

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 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 Mayor Quill.

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Quill, Councilor Deb McCormick, 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
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Police Chief, James Slayton
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen

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

The next **Zoning Board of Appeals** meeting for the City of Auburn will be held on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 7 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street.

There will be no **City Council** meeting on Thanksgiving Day. Next week's City Council meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 5 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street.

The second Fall Clean-up Day at the City Transfer Station for Auburn CITY RESIDENTS ONLY, (All Rules Will Be STRICTLY ENFORCED) will be held

Date: Saturday, November 20, 2021

Hours: 7:00 am - 12:00 p.m.

Auburn City Council Meeting, November 18, 2021

Location: City of Auburn Transfer Station, 311 North Division Street
For more information or questions call: 315-252-6441
Complete info: AuburnNY.gov

The week of Monday, November 22, 2021 is Thanksgiving week and trash and recycling will be picked up one day early in the City of Auburn for residents that have a regular pick-up day between Tuesday and Thursday.

The Thanksgiving Week Schedule is as follows:

- If your pick-up day is usually Tuesday, you will be picked up on Monday, November 22
- If your pick-up day is usually Wednesday, you will be picked up on Tuesday, November 23
- If your pick-up day is usually Thursday, you will be picked up on Wednesday, November 24
- There will be no pick-up on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 25
- If your pick-up day is usually Friday there is no change, you will be picked up on Friday, November 26

Also there will be no leaf / yard waste pick up on Monday, November 22, 2021 due to the Thanksgiving holiday week.

Complete information about curbside trash and recycling pick-up for the City of Auburn may be found online at: www.AuburnNY.gov/Streamline

Downtown Auburn BID's 34th Annual Holiday Parade Instructions will be held Saturday, November 27, 2021 @ 6PM

WHERE: The parade will assemble on E. Genesee Street starting at the N. Fulton Street intersection on the north side of the street, and continue east along E. Genesee Street. The side streets will not be utilized, and many will be closed to traffic after 5:30PM. Seward Avenue will remain open, so please use this cross street for side access to Genesee Street.

WHEN: Line-up is between 5 – 5:45PM, and the parade starts @ 6PM. The Tree Lighting at City Hall will follow the parade.

East Hill Medical Center now offers RAPID asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 testing and Moderna and Janssen booster vaccination clinics.

- Testing Clinics will be Mondays through Fridays from 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Booster Clinics will be on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (excluding Holidays).

All testing and boosters will be BY APPOINTMENT ONLY and will be held on the 1st Floor of the Metcalf Plaza Building at 144 Genesee St. in downtown Auburn. Free 2 hour parking is offered on Genesee St. and in the Downtown Parking Garage on Lincoln Street. Info: <https://www.easthillmedical.com/>

CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS – none

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

My name is Monique St. John. I live at 67 South Street. Fairly new to the area, we moved here last year, April of 2020. And my issue is with the cats, feral cats. We had four of them last year I caught one of them who had babies and had them fixed and re homed put into Patty, the cat program in Moravia was ever so kind to take them. However, those four, three cats that I was left with have now turned into 20, probably more. I've trapped and fixed 10 out of pocket, I've had, Ingrid with the cat coalition took 2, had one of them, Patty in Moravia, one of them was done free through, what does that starts with a C, I can't think of that, there's a vet hospital or a vet college. I can't think of what it's called at the moment. I should have written it down. But anyway, I understand that there's funding coming up for next year that, I can't think right now. I'm sorry, my brother's going the hospital COVID. And I'm I have so much going on I shouldn't be here. But this is very important. In any way, there's a cat program, Auburn TNR. That's just starting up. And I'm really here hoping that we can get some funding to them. When the new program, the new package comes up next year. They really need the financing and I'm trying to do what I can fundraising but if the city can get involved we all would be really grateful. It's a very big problem not only here at the Kings and Queens court, but there's, Fitch, apparently there's several areas here that is way out of control, and we can't do it on our own. So, I'd really appreciate any help anybody who is willing to listen, I'm grateful. Thank you.

