

Auburn City Council Meeting, May 11, 2023

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 11, 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. Councilor Ginny Kent, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Tim Locastro and Mayor Quill were present. Councilor Terry Cuddy was excused.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Tim Brennan
- Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Director of capital Improvement Program and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike T
- City Engineer, William Lupien
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Police Chief, James Slayton
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Assistant Comptroller, Theresa Adams

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, On May 21, 1881, the USTA, originally known as the United States National Lawn Tennis Association, was founded in New York City, New York, to create rules and standards for the emerging game of lawn tennis; and

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WHEREAS, The USTA is the nonprofit, national governing body for tennis in the United States, and leads the promotion and growth of the sport at every level of play, from beginners to professionals at the US Open; and

WHEREAS, The USTA is the largest tennis organization in the world, with over 700,000 members from every corner of the country; and

WHEREAS, The USTA proudly partners with local tennis programs to showcase the important health, social, and educational benefits of tennis, and make the sport available to everyone, regardless of age, environment, condition, or ability, through its USTA Adaptive grants; and

WHEREAS, The latest research by the Physical Activity Council shows that more than 23.6 million Americans played tennis in 2022, an unprecedented 33 percent increase in participation over 2019 and the highest number of players since the PAC study began in 2007; and

WHEREAS, By increasing the accessibility of tennis for citizens of the City of Auburn of all ages and ability, the USTA has contributed to making our community happier and healthier; and

WHEREAS, USTA has declared the month of May as National Tennis Month to encourage players, organizations, facilities, retailers, tennis manufacturers and more to promote local programs and activities, at parks and facilities to showcase tennis and spread the word about the sport and its benefits, and to help players and non-players alike find courts and play opportunities in their communities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council do here-by proclaim May 2023, as

NATIONAL TENNIS MONTH

And hereby urge the citizens of Auburn to become aware of and support National Tennis Month.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Eleventh Day of May 2023.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn provides clean, safe drinking water for nearly 45,000 residents located in the City of Auburn and Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, the source of the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn's drinking water supply is Owasco Lake, a Class AA(T) designated and protected water body; and

WHEREAS, in recent years Owasco Lake has experienced widespread harmful algae blooms due to nutrients that promote and support the growth of algae and Cyanobacteria; and

WHEREAS, harmful algae blooms threaten lake water quality and the health and safety of water consumers; and

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WHEREAS, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council is advancing pollutant reduction strategies by promoting land and water conservation practices within the Owasco Lake watershed; and

WHEREAS, the foundation of the Lake Friendly Living awareness initiative is a pledge program that has secured commitments from Owasco Lake watershed municipalities, businesses, and residents towards improved conservation and the advancement of best management practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn commends the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council's advancement of the Lake Friendly Living pledge program and messaging that align with Finger Lakes regional messaging; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn owns ~450 acres of land in the Owasco Flats within the greater Owasco Lake Watershed, acquired with the expressed purpose of preservation of those lands for resources protection and conservation purposes; and

WHEREAS, according to Resolution #102 of 2020, the City of Auburn took the Lake Friendly Living pledge in solidarity with Owasco Lake watershed municipalities, residents, and businesses, thereby demonstrating the City's commitment to lake and watershed stewardship; and

WHEREAS, a commemorative NYS legislative resolution to recognize Lake Friendly Living Awareness in the Finger Lakes Region during the month of May was spearheaded by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and was adopted by the NYS legislature on March 15, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn on behalf of the City Council and citizens of Auburn hereby designate the month of May 2023 as

Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month

in the City of Auburn and we strongly encourage our citizens to adhere to the Lake Friendly Living Management Council for their leadership on this matter.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Eleventh Day of May 2023.

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

WHEREAS, historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth and sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride and maintaining community character while enhancing livability; and

WHEREAS, historic preservation is relevant for communities across the nation, both urban and rural, and for Americans of all ages, walks of life and ethnic backgrounds; and

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WHEREAS, it is important to celebrate the role of history in our lives and the contributions made by dedicated individuals in helping to preserve the tangible aspects of the heritage that has shaped us as people; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme is "*People Saving Places*", is a national high-five to everyone doing the great work of saving places—in ways big and small—and inspiring others to do the same.

WHEREAS, in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law and formally recognized historic preservation as an important policy of the United States.; and

WHEREAS, since 1966, 7 local landmarks and 2 local historic districts have been established in the City of Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the Auburn, New York South Street Area Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2017 the Harriet Tubman National Park was established; and

WHEREAS, following almost a century of deferred maintenance the Seward House Museum's Barn and Carriage House Rehabilitation project will begin this spring. Partially funded with a City of Auburn Downtown Revitalization Initiative grant and American Rescue Plan Act funding, this project will involve substantial preservation and rehabilitation bringing the facilities back to use for future generations; and

WHEREAS, **Preservation Month** and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign are celebrated annually to highlight the work the Auburn community is doing to enrich and preserve the places that make our City unique.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2023 as

Preservation Month

And call upon the people of the City of Auburn to join their fellow citizens across the United States in recognizing and participating in this special observance.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn, NY to be fixed this Eleventh Day of May, 2023.

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

Public to be heard – The City Clerk read the rules for the Public to be Heard. None.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

April 27, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 27, 2023 minutes by Councilor Kent, seconded by Councilor Giannettino.

Motion to approve carried 3-0. Councilor Cuddy voted present.

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Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report –

- This week, crews began working on permanent patches along city streets where excavation work was necessary during the winter months. Crews are also working on some curbing and sidewalks in advance of the next road program.
- Discussed the NYS Budget and funding the City is to receive under various transportation department programs.

Reports from members of Council –

Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances – FIRST READING

ORDINANCE #6 OF 2023

AMENDING THE HOUSING CODE FEE SECTION OF THE “FEES” CHAPTER OF THE AUBURN CITY CODE

WHEREAS, On June 3, 2004, the City of Auburn by Ordinance No. 9 of 2004 amended Chapter 164 of the Auburn City Code entitled “Fees,” to include a section entitled Housing Code Fees; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Auburn approves a schedule of fees annually and publishes the same for informative purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Auburn recognizes that it is appropriate to provide direct reference to this process in the municipal code; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the purposes of efficiency, clarity and certainty that the Housing Code Chapter and the annually adopted fee schedule are in alignment; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 6 of 2023, attached hereto and incorporated herein, proposes to update Chapter 164 of the City Code to achieve such goals by adding the references to the annually adopted fee schedule and making other related revisions; and

WHEREAS, the passage of Ordinance No. 6 of 2023, is categorized as a Type II Action pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and New York State Code, Rules, and Regulations Sections 617.5(c)(16), and, therefore, pursuant to NYCRR Section 617.3(f) a determination under SEQRA is not required; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED that the Auburn City Council does hereby repeal the following sections of Ordinance No. 9 of 2004, “Housing Code Fees”

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1. Section 164-4

and,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Auburn City Council does hereby adopt Ordinance No. 6 of 2023 attached and incorporated herein, which replaces the following Sections of Chapter 164 of the Auburn City Code entitled “Fees”:

1. Section 164-4

and,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the foregoing repeal and adoption shall take effect immediately.

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions – none

E. Staff or Vendor Presentations –

- Aurelius Ave Bridge Update- William Lupien, City Engineer and Scott McIntyre, Engineering and Popli Design Aurelius Ave Bridge Update
- Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division, 2022 Watershed Inspection Report - Lead Watershed Inspector, Ally Berry
- Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, 2023 Update - Executive Director, Adam Effler

TABLED ITEMS - none

OTHER BUSINESS – none

Second Public to be Heard.

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

- Two matters made confidential due to attorney client privilege.
- Two matters pertaining to collective bargaining.

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk