

**City of Auburn**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 21, 2011 4:30PM**

The regular meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 4:30PM in City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Michael D. Quill.

**Roll Call** – The City Clerk called the roll: Councilors Graney, Smith, Brower, and Mayor Quill, Present.

**City Staff Present:** Debra A. McCormick, City Clerk, Acting City Manager John Rossi, Vicky Murphy, Director of Municipal Utilities, Christina Selvek, Director of Capital Projects and Grants, William Lupien, Director of Engineering. No public person came forward to speak on this.

The Mayor led the **Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a Moment of Silence**

**Public to be heard** –

The following people spoke during the public to be heard:

Dr. Mary McLaughlin, 89 York Street – Dr. McLaughlin spoke regarding the use of the former Frederick Street Fire Station for a homeless services program. Dr. McLaughlin advised that there is a problem with the City not providing proper housing for the homeless. Dr. McLaughlin’s organization is willing to help with this issue and asked that the facility be opened immediately to provide a safe haven.

Jerry Morgan, Auburn – Concerned regarding the rise in sewer rates and library tax now that the frack water is no longer being accepted by the City. Mr. Morgan believes that taxpayers are being overburdened.

Mark Kuberick, 7426 State Street Road – Discussed sewer rate increase. Advised that it wasn’t fracking water going into the plant but was brine water being processed provided by a responsible company paying to have a service performed. Mr. Kuberick is concerned that people outside of the City are paying less than City taxpayers and City taxpayers having to bear the brunt of lost revenue.

Tim Lattimore, 63 South Street – Mr. Lattimore questioned whether the extra \$1 million that was borrowed for the York Street Road Program was included in the road program and if not, why isn’t it?

Mark Lawn, 1 Cameron Street – Mr. Lawn commented on the Citizen’s blog entitled “New Parking on the Horizon” regarding renting parking spaces downtown. Where Mr. Lawn’s business is on Genesee Street, there are 3 parking spaces and 5 storefronts and he has concerns about who is going to be allowed to buy the spaces.

Bill Atkinson, Oak Creek Apartments – Fan of ABBA and advised of a band called “Platinum” and would like the City to engage them for a concert out at the Lake.

**Presentations:**

**Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play**

**Presenters: Sabrina Hesford, Grant Coordinator**

Ms. Hesford spoke regarding community gardens which she hopes will happen within the City limits of Auburn. Ms. Hesford advised that Auburn already has successful community gardens; a garden in partnership with the Calvary Food Pantry and BOCES. The hope for next year is to provide all of the food pantries with healthy fruits and vegetables for better health. Ms. Hesford showed slides of the first community garden started with the mini-grant at Melone Village. Ms. Hesford also reported that Booker T. Washington Center also requested help with a community garden and even though it was fairly late in the season, they went ahead and started one with the help of some seniors. They plan on having one next year as well.

Ms. Hesford is hopeful that local gardeners are willing to volunteer their time and expertise with these programs. Ms. Hesford has met with the Parks Commission and the DPW, went on a site visit of the parks and playgrounds and advised that an assessment is being conducted to see which ones might be repurposed and found three at least that could be good sites. It’s not always about low income people, it could be opened up to all residents. She explained that there were other possible sites as well, not just for food pantries but for local residents.

**2011 Edward Byrne Justice Grant (JAG) Award**

**Presenter: Christina Selvek, Director of Capital Projects and Grants**

Ms. Selvek advised that the City’s allotment from this grant is \$11,711 to be used towards the purchase of police vehicles. Ms. Selvek stressed the importance of the police vehicles in responding to service calls. On average, the Police Division responds to over 20,000 calls per year. The City is required to provide public comment on the proposed use of these JAG funds.

**Public Announcements: None**

**City Managers Report**

Interim City Manager John Rossi recognized the service of Bruce Ross from the Engineering Department upon his retirement.

Mr. Rossi also advised that Chris Caskey of the Citizen is leaving and moving back to California. Mr. Rossi wished him the best on behalf of Council.

Mayor Quill, Councilors Smith and Graney thanked Bruce and Chris for their service to the City.

**Resolutions**

**Land Sale Resolution #100 of 2011** authorizing the sale of certain premises situated on Chapman Avenue. VOTE: Councilors Graney, Smith, Brower, and Mayor Quill AYE. TABLED

**Council Resolution #101 of 2011** authorizing the City of Auburn to apply for and accept funding under the 2011 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. VOTE Councilors Graney, Smith, Brower, and Mayor Quill AYE. **CARRIED.**

**Council Resolution #102 of 2011 Council meeting date change.** VOTE Councilors Graney, Smith, Brower, and Mayor Quill AYE. **CARRIED.**

**There were no Local Laws or Tabled Resolutions.**

### **Other Business**

Councilor Smith spoke regarding the \$600,000 lost revenue. Councilor Smith reiterated there is no scientific evidence of any toxic emissions.

Councilor Brower spoke to Councilor Smith's allegations and advised that the technology is changing and evolving and we need to be sure we are not out of compliance and involved in litigation. She advised that monitoring of the situation is required.

Councilors Smith and Brower debated the pros and cons of reasonable caution.

Councilor Graney inquired if we were compliant with the DEC regulations. Vicky Murphy, Director of Municipal Utilities advised in the affirmative. Mayor Quill asked why the supplier had pulled out and Ms. Murphy could not say why for certain. Councilor Smith advised that he had spoken to the supplier and the supplier advised that they did not want to deal with this, it just looked bad for them. Councilor Smith's concern was that non-City residents are dictating policy.

Councilor Smith inquired about the raising of water and sewer rates. Interim Manager John Rossi spoke to this and advised that the Fee Schedule is not required to pass with the Budget and adjustments can be made.

Councilor Graney requested a change of date for the next Council meeting to Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 4:30.

Council moved into executive session.

Council adjourned at 5:30 P.M.