

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:00 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 5:00PM in the City Council Chambers 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Quill.

Roll Call – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Michael Quill and Councilors Debra McCormick, Jimmy Giannettino, Terry Cuddy (by teleconference) and Tim Locastro were all present.

The following City Staff was present for the regular meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- City Comptroller, Rachel Jacobs
- Director of Planning and Economic Development, (by teleconference)
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen (by teleconference)
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien (by teleconference)
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Interim Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Assistant Fire Chief, Bill Difabio (by teleconference)
- Firefighter, Eric Kelly (by teleconference)

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

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF ON-LINE TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL & TELECONFERANCE PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ASSESSOR OF THE CITY OF AUBURN, COUNTY OF CAYUGA HAS COMPLETED THE TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE CURRENT YEAR ON MARCH 15TH 2020 AND THAT IT MAY BE EXAMINED BY ANY INTERESTED PERSON ONLINE AT WWW.AUBURN.NY.GOV AND AT

WWW.CAYUGACOUNTY.US

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW WILL MEET IN A TELECONFERENCE HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 29TH: FROM 1 PM TO 3 PM TO HEAR AND EXAMINE ALL COMPLAINTS IN RELATION TO ASSESSMENTS OF ANY PERSON BELIEVING THEMSELF TO BE AGGRIEVED ON THE WRITTEN APPLICATION THAT MET THE APRIL 4TH NOON FILING DEADLINE AS PUBLISHED ON MARCH 13TH 2020 ON THE CITY OF AUBURN WEBSITE AND MARCH 17TH 2020 IN THE AUBURN CITIZEN NEWSPAPER.

Those interested in attending the on-line teleconference (WebEx) meeting must pre-register no less than 2 hours prior to the start of the hearing to ensure that adequate time is provided to approve their registration. Links to the registration can be accessed through the City's Calendar webpage at: <https://www.auburnny.gov/calendar> and selecting the appropriate meeting. Following approval of your registration, a link will be emailed to you that will allow you to access on-line teleconference (WebEx) meeting.

This public hearing will also live-stream for viewing by the public at the City of Auburn webpage at the following internet link: www.AuburnNY.gov/livestream

For more information contact the Office of Assessor, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 315-255-4125 or email: mburns@auburnny.gov

**City Manager Dygert
Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations.**

- On April 4, Sergeant Greg Dann retired from the Auburn police department. in an effort to fill some vacancies, the police department hired Connor Gray and Alexa Smalley on March 27th. They are currently attending the police academy.

The City Clerk read the following proclamations...

ARBOR DAY

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 holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in the State of 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 reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; 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 is fortunate to have benefited in recent years from the Grow Auburn's Trees! Program which was created in 2002 and annually organizes dozens of volunteers each planting season to plant trees throughout our community; and

WHEREAS, since its creation the Grow Auburn's Trees! Program has planted over 1,000 trees in our City and has helped to publicize and promote tree care in our community.

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the 148th anniversary of Arbor Day and the day is now observed throughout the nation and 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 do hereby proclaim April 24, 2020 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-Fourth day
of April 2020.
Michael D. Quill, Mayor
City of Auburn, New York**

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and more than 40 years ago, Congress passed the Mine Safety and Health Act, promising every worker the right to a safe job; 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 the COVID-19 crisis has brought to the forefront of our community and our nation a profoundly deeper appreciation for the many workers that are essential to our daily lives including our health department staff, emergency management, nurses, doctors and all hospital support workers, nursing home workers, police, fire, sheriff, ambulance, 911 dispatchers, correction officers, postal workers, teachers, newspaper, TV & radio reporters, maintenance workers, housekeeping workers, food-pantry & human service providers, refuse collection, water treatment, sewage treatment, DPW, all government support workers, truckers delivering goods, grocery store workers, restaurant staff, child care providers and the many more that keep showing up daily to keep our community and country going through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, This year's Worker's Memorial Day theme is: *"Protect Our Rights. Speak Up for Safe Jobs"* and during this national crisis it is even more important that we stand together against the ongoing attacks on workers' rights and protections. A climate of fear impacts everyone's lives at work and when workers are punished for speaking up against unsafe working conditions, everyone's safety is at stake; and

WHEREAS, We believe every worker has the right to a safe workplace to memorialize those workers that have paid the ultimate we encourage all Americans to prevent these tragedies by doing the following:

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

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 all workplaces 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-Third day of April 2020.