Approval of Meeting Minutes -

October 28, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the October 28, 2021 minutes by Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Locastro. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

November 4, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the November 4, 2021 minutes by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- Our most recent sales tax report is indicating a significant increase (about 20%) compared to last fiscal year at this point.
- Staff has been conducting monthly Nuisance Property Meetings to discuss reported problem properties throughout the city. In December we plan to present Council with an update on the new program including some data and examples the types of complaints received and some of the positive outcomes.
- During our budget discussions earlier this year Council directed staff to pilot two hour free parking downtown as a way to promote and support our downtown businesses. At the time we discussed revisiting the program to assess the impact and consider an extension or full adoption of the program. Staff is working on collecting some data, some pros and cons of the program, and equipment needs based upon different scenarios for Council's consideration for next steps.
- The South St. reconstruction project is wrapping up. Final paving, road striping, and sidewalk work has been completed. Most of the decorative street lights have been installed, new trees are

being planted, and basic lawn and grass restoration is underway. Some minor landscape items may be addressed in the spring.

B. Reports from members of Council

Councilor McCormick discussed the downtown parking program. She asked if an all encompassing overview of parking revenue over the last several years, including during COVID could be included as a part of a presentation to the City Council. She also asked if it would be possible to survey the public on how the parking has been going and post to the city website. She stated the City Clerk may be able to assist. She also stated that she is involved with the Auburn Downtown Business Improvement District Parking Committee and she would try to schedule a meeting of the committee for December before the topic comes before the City Council.

Matters to Come Before Council

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

SEQR RESOLUTION #7 OF 2021

DETERMINING THAT PROPOSED ACTIVITIES ARE TYPE II ACTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

By Councilor McCormick

November 18, 2021

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Auburn, New York (the “City”) is the sponsor of capital improvement activities that consists of upgrades and rehabilitation of the filtration buildings at the Water Filtration Plant for the Department of Municipal Utilities (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City desires to comply with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), as set forth in Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, and the requirements of the implementing regulations set forth at 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”) with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Regulations, the City has considered the Project in light of the actions included on the Type I list specified in Section 617.4 of the Regulations and in light of the actions included on the Type II list specified in Section 617.5 of the Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Auburn as follows:

1. The Project constitutes a “Type II Action” (as the quoted term is defined in the Regulations) because each activity falls within the ambit of one or more of the following actions included on the Type II list specified in Section 617.5 of the Regulations:

(i) “[M]aintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility” (6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(1));

(ii) “[R]eplacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site” (6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(2));

(iii) “[P]urchase or sale of furnishings, equipment or supplies, including surplus government property, other than the following: land, radioactive material, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials” (6 NYCRR § 617.5(c)(31)); and

2. The Project is not subject to further review under SEQRA; and
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded By Councilor Locastro

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

B. Ordinances –

BOND ORDINANCE #7 OF 2021

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, CAYUGA COUNTY, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,200,000 SERIAL BONDS TO FINANCE THE COST OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY WATER SYSTEM

BE IT ORDAINED by Council of the City of Auburn, Cayuga County, New York (the “City Council”) as follows:

Section 1. The City of Auburn, Cayuga County, New York (the “City”) is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition, construction or reconstruction of or addition to the City’s water supply or distribution system, including, but not limited to, upgrades and rehabilitation of the filtration buildings at the Water Filtration Plant, whether or not including buildings, land or rights in land, original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus, or the replacement of such equipment, machinery or apparatus (the “Project”), at an estimated maximum cost of \$6,200,000 and to issue an aggregate \$6,200,000 in serial bonds pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law to finance the estimated costs of the aforesaid specific objects or purposes.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid specific objects or purposes is \$6,200,000, said amount is hereby appropriated therefor and the plan for the financing thereof shall consist of the issuance of \$6,200,000 in serial bonds (the "Bonds") of the City authorized to be issued pursuant to this Ordinance.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific objects or purposes is forth (40) years pursuant to subdivision 1 of Section 11.00(a) of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. Pursuant to Section 107.00(d)(9) of the Local Finance Law, current funds are not required to be provided prior to issuance of the Bonds or any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of issuance of the Bonds.

Section 5. The temporary use of available funds of the City, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were borrowed, raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the capital purposes described in Section 1 of this Ordinance.

Section 6. The Bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, shall be general obligations of the City, payable as to both principal and interest by a general tax upon all the real property within the City without legal or constitutional limitation as to rate or amount. The faith and credit of the City are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the City by appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes to mature in such year, and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 7. Subject to the provisions of this Ordinance and of the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 21.00, 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the Bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes, and the power to sell and deliver the Bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of the Bonds, and the power to issue bonds providing for level or substantially level or declining annual debt service, is hereby delegated to the Comptroller, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the City.

