

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 12, 2012

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

Roll Call - The City Clerk called the roll. Councilors Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, Mayor Quill, present.

City Staff Present: Doug Selby, City Manager; John Rossi, Corporation Counsel; Debra McCormick, City Clerk; Gary Giannotta, Police Chief; Jeffery Dygert, Fire Chief; Jenny Haines, Planning Director; Robert Gauthier, Treasurer; Shawn Butler, Lieutenant Auburn Police Department.

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

Public to be heard

Mike Didio, 6 Clymer St. Auburn - and a newly elected Legislator for that district spoke to commend the staff at city sewage treatment plant after the tour he was taken on earlier that day.

Norm Davis, North Division St. Auburn - and Chair of the Neighborhood and Housing Commission spoke to welcome the new Councilors and stated the commission looked forward to working with them.

Art Wenzel 23 Westlake Ave - Spoke to suggest that the city take the Shines Theater property by eminent domain and sell it to him for \$1.00. He would promise to have it running and employing 30 people by June 2013.

Presentations and Proclamations

Meg Vanek Executive Director of the Cayuga County Office of Tourism presented a video and distributed handouts used to promote Cayuga County tourism. Also included in the presentation were statistics on the impact tourism has on other businesses, state and local taxes.

Terry Masterson, Executive Director, Cayuga Economic Development Agency presented Council with an overview on the Cayuga County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Mr. Masterson distributed folders with additional information included.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Doug Selby deferred to Corporation Counsel John Rossi to address criticism, as well as discuss issues and questions that new councilors have regarding the executive session held on January 4th at the County Legislative Meeting. Mr. Rossi proceeded to explain that the exceptions and exemptions to the open meeting law as set by the state legislature and under Civil

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Practice Law and Rules. As the City's Attorney he advises Council, his client, working under the attorney/client relationship. As such, an executive session was appropriate.

Public Announcements - The City Clerk read.

Presentations of Petitions and Communications - The City Clerk read.

SEQR Resolutions - None

Ordinances - The Clerk read Ordinance # 1 of 2012 authorizing an amendment to Chapter 285 Vehicles and Traffic in to the record as a **FIRST READING**.

Resolutions

Financial Resolution # 1 of 2012 adopting the 2012 Cayuga County Tax Rate and City of Auburn share of the Cayuga Community College charges. **VOTE: Councilors Graney, Smith, Ruzicka, Mayor Quill, Aye. Councilor Camardo - abstained due to position on College Board of Trustees. CARRIED**

*Prior to the vote Mike Burns, City Assessor and Bob Gauthier, City Treasurer reviewed the factors that impact the city's share of the county tax levy, including the relationship that equalization rates of each of the county's 24 towns have on the others. Council asked questions and discussed topics including value of city properties that are tax exempt, the impact of agriculture exempt property in the county, verifying that the city makes the county whole on taxes. Mr. Ruzicka thanked staff for their efforts to clarify the issues.

Council Resolution #2 of 2012 ratifying the contract with the City Manager. **VOTE: Councilors Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, Mayor Quill, Aye. CARRIED**

Council Resolution #3 of 2012 authorizing the lease of twelve parking spaces to Wegmans. **VOTE: Councilors Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, Mayor Quill, Aye. CARRIED.**

There were no Local Laws or Tabled Resolutions.

Other Business

Councilor Camardo thanked the staff that worked to put the Inauguration Ceremony together on January 1st.

Councilor Camardo commented on the meeting with the County Legislature to discuss plans for attracting Cayuga Ingredients to the County. He clarified that the city will be looking out for the taxpayers of Auburn as they move forward setting rates. He also mention several initiatives he would like to pursue in the future; producing video of various city assets to be aired on public access; invite Department Heads to Council meetings for updates; Council look at creating revenue streams; ask Planning department to find a tool to fund economic development

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resources; improve communication responsiveness with public by being prepared with answers. An example he used was questions he had regarding the contract with the hotel being constructed.

Councilor Ruzicka stated that he was not able to access the City's Video on Demand council meetings.

Council discussed issues pertaining to rates the City's should set for water and sewer services for pertaining to a possible new business locating in the town of Aurelius and rate policy overall for all surrounding towns.

The City Clerk read the recap.

Adjournment Council adjourned at 8:05PM.