

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2011 6:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Michael D. Quill.

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

City Staff Present: Debra A. McCormick, City Clerk, City Manager Doug Selby, Andy Fusco, Esq., Asst. Corporation Counsel, Jenny Haines, Planning Director, William Lupien, Engineering Superintendent, Christina Selvek, CIP Manager

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:

Mark Kuberick, 108 North Street – Concerned about the raising of water and sewer rates which will have a negative effect on attracting potential new industry. He hopes that all the people who convinced Council to stop taking “frack” water are Auburn taxpayers and are willing to make up the deficit. He expressed his opinion that there was nothing wrong with this water and that there were no reports presented indicating potential problems. He hopes that all decisions by Council are based on fact. He would like Council to reverse its decision and accept the drilling water in order to ease the burden from the taxpayers.

Terry Cuddy, 130 North Street – Handed out a map showing gas development leases in Southern Cayuga County and the Owasco Lake Watershed. His concern is the quality of our drinking water.

Walt Aikman, 17 Liberty Street – Mr. Aikman elaborated on the map that Mr. Cuddy presented to Council. He drew Council’s attention to the Owasco Lake Watershed and the more than 1,200 gas leases which have been set up. If these leases are developed, it could have an impact on our water quality.

Dick Miller, Meadowbrook Drive – Mr. Miller is concerned that the new DEC regulations do not protect our watershed. He also expressed concerns regarding increased truck traffic emitting high volumes of pollution. He spoke of the chemicals used in the fracking process and the increased possibility of spills and accidents. He spoke of the impact of increased industrial usage on our agriculture, wineries and tourism.

Patty Beer, 81 Swift Street – Spoke of the need for the City of Auburn to join the efforts of Senator Nozzolio and Cayuga County to protect our unfiltered water.

Peter Ruzicka, Walnut Street – Spoke on his request being fulfilled regarding the Budget being posted on the website. Mr. Ruzicka requested that Council move forward and approve the Council minutes.

Presentations

City Manager introduced Steven Waldvogel of CRS Services and Dan Spitzer of Hodgson Russ who presented power point presentations on the cost of service analysis review regarding the Cayuga Regional Water and Sewer System. City Manager Selby wishes to schedule a work session with Council regarding the water and sewer rates.

Comptroller Linda Harissis presented a power point budget summary for the first two months of fiscal year.

Public Announcements

City Managers Report

Resolutions

Council Resolution #120 of 2011 amending the Rules and Procedures of the Auburn City Council to provide for the acceptance and approval of minutes of Council meetings. VOTE Council Graney - AYE, Councilor McNabb - NAY, Councilor Smith – AYE, Councilor Brower - NAY, and Mayor Quill - NAY. **DEFEATED.**

There were no Local Laws or Tabled Resolutions.

Other Business

Councilor Smith suggested having a workshop concerning fees during the first week in October. City Manager Selby agreed to target that week to do so and then have a vote the next week.

Councilor Smith asked to finalize a date for the Neighborhood Commission. The date decided is October 20th.

Councilor Brower spoke regarding increasing revenues, efficiencies and increased costs. She requests that we look at a time-frame to identify cost and scheduling of repairs.

Councilor Brower also made comment regarding the sludge. Her concerns were with hauling the sludge and the cost of doing so. She would like Council to take a look at reducing this cost.

Councilor Brower also requested information from Chief Giannotta regarding the parking downtown for the BID.

Mayor Quill requested that we move forward with the regionalization to show our commitment by Resolution. Andy Fusco agreed to draft a Resolution.

Council moved into executive session.

Council adjourned at 7:45