Section 8. The reasonably expected source of funds to be used to initially pay for the expenditures authorized by Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be from the City's General Fund. It is intended that the City shall then reimburse such expenditures with the proceeds of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by this Ordinance and that the interest payable on the Bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. This Ordinance is intended to constitute the declaration of the City's "official intent" to reimburse the expenditures authorized by this Ordinance with the proceeds of the Bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein, as required by Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this Ordinance, no moneys are reasonably expected to be received, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the objects or purposes described herein.

Section 9. The serial bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized to be issued by this Ordinance are hereby authorized to be consolidated, at the option of the City's Comptroller, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the City, with the serial bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by other bond Ordinances previously or hereafter adopted by the Common Council for purposes of sale in one or more bond or note issues aggregating an amount not to exceed the amount authorized in such Ordinances. All matters regarding the sale of the bonds, including the date of the bonds, the use of electronic bidding, the consolidation of the serial bonds and the bond anticipation notes with other issues of the City and the serial maturities of the bonds are hereby delegated to the Comptroller, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the City.

Section 10. The City Comptroller, as Chief Fiscal Officer of the City, is further authorized to sell all or a portion of the Bonds, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds, to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (the "EFC") in the form prescribed in one or more loan and/or grant agreements (the "Agreements") between the City and the EFC; to execute and deliver on behalf of the City one or more Agreements, Project Financing Agreements, and Letters of Intent with the EFC and to accept the definitive terms of one or more Agreements from EFC by executing and delivering one or more Terms Certificates; and to execute such other documents, and take such other actions, as are necessary or appropriate to obtain a loan or loans from the EFC for all or a portion of the costs of the expenditures authorized by this Ordinance, and perform the City's obligations under its Bonds or bond anticipation notes delivered to the EFC, the Project Financing Agreements and the Agreements.

Section 11. Any federal or New York State grant funds obtained by the City for the capital purposes described in Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be applied to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds or any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds or to the extent obligations shall not have been issued under this Ordinance, to reduce the maximum amount to be borrowed for such capital purposes.

Section 12. The validity of the Bonds authorized by this Ordinance and of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the Bonds may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the City is not authorized to expend money; or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this Ordinance or a summary hereof are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 13. The City Comptroller, as Chief Fiscal Officer of the City, is hereby authorized to enter into an undertaking for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time, and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds, requiring the City to provide secondary market disclosure as required by Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12.

Section 14. This Ordinance, or a summary of this Ordinance, shall be published in the official newspapers of the City for such purpose, together with a notice of the Clerk of the City in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 15. This Ordinance is not subject to a mandatory or permissive referendum.

Section 16. The Common Council hereby determines that the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations thereunder have previously been satisfied with respect to the expenditures authorized by this Ordinance.

Section 17. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions –

AGREEMENT RESOLUTION #117 OF 2021

**AUTHORIZING AN UPDATED MUNICIPAL COOPERATING AGREEMENT FOR THE
CAYUGA COUNTY HEALTH CONSORTIUM**

By Councilor McCormick

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2016, the City Council passed City Council Resolution No. 138 of 2016, which authorized the City to negotiate a municipal cooperation agreement with the Cayuga County Health Insurance Consortium (the “Consortium”); and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2016, the Consortium voted to amend its original agreement in order to include the City of Auburn to enter as a participant in the Consortium as of January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2016, the City Council passed Agreement Resolution No. 150 of 2016, which authorized the City to enter into a municipal cooperation agreement by which it would become a participant in the Consortium; and

WHEREAS, since the original agreement is expiring on December 31, 2021, the Consortium now proposes a new one year agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby approve and authorize the Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the Cayuga County Consortium, which shall be considered effective as of January 1, 2022 and end as of December 31, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to carry out this Resolution.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

	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 – none

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, Mayor, thank you, the Clerk mentioned the open houses for 89, Walnut Street and 318 N. Sewerd Avenue. And, you know, I think those are great examples of prototypes of what I requested as possible uses for the American Rescue Plan Money and I think, you know, we already have like a blueprint with partnerships with Homsite, and CDBG working together, city staff working together, I think that might be a good starting place for that idea for, you know, 50 houses for 50 families. But if we could get like a report on how much was needed to get those houses to that point, and maybe that would determine whether it's 25 houses for 25 families or 50 houses for 50 families, because we, we want to really market it, as you know, the city promoting first time homebuyers, income eligible people to take care of these houses to raise their families and, and I think it fits in with our mission as a city to fulfill to fulfill that. Does that make sense? As far as, you know, just before we make any decisions, but see where, like these, what I saw that, you know, the posts online and what was shown today. You know, it just echoed what, what envisioned, and there's also a lot of, you know, action with Habitat for Humanity as well,

like, with the houses being rehabilitated. So, you know, there's lots of future partnerships, I think would help.

Councilor Giannettino

I agree. 100%, you know, 89 Walnut Street, 318 N. Seward Street and 121 East Genesee Street particularly, have been the bane of my existence for the last six years. And to see these two going to market to see 121 East Genesee street under construction, it certainly is going to make my inbox a little lighter. I actually went back and found the original email from constituents on 89 Walnut Street, I think it was from 2017. And they are ecstatic that a family is going to end up moving here. You know, the thing I want to talk about is, these are complex problems, like, you know, 89 Walnut Street, for instance, what happened there, I mean, people don't know, that person that owned it just left and left all their belongings there. The city alone can't solve that problem. And then when these houses get into these states of disrepair, the city alone can't fix that. So, I think I agree, this is great examples of partnerships that work there in place. And if we can further fund those, because, you know, the infrastructure for it is already there. The other thing I would like us to consider, you know, we have several vacant city lots, sometimes new construction is more affordable than rehabbing. So maybe that's another avenue to look at as well. Thank you.

Councilor Cuddy

Were you were you gonna piggyback on when he when he would say, Okay, I'll just want to follow up on the first public to be heard. I know I mentioned the feral cat issue in previous council sessions. I know Assistant Corporation Counsel and Corporation counsel have done some research on that. Councilor Giannettino and I have some new input from a constituent with another problem. I just can't stress enough how this issue has been brought up to me in recent months, so many times. So, I do think we need to do something I know we've we've started to work towards that. But we also have some new information that might help guide us in a way, not only with just a plan, but maybe even some ordinances that may help us work this through.

Councilor McCormick

I think of a feral cat issue as a health department issue, our County Health Department because they are, they present a problem if there's a rabies, rabid dog or anything, the County Health Department gets involved. And I think so that the city doesn't have to bear the weight of all of it I was wondering maybe if we could reach out to the County see if they have any. I see that face, even with the mask on.

Councilor Cuddy

I know, I know. I don't have a poker face. Here's my My thing is like, there, there's so many people looking to the city to do what we can for this. And I, there's been people in particular, doing massive amounts of research with other municipalities that have found success in certain ordinances and certain initiatives. And I just would like to pass that along to Corporation Counsel and the City Manager to see what what can be done.

Councilor McCormick

I didn't mean to get the County involved, I just want the money. That's what I, that's what I meant. Because we pay County taxes. We pay city taxes, and this feral cat thing to me is a nuisance that is probably, who knows where they come from. But it's I think they should participate as they oversee the health and welfare.

Councilor Cuddy

Yes, there is a health element, absolutely.

Councilor McCormick

There is and I do know they're a nuisance. I've had a couple of conversations too, this issue, it comes in cycles, like crows.

Councilor Locastro

With winter coming, could we get just a little update on the State Street Mall and the sidewalk program.

City Manager

Sidewalk program last I knew there were two crews working from that company trying to get caught up. State Street is progressing along, the alleyway has been paved, so that that is restored, it was torn up most of the summer, State Street Mall, project is, is behind schedule, for a variety of reasons, it is still moving forward. And they're going to continue to work until the weather gets to a point where it's not feasible to do so.

Councilor Locastro

I totally understand what contractors are going through this day, if they can possibly, next time around, not open the sidewalks up for so long, because I drove down a few streets and there's children actually walking in the street because the sidewalks have been open so long. So, if it's possible, maybe next time around, just try to see if we can do a little bit better scheduling with removing the sidewalks without replacing them.

City Manager

Councilor, we actually had that discussion at the staff meeting on Monday related to what the contract requirements are and we are taking steps to address that issue with cataracts.

Councilor Locastro

Like I said, I totally get it. I mean, what they're going through this day and age to try to get people to work. So, by no means am I casting a stone. Thank you.

Councilor Giannettino

I just want to bring up the ARPA funding again and just check the status of where we're at with some of the directives that we set out in terms of like small business funding and things like that. Do we have an update on that?

City Manager

I can't rattle it off, off the top of my head but Christina Selvek is here and she's the one that has been dealing with that, along with Rachel Jacobs our Comptroller working our way through that. So, again, most of the funds in the first tranche have been earmarked to programs. So, now it's a matter of working through those various programs to get money out into those things. So, Christina, you are, I know you're probably not prepared with a list of that data. Can speak in general terms to Councilor Giannettino his question?

Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek

Good evening, Mayor and Council. In regards to ARPA, so, I believe the manager is correct. So, just about the entire first tranche of ARPA funding has been allocated by Council to date. So, I think that there's \$37,000, left for allocation. So, but of the six resolutions that council have completed, over the summer and fall, most of the money has already been allocated. In terms of the allocations, parking garage project is moving along. That was one of them that was funded. The loss of revenue, Rachel's been working on with the auditors. In terms of our DRI agencies that were funded, we are getting them under contract, they have received award letters to date, we have reached out to CEDA for the Small Business Assistance Program, and not for profits, actually, I would like to chat with Council, in terms of the allocation for the not for profits. So, there has been a discussion actually at department head this week, it was a lengthy meeting, to talk about mental health, and the need for that in the community. And those agencies that provide mental health for us, many of which are already not for profits. So, there was a discussion about whether or not we want to force our mental health partners to go through the application process, get scored, wait probably four to six months for a grant agreement, and maybe actually just work with them directly. So, I know Chief has been talking to his partners in the community about what the costs would be related to upgrading, I think, the mobile crisis team, and that team that currently does not operate 24 hours within the community and has shown to alleviate stresses on our police department, and possibly bringing that up to snuff for the next five years. So, one thought was actually to get the cost on that come back to Council with a proposal to not release those funds publicly for competition, but to actually do an allocation like we've been doing with our DRI partners.

Councilor Giannettino

Yeah, I think I would want to see, because I think you just said funding for a program for five years. So, I think I'd want to see what that dollar amount is versus what the overall dollar amount we allocated for. Because I don't want to I mean, obviously, that that's a program that we all support, it's been very successful. I know there's a need, and you know, in the police reform discussions that we had, that was the number one thing that was identified, you know, the best way we can help our, our law enforcement is to give them the tools to deal with the problems that they're facing in the community. But I also want to make sure that we're also meeting the needs of other segments of the community, whether it's hunger, housing, and things of that nature. So, I'd want to see what that dollar amount is versus the overall dollar amount that we allocated. In regards to small business assistance, are we going to use CEDA to disperse those funds again? Where are we in that process?

Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek

We have a meeting set up with them just after the Thanksgiving holiday to finish ironing out what that contract looks like.

Councilor Giannettino

Perfect, perfect. And I think this conversation, I want to take it a step further. ARPA funding is great, it's the most money we've we've seen come to this community probably ever, and it's going to allow us to do a lot of good things. But on the back end, there's a lot of staff work that goes into it. On top of normal day to day staff work. We just talked about the water infrastructure funding, we talked about bridges, we talked about South Street, all those things require staff time. I know there's been some discussion about possibly adding additional staff, you know, with the announcement that the infrastructure bill at the federal level, I think we really need to consider maybe adding another Christina to determine how we're going to, we have to go after every single dollar that we can get because this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us. I was talking to Mr. Jensen on the way and I think he said he's got 80 million in

projects already identified for water infrastructure. And that that's life changing for us here and i think we need to have that conversation and we need to do it soon because I don't want to be left out in the cold with this funding.

Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek

We're gonna miss out because, you know, and, you know, speaking freely, knowing many of you for a long time, you know, staff is at their capacity, if not, well above in terms of trying to manage all of the federal guidelines that are coming along with these funds. And that's what, unfortunately, I don't think the community understands is that's great that we received grant funds. But you know, a lot of the department heads understand it takes us three to five years just to get through the paperwork for each of these projects. You know, the work that's just going into applying for biosolids and the wastewater plant and the water plant, you know that that's two months of planning already, that's gone into it, just to get the application out the door tomorrow.

Councilor Giannettino

Mr. Lupien, is here, I know he spends similar amounts of time on BRIDGE NY grants.

Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek

Transportation is going to be huge over the next year or two. And we need to make sure that we're watching for it, and we can spend some staff time on it. But we definitely do not have enough project managers right now.

Councilor Giannettino

And I just, I don't want to pass up a single dollar because we don't have the staff to administer that.

City Manager

It's been an ongoing discussion, we've discussed it here in passing a few times, Christina and I had a brief conversation about it today. And you know, what that also does is it helps us to establish some plan for staff turnover and things like that in the future. Right. So, we know we have probably three to five busy years ahead of us. Right now, I mean, it's been a busy three or four years anyway, with infrastructure projects. And now we've got a lot more coming, so, more than likely. Almost without question, we'll have more coming. So, we have to bring people on because it's a process. It's Christina for the good thing that she does I'm pretty sure she didn't walk through the door with all those institutional knowledge walking through the door, it takes time to develop that. You know, Mr. Lupien, has been working on it for the better part of 50 years. And and it takes time for, for folks to you know, we want to be able to pass that knowledge off, and we can't do that in a matter of months.

