

City of Auburn
City Council
Tuesday April 30, 2012 4:00PM
Special Meeting
w/ the Auburn Municipal Power Agency

Minutes

A special meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 4:00PM in the Training Room on the Third Floor of City Hall, 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Michael D. Quill.

Roll Call The City Clerk Called the roll. Councilors Graney, Ruzicka, Smith and Mayor Quill, **PRESENT**. Councilor Camardo absent at roll; arrived at 4:45PM. Mayor Quill excused himself at 5:10PM to leave for a prior com. Councilor Smith filled in for the Mayor.

Members of AMPA present, Denny Zach, Nancy Hussey.

City Staff Present:

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|-------------------------|------------------|
| City Manager | Doug Selby |
| Corporation Counsel | John Rossi |
| City Clerk | Debby McCormick |
| Municipal Utilities Dr. | Vicki Murphy |
| Water Filtration Super | Anthony DeCaro |
| CIP Manager | Christina Selvek |
| Engineering Dr. | William Lupien |

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

Mayor Quill turned the meeting over to City Manager Doug Selby. Mr. Selby introduced Denny Zach, Chairman of the AMPA and Vicky Murphy, Municipal Utilities Director to present information to Council.

The following represents items and issues from the discussion and presentation:

- The landfill gas to energy generation plant is a financial drain to the city. Approximately \$400,000 deficit annually.
 - ✓ The City is unable to produce enough gas to yield the two megawatts per hour required by the contract with Auburn Energy.
- Ms. Murphy suggested examining the wells that are not producing gas.
- City is working with Peter Zelif IES Technology.

- Wells are said to be 'watered out' - full of water. Need to find problem and fix it. Use of cameras in lines was suggested to access performance immediately.
- Identifying and securing customers' needs to happen.
- Mixing the landfill gas before burning was mentioned but issues with tax credits prohibit.
- Joining an ISO Independent Systems Operator for efficient marketing.
- Consensus from Council was something must be done to reduce losses. Action needs to be taken.
- Council also gave staff authority to do whatever is needed to reduce losses in the quickest way possible.
- Council asked the Agency to provide them with a timeline
- Funding is available for new wells, contacting Assemblyman Finch was requested.
- Denny Zach requested that Council include a budget line for the agency in the city budget.
- Engineer Bill Lupien reported that geothermal wells at City Hall have excess capacity. Mayor Quill and Councilor Smith asked if connecting Wegmans, YMCA, and Seward House to our geothermal system has ever been investigated.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Graney, Seconded by Councilor Smith. All in favor.
Council adjourned at 5:25PM