average (LRAA) for total trihalomethanes (THMs), a group of disinfection byproducts, to be 81 parts per billion (ppb) a level

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that exceeds the standard set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency of 80 parts per billion (ppb) for this contaminant. On December 20, 2022, the Cayuga County Board of Health notified Governor Hochul of this current crisis and expressed its grave concern that NYS DOH has not yet completed their review of the proposed update to the Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations.

It is paramount that the Department and sister agencies complete the process and update the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. Protecting the Finger Lakes is a critical state issue, and this action will help protect Owasco Lake. I request that the Department of Health (1) take immediate action to expedite and finalize the approval of the proposed changes to the Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations and (2) provide me a briefing on the status of the regulations no later than February 24th. I look forward to working with you to protect this important watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel May".

Rachel May
Senator, 48th District