Councilor Giannettino

Mr. Lupien, how many BRIDGE NY projects do you have submitted currently?

City Engineer, Bill Lupien

Six culverts and four bridges.

Councilor Giannettino

Right. So six culverts for bridges, we know that there's hundreds of billions of dollars that are going to be available. I mean, what if we get four of those or six of those? I mean, we've got to have the capacity to do those grants.

Councilor Cuddy

I think, you know, time is of the essence. You know, I support what Councilor Giannettino is, is saying that we do need to get ahead of this, and has my support. And I do think what's going to happen is that, not only, yes, I just wanted to get ahead of it, because we want to hire somebody that can learn quick and secure those those grants so that we can make sure that they're working for the people of Auburn.

City Manager

Based on my conversations with Christina, our planning department, folks at CEDA, and some other folks in similar functions, it's a very, very competitive market right now. To the extent that what I'm hearing is a lot of private sector, firms are really gobbling up municipal employees and things like that, because they see the surge coming, right? They see this money coming, and they will be having to deal with a lot of municipal projects. So, it's a very, it's a hot market right now. For somebody with that skill set.

Councilor Cuddy

The sooner we can get our folks out there the better.

City Manager

Happy to pursue it.

Councilor Cuddy

Got my support.

Councilor McCormick

Mine too. Do it fast though.

Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek

Thank you, Council. If you do want to schedule a work session for ARPA, just let me know. Thank you.

Councilor Locastro

Just one question. Is it worth hiring an outside firm to come in now and help us right now?

City Manager

I think that we've got staff here that that knows our city. Personally, we have a lot of firms that we deal with on a regular basis that are they're good people. Some of them are practically like staff because we deal with them so often, but I also think we pay a premium for that. And we've had these discussions repeatedly. You know, the last time we tried hiring engineers, we really didn't get a whole lot of interest in that. But we spend a large amount, a substantial amount of money for things like construction inspection and things like that. I think what we really need to do and we've had that discussion before, among staff is, you know, we need to look at the big picture. And does it make sense for us to, to actually have our own construction inspectors and some of those jobs where they're on staff, and we can

cut out the middleman. I'm not saying that, that works in every every situation. But we spend an awful lot of money on certain particular services, that and we do it on a consistent basis, and sometimes on multiple projects simultaneously, where having folks on staff to do that might actually end up being more cost effective for us.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else? I'm gonna jump in Council. A couple of discussions this evening brought me back 48 years ago, tomorrow, I started with the City of Auburn, on the back step of a fire truck. I was just as handsome then as I am now. My hair was a little grayer. But I got through that. Most of the old time firefighters at that point, they could care less about health insurance. They wanted money in their paycheck and how anyone has been around here for more than five years, sees how it's changed, worrying about looking for insurance, and, and it's important, and, you know, we really need the insurance, but everything is critical. Many of the members at that point the firefighters did not belong to the union didn't attend the union meetings. I don't I don't think give anyone any longer it's in that category. Which brings up something that's near and dear to my heart and Christina you really sent it home to me. In the attic, Chief you agree with me and I'm sure Mr. Dygert will agree with me, we have hundreds and hundreds of old records, all handwritten records. We, I feel we have an obligation to preserve them in whatever way we can. I don't know where we're going to get the money how it's going to be done but I certainly do not want to see them end up on North Division Street just tossed out. We have an obligation and maybe even legal to protect those documents. So, is it a priority? Yes. Is it the number one priority? No. it's not a bridge, or railway, or housing, or whatever. But I would like a resolution to that. I've been asking about it for many years. From time to time, the attic roof has leaked, they become moldy and many of them are gone because we couldn't do anything else with them. Personally, I feel an obligation we have to preserve these. Maybe no one will ever look at them, maybe someone will, but I want us to take some type of action.

Councilor McCormick

Mayor are you talking about fire records on Market Street?

Mayor Quill

Yes. Yeah, I'm sorry. They were all back in those days if when the fire department went out, it was all handwritten. You have to be a cryptologist to read what the heck, they wrote about, you know, some of the some of the guys that write down, big fire Lansing Street, and that would be it. But they, Chief told him to write it, didn't tell him what to write, but he told them to write something. But now, now in this later day its become more involved, it's all computerized. But I really have a hang up on this and I would like to see some type of a program of how would you address that. Anyone else?

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk