

**City of Auburn**  
City Council Meeting – Business Meeting  
Thursday March 7, 2013 6:00PM  
**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 Quill.

Roll Call – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka and Mayor Quill present.

**City Staff Present:**

City Manager	Doug Selby
Corporation Counsel	John Rossi
City Clerk	Debby McCormick
Comptroller	Lauren Poehlman
Public Works Supervisor	Mike Talbot
Planning Director	Jenny Haines

**Public to be Heard**

Caleb Fasce and Brianna Sepulveda 5th Grade Students at Genesee Elementary School - spoke to report on activities the students are doing in honor of Harriet Tubman and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of her death. They are holding a fundraiser and plan to buy and plant apple trees at Harriet Tubman’s home on South St. The class had read a book on Ms. Tubman and discovered that apples were important to her.

Terry Lattimore Town of Owasco – He stated that the Owasco Town Board recently passed a resolution that declared the board’s opposition to the recently announced plans by the Emerson Foundation and the Seward Home to sell the Thomas Cole painting “Portage Falls on the Genesee” valued at over \$18 million.

Reverend Paul Carter, Executive Director of the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn – reported on events and activities planned for the upcoming weekend commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Harriet Tubman’s death in Auburn.

Mike Deming, Franklin St. spoke to ask the city to address the traffic problems on Franklin St. that have resulted since the East Middle School became a junior high school. He explained the damage done to his vehicle and the possible danger due to lack of stop sign on the school property.

Rita Morin South St. - a representative of the Auburn Federal Credit Union– spoke to question the city’s rebuild policy, she discussed the negative impact it has on refinancing decisions and that it hinders new home purchases. She asked that the city review this policy.

### **Proclamation**

The Clerk read a proclamation from the Mayor honoring Harriet Tubman and proclaiming the year 2013 as “Harriet Ross Tubman Davis Year” in the City of Auburn. Mayor Quill presented the proclamation to Mrs. Pauline Copes Johnson, Great Grandniece of Ms. Tubman and Judith G. Bryant, Tubman’s Great – great Grandniece. Each spoke to Council and thanked the Mayor for the proclamation.

### **Presentations**

- Scott Berlucchi CEO Auburn Community Hospital thanked Council for inviting him to speak about the Hospital. He discussed what has been happening at the hospital, and plans for the future. He reviewed the work done to improve finances. He talked about plans for a possible future alignment with other health care facilities as strategic partners to allow access to capital to make investments. He reported that the future is bright for the hospital and thanked Council for the recent water service fee reduction. Council commented on the critical importance of the hospital to the community and economic development.

### **City Manager’s Report** – The City Manager reported the following -

- Staff is monitoring the impact that the ‘sequestration’ could have on city funding. No one knows yet at a local government level what will happen.
- Verizon has removed the poles in right of way at Lexington and Rock Ave.
- A joint council meeting is being planned – a tentative date of April 17<sup>th</sup> is planned and it will replace the regular meeting of council. He asked Councilors for suggestion on topics. Councilor Smith asked that not too many issues be planned at a time. Tax formula is key issue he would like discussed.

### **SEQR**

SEQR Resolution #25 of 2013 determining that proposed actions are Type II actions for purposes of New York State Environmental Quality Review Act for the State Dam rehabilitation project. **VOTE: Councilors Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, Mayor Quill, Aye.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Ordinances**

Bond Ordinance #2 of 2013 authorizing the issuance of \$3,400,000 serial bonds to finance the cost of improvements for the State Dam. **VOTE: Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith,**

**Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE. CARRIED.**

### **Resolutions**

Award Resolution #26 of 2013 authorizing an award to BVR Construction for the State Dam Rehabilitation. Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE.

**CARRIED**

Council Resolution #27 of 2013 authorizing the City Manager to enter into negotiations regarding the transfer of City property to Mack Studios. VOTE: **Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE. CARRIED**

Council Resolution #28 of 2013 supporting the creation of the Greater Auburn Regional Sewer and Water Authority. Councilor Camardo raised the issue of compliance with the City Charter regarding water authority and responsibility. Based on this concern there was a motion to table until Corporation Counsel reports back. **Motion to Table, Camardo/Graney: Vote to TABLE: Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE. TABLED**

Award Resolution #29 of 2013 authorizing the City of Auburn to accept funding from the 2012 U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Auburn Fire Department. **Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE.**

**CARRIED**

### **Local Law**

**Local Law #1 of 2013 allowing the City of Auburn to award contracts on the basis of Best Value.** VOTE: Councilor Graney, Camardo, Smith, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill. AYE. CARRIED

### **Other Business**

Mike Talbot, Superintendent of DPW and Lauren Poehlman, Comptroller presented Council with a financial breakdown of scenarios to consider regarding the future of the City Landfill.

The clerk read the recap.

Council adjourned to executive session at 8:40PM. They returned at 9:10PM and the meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.