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

Public to be Heard – none

Approval of Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the April 2, 2019 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager Dygert's Report:

- Just a reminder that the City of Auburn is following the directives of a NYS Executive Order for municipalities to reduce staffing and promote working from home as practical. While City Hall is closed to the public to reduce exposure for both employees and the public, we are still conducting the business of the city with changes in place to limit face to face interaction. Our Police, Fire, Ambulance, Municipal Utilities, and Code Enforcement operations have also been modified to reduce employee and public exposure and to protect our workforce and avoid any type of quarantine or isolation that could significantly impact our workforce and their ability to provide service.
- We received some good news this week that Tessy Plastics is planning to convert its warehousing operation in Auburn to manufacturing to meet a need for Coronavirus test kits. We're happy to hear the news and have reached out to Tessy to make sure their endeavor can move ahead as quickly as possible.
- There has been some recent speculation about the fate of the Auburn Doubledays. I want to make it clear that as of this time the negotiations between MLB and MiLB are still active and dynamic. We have heard the rumors and are discussing the potential impacts of the outcome of those negotiations for the 2021 season. We are also very aware of the precarious situation our 2020 season is in with the restrictions on mass gatherings in place due to Covid-19. We have also been discussing plans or options should the current season be postponed or cancelled. Our plans have not been set in stone as the situations related to Covid-19 and the Professional Baseball negotiations are continually changing. The Auburn Doubledays is an independent business or LLC that is supported by the city of Auburn. Last season the city's support for the team was to provide the grounds crew during the season. Most of the actual operation of the Doubledays is funded through ticket revenue, advertising revenue, and concessions. The off season operation of

Falcon Park is funded through our agreement with Cayuga Community College and is not dependent on whether or not they have teams.

- The Public Hearings for the use and distribution of CDBG funds will be held Monday May 11, 2020 at 10am and 5 pm. via WebEx and conference call. Details about call in numbers and meeting format are forthcoming to the City of Auburn webpage. The webpage also contains a link for a survey tool related to the use of CDBG funds.
- As we anticipate a gradual reopening of government and businesses amid the Covid situation, we are in the process of installing some barriers at City Hall to reduce the risk of exposure and enhance security. These barriers will resemble what most of you have probably seen at retail establishments and will be installed in a manner that takes into consideration the historic status of the building.

Reports from members of Council

Councilor Locastro - with the college being closed, does that impact the contract that we have with the college anyways?

City Manager Dygert - When we were in contract negotiations with the college regarding Falcon Park, we were aware that there was some concern from staff, the council, and the public, about what might happen if they weren't able to field a particular team. So, that is not part of the contract. That contract doesn't say that if they field a team that they'll pay the lease or the rent on it. It's an annual agreement, regardless of what their status is.

Mayor Quill – Councilors, a couple of items that I have. The City Clerk and myself, sat in on a video conference today and included Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Katko, and I can't make this up, a Doctor Corona, from Upstate Hospital. It was upbeat and they're reaching out to find out from all of us what we need, what we want, and what we'd like to do. So is it was an informative meeting. Thanks to the Clerk for setting up the teleconference. Also, I spoke with Roland Beck from Tessy Plastics today, expressing our thanks and gratitude for them coming and enlarging in Auburn. They're very excited, and it sounds like a whirlwind process, but I'm sure they're very capable of it. So 200 jobs, quite a few jobs to bring back this day and age. So, thanks, Tessy Plastic, and everyone else involved. I turn it back to Mr. Dygert, I believe, for bar graph reports.

City Manager Dygert - our monthly update on what's going on with the current year's budget. I haven't actually had a lot of time to look through that in particular, but we have daily discussions. Rachel Jacobs, our Comptroller, and I have daily discussions, not only on budget development for next year, but on our current situation. Our expenditures are pretty much where we would expect them to be. We aren't seeing a lot of growth in expenditures at this point. We put in place a freeze on spending, all but the most necessary things over a month ago and that will continue, that's typically something that we would do in May, but we implemented that a month or more ago related to the COVID situation and knowing that we were going to see a decrease in sales tax

revenue more than likely so our expenditures are leveling out related to that. The big unknown, at this point, as is the case everywhere, is where our sales tax revenue will fall. We continue to watch that. There has been a reduction, we get those reports every couple of weeks from the State. We are seeing a reduction, but we don't have enough data. There hasn't been enough time gone by, at this point, to really identify a trend.

Councilor Locastro - Other than sales tax, are there any other areas that send up red flags, that we could be a little bit short on?

City Manager Dygert - well we know that obviously, there's not a lot of folks downtown right at the moment, so you know, parking fees and things like that, which are a, you know, they're an important part of the budget, but they're a small part of the budget. So we know those are going down. A few other fees related to code enforcement. Code enforcement is still working but certain things they're not doing, depending on what the situation is. So we've got, we've got a few other things that are going to impact the budget as well.

Councilor Giannettino - Excuse me, on that topic, I know that when we sent the resolution, I think number 52, to our representatives, it included a letter that included forecasts of those decreases, and all those revenues, including parking. So, we are taking those into account when we are lobbying our federal representatives for that much needed funding

Matters to Come Before Council:

State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) - none

Ordinances - none

Local Laws – none

Resolutions - none

Tabled Items - none

**STAFF/VENDOR PRESENTATIONS –
Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Discussion**

Mayor Quill: I would like to get the discussion started. Council, we have discussed several budget scenarios over the past two weeks. This week it is time to give our manager some final direction that he can use to bring us an updated budget next week. This evening I would like to propose the following budget parameters for our staff to work with so that they can return to the April 30th Council meeting with a revised version of the budget.

Sales tax revenue. We have tossed around many scenarios on the potential impact to sales tax revenue. We do need to unfortunately anticipate that we will be seeing a reduction in this revenue line. If we were to phase the impact over the next year by quarters of our budget year from significant impact to moderate impact I think we would have an estimate to use in the budget. Therefore, the proposal is as follows:

- July – September 2020: 12% decrease;
- October – December 2020: 9% decrease;
- January – March 2021: 9% decrease
- April – June 2021: 6% decrease
- Total average decrease for the overall budget year would basically be 9%.
- We should also use the most recent sales tax revenue actual numbers to calculate this decrease.

Use of fund balance. We have been presented with the question on how much fund balance would be a comfortable amount to use. We have adopted a fund balance policy which is designed to guide us through situations like this. I think we should restrict the use fund balance so that we maintain an amount that meets the minimum of our fund balance policy of 10-13%. One reason why we maintain fund balance is to have it in times of need which this budget is such a time.

Anticipated budget reductions. Providing that the City Manager uses the above parameters to draft a revised budget there will likely be necessary reductions. I would like to ask that these reductions be reported back to us along with the April 30th presentation of the revised budget. It will be necessary for us to see the list of reductions and the explanation for what the impact is on our departments/services. I also ask that the City Manager report back to us on potential for other savings such as what would be saved if there is no Auburn Doubledays 2020 season and any other scenarios.

Councilor Giannettino – Mayor, Thank you for this proposal. I think that it sums up what we've been giving as guidance over the last couple of weeks. This budget season presents us with a lot of uncertainty. What is certain is there's been a lot of work that's been put into it by city staff, as there is every year. That the City Manager and the Comptroller, right down through the organization, since this crisis hit, they have been very fiscally responsible, they have put a halt to all spending. I'm anticipating that this is going to have a significant impact on us, like it is every other community. I'm fully in favor of this. I think we do need to budget a decrease in sales tax. I think that's inevitable. I think this is a fair compromise, based on the numbers that were recommended by the New York State Counties, Association of Counties. I'm hopeful that, you know, we will come through this okay, but it's going to be painful, and we all know that. We just need to be fiscally responsible. We need to tighten the budget. We need an austerity budget. I think this sets us on that path. So, I appreciate your guidance on this, for putting this together. I'm in favor of this path forward.

Councilor McCormick - I agree. I think it gives us a little flexibility because straight across, 12% was, still is going to be, tough to do. It's going to hurt. We're down to the bare minimum now and we've got to, we have to keep essential services, Police, Fire, City workers, and City Public Works workers. I think everything we do now; there isn't a lot of gravy. It's essential, most of the people that work for the city, all of the people. I can't, I've tried to brainstorm things because that's the major part of our budget. But the things that are going to have to go, I think are, they'll be cut and hopefully restored, if things go better than we expect, would be things that, like, concerts, things like that, that we spend money on, that are great, it's a part of our quality of life. A lot of the things that we do in our parks, our, our Casey Park pool, things like that, I see those things that would have to go, before you would start to talk about anything more severe than that. This gives us ability, the flexibility of this. So I I'm hopeful staff is able to work with it in a way that won't affect essential services.

Councilor Locastro - other towns or cities our size, are there any secrets or anything that we can grab from them other areas, that they're doing, that we could do?

City Manager Dygert - No, and the Mayor has been doing his thing for a long time and has a lot of connections throughout the state and through NYCOM and all that. We've been on some conference calls with NYCOM, related to a variety of things. I'm involved with some groups of municipalities and everybody's kind of in the same situation right now. There's so many unknowns, at the duration of this situation is an unknown, the overall financial impact is an unknown and there's a variety of ways different municipalities are going about things. Some municipalities seem to be taking an approach to take drastic measures right now. Others are taking the approach that the City of Auburn seems to be taking right now. That's to try to remain steady and consistent and not to shake up one more aspect of life for our workers, and for the people in the community. So, I do spend a tremendous amount of time scouring things throughout the state, to try to figure out, you know, where is there someplace else we can squeeze a little bit out of? Our Comptroller's been fantastic trying to find out. You know where we can trim here and there. But in all honesty, the current Comptroller, our previous Comptroller and our department heads, over the last several years, have done such a good job of trying to make an efficient operating machine, the city workforce and the services that we provide, there isn't a whole lot of waste. That's obviously, that's subject to people's opinion about what we provide for services, but the services we provide, we do it in a very efficient way. We're going to try to continue to do that, tighten our belt for a year or 2, get through this, and not rock things too bad. It's been my experience, and the Mayor has been here longer than I have, and Councilor McCormick has been in different roles in the City, but it seems as though, in my experience, when there's been abrupt changes to service, without the appropriate level of consideration of all the ramifications, that sometimes we cost ourselves more money, and more headache, and it's hard to re-implement things, that were important in some cases. So, we're certainly taking it seriously, our department heads have been great about, you know, offering up, "This is where we can cut" in this department, or that department, to the extent that they can, and still maintain the

services that the community expects. I'm open to anything anybody's got, though, if you've got a thought or an idea of, throw it out.

Councilor Locastro - If we have to go into cuts, is it cuts in all departments, are there certain departments are going to be cut or....where do we stand on that?

City Manager Dygert - it depends on what do you mean by a cut. Do you mean a cut in the amount of a budget for a department? Are you talking cuts, as far as people?

Councilor Locastro - Will the department heads come to you with their cuts? Will each department head come to you?

City Manager Dygert - Yes. That's what we did this past week. We'll refine that a little bit more over the next few days. What we did last week, when we left this meeting, Friday morning, we convene at 9:30 in the morning, throughout this whole situation, and talk about things related to our response to the COVID thing, budgetary issues, all the things we normally talk about. We're just doing it more often, so that we don't miss an opportunity, or miss a problem. So, on Friday morning last week, we had a discussion based on Council's input and our department heads were asked to come back to us, to the Comptroller by noon on Tuesday, with areas where they could cut their budget. Because it does not make sense, I've seen it happen, whether it be, no offense, but whether it be the Council, or the City Manager, or the Comptroller, cutting a departmental budget based on an artificial number, that's just pulled out of the air, doesn't work. We don't know how that impacts an individual department's operation. The best people to do that are the department heads, they know where the money is. They know where the efficiencies are. I prefer to do it that way. It's very difficult, in the past I've seen it done, where people are told, departments are told you've got to cut 25% of your budget. Well, we'll share the pain and everybody cuts 25%. But that's not realistic, based on some departments, I'm looking out there and I see our Corporation Counsel has a staff of two, besides herself, where other departments have multiple people, and provide multiple services, 25% in some budgets is much different than 25% in a different budget. So, I think that it's important for the people in the public to know those things, as well. But our department heads have been very good and open and honest and realistic about expectations and what we need to do to get through this.

Councilor Cuddy - I just wanted to say, I know last week we gave the idea of a 12% flat cut. I know that, it's very difficult for the staff to do. And I think that, your compromise Mayor in understanding that, you know, there needs to be some recognition of loss of tax revenue. Of course, this also, you know, gives a little bit of hope, in the latter part of the budget year that things are going to improve. I hope that that is the case. So, you know, I approve Mayor, of your suggestion and, you know, we'll look and see what the staff comes back with and as far as their response to your recommendation.

Mayor Quill - Councilor McCormick, you brought up a great point a little bit ago. About Auburn, the quality of life with our parks, and our concerts, in this day and age is, is something

we really need. It will be great for everyone to get out and go to a concert, or just walk to a playground, or park but we would, in today's day and age, we can't do it. But, that doesn't mean they're going to be closed forever. We want to be prepared when we get the green light to reuse it.

City Manager Dygert - I appreciate that. I'll speak for Rachel, or if she wants to. We should probably, actually, find out whether Rachel has any questions or concerns. She's the one that will put this together. But I appreciate the input. It certainly makes it easier for us to put something together when we have a framework, some direction from the Council. As I'm sitting here, I've been writing down a few other notes that we'll look into over the next few days as well. I don't know if Rachel has any questions.

Ms. Jacobs - No, I do not, I think he answered everything.

Mayor Quill – You have it all figured out and you'll have it on Mr. Dygert's desk in the morning, correct? You didn't see me smile, when I asked you that Rachel, so we'll let it go.

Other Business –

Councilor Giannettino – Mayor, I've got actually got a couple other things if I could bring up in other business. Actually there are a few things. You know, this pandemic has affected every aspect of life for all of us. One of the, one of the issues, I think nationwide, not just in our community, that's been affected is the increase in overdoses in our community and overdose deaths. The Sheriff, Chief Butler, Dr Duckett, who's the County Coroner, and Joel Campagnola, over the last week, put out a press release addressing the fact that there were four overdose deaths in a few days, which is troubling. And you know the assumption is that people are not accessing the services they need during this time and the point of that press release was to let people know that those services are still out there. I don't know if we were able to share it on the city, social media platforms, but if we could add it to the city website. And I'll pass it along to the Clerk I would appreciate that. I just, you know, I want to say that from the press release there's a number of avenues for help for people. I just hope that we can communicate this to people that these facilities are taking new patients, they're treating them in person, via telehealth. There are all kinds of avenues to get that help and if we can just communicate that, as often and as frequently as we can. I just think we'd all be better for it. The other reason I bring that up is, I'm wondering, with this increase, I know it's just not in Auburn, I know it's nationwide, it's one of the primary tools we have in fighting this, is Narcan. Do we anticipate any shortage of that in our community, or nationwide, and what can we do to get ahead of that?

Chief Butler – No, not that I am anticipating. You know, it's readily available not only through the State but the avenues in the availability have been widespread to the community at large. You know most individuals, they want it for their own home. They have an addict that lives with

them, they can definitely get that. So, as part of the HEAL community study, I actually just participated in a conference call today, specifically on this topic, that is one of the avenues that we're looking at is spreading the outreach and availability of Narcan in public places. Much like an AED would be in in a restaurant in case of a heart attack, be the same type. That's something we're looking in to, you know, the feasibility of spreading that availability as well. And just to add to it, if I may, we did have a County, just outside the City, had another overdose today. Luckily, Narcan was available, and appears that the individual is going to be okay, but it took more than two doses to bring that person back. So, that coupled with the availability of mental health counseling, as well as telemedicine for that, as well. I was just mentioning to you, prior to starting the meeting that we, you know, mental health calls and suicidal calls. We're seeing definitely an uptick in those. Had a pretty serious situation at a local gas station today with an individual, threatening to harm himself that put, you know, not only my officers in a precarious situation but, obviously, it was, it was a call for help from this individual, who came from another county to our county and it ended well, but you know definitely something we're seeing is a big increase with this pandemic.

Councilor Giannettino - The second item I have is, it's been reported by the State that supplies of masks are going to be sent to every county. Has that occurred?

City Manager Dygert - As far as I know, I believe this county did receive a significant supply of masks, yesterday, or sometime this week.

Councilor Giannettino - Do we know what is the plan for dispersing those? Is a certain percentage going to go to the City since we're a third of the population?

City Manager Dygert - I'm not sure if Chief Fritz has that answer or not? He's been in communication with Emergency Management and the Health Department, pretty much on a daily basis.

Interim Fire Chief Fritz - Good evening, Mayor and Councilors. This afternoon I received 500 cloth masks from the County and the County, itself, got issued 27,500 masks total. These 500 that I secured, are going to be for the City employees, and elected officials, such as yourself, our civilian boards; so that we can start to conduct business once some of the restrictions are reduced. As far as businesses go, and they can contact the Emergency Management Office directly, and they will get those masks to them. Both the Police Chief and myself, have also offered to assist in delivering those masks to local businesses, if they, if that's what they need. So, I would suspect that it's going to start rolling out here over the next week or so, where businesses will be able to call the Emergency Management Office with request for masks for their workers. Then if needed, the Police and Fire Department will assist with delivering those masks to businesses so they can protect their essential workers.

Mayor Quill – Chief, as a follow up to it, I'm aware of a local company, very small company, that they have the masks. They were given masks by the county, by whatever means, I have no idea, but they are they are starting to roll them out.

Councilor Giannettino - Mr. Dygert, I know that you have periodic calls with the County. If you could ask, as they go through that supply, if they have available masks, if they would work with maybe the City to get those to some of the underserved populations. I know through the school district, they're distributing meals and BTW is distributing meals. Maybe that would be an avenue to get some of those masks to those who are underserved in the community. Then, the third and final item I have, Mayor, is in regards to the latest federal stimulus plan that was voted on in the house today. Last week, we passed a resolution, Resolution number, 52 of 2020, requesting that direct aid to states and municipalities be included. Unfortunately, it was not included. Not only was it not included, there was some troubling commentary out of Washington regarding this aid and whether or not it's needed. The Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell actually said the states should file bankruptcy, which is appalling that an elected official in the position that he is in would say that. Thankfully, our representatives have spoken out pretty forcefully and said that that is not an option. I also signed up for that webinar today and it was actually the first question. I was glad to see that Senator Gillibrand responded very forcefully saying that's not an option. So, Congressman Katko seemed to be on board as well, saying that there is a need for that funding to come to states and municipalities. You know, I would ask anybody watching who's concerned about our local budget, concerned about the economy in the state of New York, to reach out to our federal representatives, just like they do to us. They can email them, they can call them. They're in recess right now. They won't be back to Washington until May 4. So I'm sure they'll be looking for something to do. I encourage everybody to reach out to them. Let them know that, first of all, that talk is nonsense for states to file bankruptcy. Second of all, you know when you talk out one side of your mouth saying the frontline workers should get extra pay, but then say states and municipalities shouldn't receive funding, which we're going to use to pay those frontline workers, it just makes no sense. So, I would like Auburnians to know that we're on top of that. We're communicating with our federal representatives. I know that Senator Schumer's office has been in constant contact with the Clerk with updates, and we appreciate that.

Mayor Quill - Thanks for bringing it up, Councilor. I did have my notes I had my opportunity, so, but thank you for that. There's a lot, depending on what TV station you listen to, you get a different spin on what's going on in our country. So it's interesting just to listen to it all. I don't want to say don't pay attention to any of it, but you have to pay attention to some of it, but be mindful of what you're paying attention to.

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

- Two matters made confidential by Federal or State law. (Section 4503 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules which establishes that a confidential communication between attorney and client shall be privileged. Pursuant to this section, Council will be receiving legal advice from its attorney which fulfills the requirement provided in Section 108(3) of the Public Officers Law allowing this exemption.)
- One matter pertaining to employment history of a particular individual. The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.

Executive session adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m..

Minutes submitted to the City Council on May 7, 2020 by:

Charles Mason
City Clerk