City of Auburn Special Budget Meeting

Tuesday June 26, 2012 5:00PM

Minutes

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. Councilor Graney, Camardo, Ruzicka, Smith and Mayor Quill, **PRESENT.**

City Staff Present:

City Manager Doug Selby Corporation Counsel John Rossi

City Clerk Debby McCormick
Police Chief Gary Giannotta
Fire Chief Jeffery Dygert
CIP Manager Christina Selvek
Planning Director Jenny Haines

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

Public to be heard

Jerry Morgan, Auburn - Spoke regarding the City budget and his opinion that PILOT programs have a negative impact on property taxes.

Bruce Demalt 18 Henry Dr. Auburn - spoke regarding AIDA and the issues of PILOT programs. He was not happy with what he saw as giving away money.

Ron Semple, former APD officer of 35 years, spoke to Council about the need to keep the Parking Supervisor on staff. He commented on the value to the city of her work, and the loss if she is laid off.

Gilda Brower, Grover St. Auburn, spoke regarding Fostec.

Will Streeter, CSEA President and citizen of Auburn. He commented on the recommended layoff of union employees and promised to challenge the dismissal of any union staff.

Steve Lynch, Cayuga County Planning Director, spoke on behalf of the City Planning Department.

James Breslin, Homeless Task Force President, spoke to Council about the work that city employee Renee Jennings does for his committee and the value to the community. She has assisted with finding funding for housing and VA assessments.

Tony DeCaro 175 N. Herman Ave. spoke as a city employee regarding the connection in higher salaries to the length of service some employees have. He spoke for himself saying that he chose to work in Auburn and chose to stay with the city which does bring a certain level of salary. He stated he likes his work and the community, all of which should be seen as an asset to the city.

Gwen Webber McLeod, Chair of the City's Comprehensive Plan Committee, spoke of her own business that she has in Auburn by choice. She spoke in support of the Planning Dept. and the value of Trish Ottley to the City as the Economic Development Program Manager.

Andrew Fish, Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce CNY Regional Council member - spoke on behalf of the Planning Dept. He reported she was responsible for bringing \$2.25 million to the City.

Monica Salvage, IGINTE and AIDA Board Member, and resident of Auburn spoke about the promises candidates made in November that are not consistent with the actions being taken.

Connie Riley, Auburn BID Executive Director, spoke to thank the Planning staff for all their work, especially Renee Jennings and Trish Ottley, two of the employees scheduled for a layoff.

David Arnold, Cayuga County Labor Council spoke in support of keeping the Economic Development position.

Tim Kelly, United Way Executive Director spoke about the planned downsizing in the City. He supported keeping the positions, especially planning.

Julie Liccion, 42 Charles St. Auburn, City Employee (Parking Supervisor targeted for a layoff) spoke to defend keeping her job. She gave facts in dollars of the impact of not having her position at work.

Sharon, (inaudible) - Sharon Dr. spoke about fees.

Jean Semple, 64 Lafayette Pl. Spoke in support of the Parking Supervisor and urged the Council to keep it in the budget.

Council adjourned for a brief recess at 6:00PM to allow staff to set up for budget discussion

Mayor Quill called the meeting back in session at 6:10PM

MATTERS BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Quill turned the meeting over to City Manager Doug Selby.

1. The City Manager's Proposed 2012-13 City Budget.

The City Manager presented updates to the budget as Council requested at the last meeting. Council discussed the proposed cuts to personnel. Jenny Haines, Planning Dept. Manager presented options that would save positions and still reduce the budget over and above previous suggestions. Council discussed rationale for maintaining cuts as suggested by them.

Mayor Quill asked for a brief recess to give the finance staff enough time to update the numbers on the budget.

Council Resolution #63 of 2012 authorizing the adoption of the 2012-13 City Budget. **VOTE: Councilors Graney, Smith, Ruzicka, aye; Mayor Quill, Councilor Camardo No. CARRIED.**

Council further discussed the causes for the budget problems.

Council adjourned at 8:24PM.