

**Auburn City Council  
Business Meeting  
Thursday August 22, 2013 6:00 P.M.  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 6:00PM in City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn N.Y. 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
Asst. Corp. Counsel	Andy Fusco
City Clerk	Debby McCormick
Planning Director	Jenny Haines

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

**Public to be Heard -**

**Legislator Tim Lattimore District 13** - Spoke on behalf of his district constituents regarding code violations at a Steele St. property. He stated that there are many cars and campers parked in violation of the code. He asked if the Code department could look into this. He announced that he is the Chairperson of the County Power Authority, and reported that the County facility located near Ithaca is looking into going from coal to gas. He spoke about town officials discussing I81 issues and Seneca Meadows looking into a rail system that the county and city would support.

**George Schmidt 8 Cady St.** (for 48 years) spoke to report to Council that Cady St. is a mess. It has had no work done on it in 40 years. Cady St. gets parking from the hospital, cars on lawns, and it is neglected. The street needs to be fixed.

**Bill Jacobs, 95 Cottage St.** spoke to Council to express his disappointment and shock that the city discontinued ringing the bell for veterans that have funeral processions pass by City Hall on Saturdays.

**Jeff Edwards Chairman of the Board of Trustees Cayuga Community College** spoke to urge the Council to support the SEQR resolution pertaining to the Musical Theater Festival. He read a prepared statement listing why this would be good for business, tourism, students and the college.

**Lisa Myers 42 E. Genesee St. Musical Theater Festival Associate Producer** - spoke about the vision the Musical Theater Festival Education program has for the future. She described the partnerships made at present, the students that have benefited already and the need for the SEQR to be adopted.

**Brian Franco, Teacher and new member of community.** He commented on the revitalization he has witnessed in just the 8 months he has been here. He would like to have students stay in the community to further education in theater and draw students from other communities.

**Meghan McConnell 244 Franklin St.** - spoke of her experience as a young performer and the potential that the Schwartz Family Theater would offer to develop and attract other students.

**Maria Coleman 7376 Youngs Road** a graduate of Cayuga Community College, and now a Senior at Wells College studying Theater and Dance. She explained that she is now interning with MTF and learning all of the various aspects of the business. She urged City Council to support the SEQR.

**Randall Wynn 54 South St.** described how he chose to move to Auburn because he saw opportunity and has been pleased with the results. He talked about other people in the community that have also taken advantage of the opportunities Auburn offers. He attributed most of the growth and rejuvenation of downtown to the anticipation of the Musical Theater Festival. He urged Council to pass the SEQR.

**Chris Gutelius, Auburn Chamber Orchestra** - spoke to encourage passage of the SEQR resolution for the Schwartz Performing Arts Center. She described the opportunities that would open up for the Chamber Orchestra with this new venue.

**Thames Nolan,** No address given. Spoke about the history of downtown's demise and how tourism brings opportunities to revitalize Auburn. He encouraged the Council to support the SEQR for the Schwartz Performing Arts Center.

**Yvonne Hassett, 7258 Owasco Rd. Owner of Absolute Dance** - Reported that she is speaking to support Music Theater Festival and Schwartz Performing Arts Center.

**Joe Wood, 34 Fleming St.** A senior in High School that wants to have a future in the theater and urged the City to support the SEQR and the Arts.

**Dave Arnold, Logan St. President of the Cayuga County Labor Council** - supports both the Musical Theater Festival and the Schwarz Performing Arts Center. He also expressed his displeasure regarding the bell ringing being eliminated on Saturday's for veterans.

**Alicia Pucino Wilbur St.** spoke about the need for free parking downtown and at Emerson Park. She commented about limited access to Owasco Lake.

**Justin Huffman, Attorney, Camardo Law Firm 127 Genesee St.** - Mr. Huffman distributed handouts to City Council and then proceeded to comment about the SEQR for the Schwartz

Performing Arts Center project. He stated that before the project can begin certain requirements should be completed such as an environmental review. He stated the documentation he passed out was to ensure that Council had the information they needed. The information, he stated, included documents indicating a need for soil sampling, determination of the source of soil contamination, and a review of the socio-economic impacts related to the project. In addition material related to perceived problems with State St. and a conflict of interest regarding Mr. Stephen Lynch participation in the project, and a public controversy. He reported that his business is immediately adjacent to the project and hopes that Council will do a comprehensive review.

**City Councilor Peter Ruzicka** read a letter he received from **Mr. Eric Zizza**. *Mr. Zizza's letter was not submitted for the record.* His letter was in opposition to the project, mentioning among other issues the misinformation spread by Dr. Larson, the burden this project would put on the community with the excess cost of personnel and equipment.

**Dr. Daniel Larson President of Cayuga Community College** spoke referencing a letter he read at a previous meeting from Mr. Steven Keeler Chairman of the College Media Arts Department and Vice President of the College Faculty Association. He reminded the Council of Mr. Keeler's enthusiastic support of the project.

**Tim Lattimore** comments on the history of the Merry Go Round Theater in the community and the future of theater with this project. He briefly mentions the need for manufacturing as well.

**Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes for August 1, 2013 - Approved unanimously.

### **Presentations & Proclamations**

- Ian Phillips representing Congressman Maffei presented Dr. Walter Aikman with a U.S. Flag for his years of service work in Urban Forestry.
- Mr. Neil Edwards President of Pango USA gave a presentation on the city's use and experience since the implementation of the Pango System.

**Public Announcements** – The Clerk read.

**City Manager's Report** - None

**Presentation of Petition and Communications** – None

**There were no Ordinances, Resolutions, Local Laws, or Tabled Legislation.**

### **Other Business**

- **City County meeting on Tax Formula and Consolidation**

As planned in advance City Council and members of the County Legislature that represent City Districts came together at this meeting to discuss the tax formula and consolidation of services. Those in attendance from the County were:

**Legislators -**

Michael Didio  
Patrick Mahunick  
Timothy Lattimore  
Cynthia Aikman  
Michael Chapman  
Steve Barski  
Joseph Bennett

**County Administrator**

Suzanne Sinclair

The group discussed issues related to, the sales tax formula, current tax revenue, and sales tax pre-emption. The city and county representatives each shared their respective positions. They also discussed consolidation of services.

The two managers were given direction to work together on a proposal to present for consideration.

Mayor Quill called for a 10 minute recess at 8:00PM

Council returned at 8:10PM and Mayor Quill called the meeting back to order.

- **Review of Parts 1 & 2 of the EAF (Schwartz Performing Arts Center)**

Andy Fusco, City Corporation Counsel introduced Steve Lynch, who is working with the city to review the Full Environmental Assessment Form and provided guidance and recommendation for each SEQR question.

Mr. Lynch went through the entire 19 page EAF document line by line for the City Council discussing and answering questions as he moved through it.

Prior to completing the review, at 9:30PM Mayor Quill called for a 10 Minute recess.

Council returned at 9:40PM and Mayor Quill called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Fusco opened the discussion and Mr. Lynch continued with the review until it was complete.

Council adjourned at 11:05PM