

**Auburn City Council  
Work Session Meeting  
Thursday, March 13, 2014 6:00PM  
City Council Chambers  
Memorial City Hall  
24 South St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**

**Minutes**

The meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 6:00PM in the City Council Chambers 24 South St. Auburn NY by Councilor McCormick.

**Roll Call** – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka were all present. Mayor Quill was away on City business this week and was absent/excused due to his flight being delayed due to the winter storm of March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Quill asked Councilor McCormick to fill the role of Presiding Officer.

**The following City Staff was present:**

- City Manager, Doug Selby
- Corporation Counsel, John Rossi
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- City Comptroller, Laura Wills
- Director of Planning, Jenny Haines
- Director of Capital Program Development and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Water & Sewer Department Infrastructure Supervisor, Tom Gabak
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Vicky Murphy
- Chief Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Hicks
- Director of Department of Public Works, Mike Talbot

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** – Councilor McCormick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection** – Councilor McCormick asked for a moment of silent prayer.

**Public to be Heard** –

- **Susan Rusinko, Chedell Place, Auburn**

Ms. Rusinko spoke to advocate for legislation being considered in the New York State legislature known as the Compassionate Care Act (Assembly Bill A.6357-A (Gottfried) / S.4406-A (Savino)). Ms. Rusinko dropped information to the Mayor and Council office a few weeks ago and she has not heard a response.

- **Norm Davis, Auburn**

Mr. Davis spoke to recognize the city staff in the Department of Public Works for their efforts this winter removing snow from city streets in the recent winter storm.

- **William Speck, Superintendent of the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES**

Superintendent Speck spoke to urge Council support of Council Resolution #47 which urges Governor Cuomo and members of the NYS legislature to support elimination of the State budget practice known as the Gap Elimination Adjustment.

- **Dan Herrling, 250 E. Genesee St. Auburn**

Mr. Herrling spoke regarding recent letters to the editor submitted to the local newspaper by members of the City Council.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

A. March 6, 2014, City Council meeting minutes.

Motion to approve by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor Camardo.

The motion carried 4-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye.

**Presentations and Proclamations –**

- **The Clerk read a Proclamation from Mayor Quill proclaiming March 2014 as American Red Cross month in Auburn, NY.**

Pamela Baker Gratton, Branch Manager of the American Red Cross of Cayuga County addressed the Council.

- **The Clerk read a Proclamation from Mayor Quill proclaiming March 17, 2014 as St. Patrick's Day in Auburn, NY**

- **Auburn Regional Media Access (ARMA) Presentation**

Mr. Bob Penafeather, Chairman of the Board of Directors for ARMA addressed the council. He provided an overview of the development of the ARMA program and the services that ARMA's public access television channel provides to the Auburn community.

**Public Announcements –**

The Clerk read the following:

1. Due to this week's winter storm The City of Auburn Electric Board had to cancel their March 12th meeting. That meeting has been rescheduled for March 19, 2014 at 5 p.m. at Memorial City Hall, 24 South St. Auburn.

2. To begin the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 City of Auburn budget, the Auburn City Council will conduct an initial line by line review of the City's budget during special meetings scheduled during the following dates and times:

- Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 9 a.m.

Review of the Department of Municipal Utilities, Corporation Counsel, and City Clerk

- Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Review of the Police Department and Fire Department

- Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 9 a.m.

Review of the Department of Engineering, City Manager, City Council, City Boards and Commissions and outside agencies

The meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021. These meetings are open to the public and will also be video recorded and subsequently posted to the City's website: [www.auburnny.gov](http://www.auburnny.gov)

**City Manager's Report** - The City Manager reported:

- On the issue of the new turbine being installed at the Mill St. Dam. The turbine was delivered on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and work to install is taking place. The Dam will likely be operational again sometime in April.
- On the issue of the voicemail system for telephones at City Hall and other City departments. The voicemail system was down and this was reported in the local media. Verizon was able to get the problem corrected and the City's voicemail system is working again.
- On the issue of the new dump trucks purchased for the Department of Public Works. One of the two new dump trucks that the City purchased arrived earlier this week and was put to use immediately with plowing the large amount of snow the City received from the recent winter storm. The second new dump truck will be delivered within the week.

**Councilor McCormick announced that the following agenda items had been pulled from the agenda:**

- Council Resolution #46 of 2014 Approving a Joint Meeting with the Cayuga County Legislature

**State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) – none**

**Ordinances – none**

**Resolutions –**

**A. Council Resolution #46 of 2014 Approving a Joint Meeting with the Cayuga County Legislature.** This resolution was pulled.

**B. Council Resolution #47 of 2014 Requesting the Governor and State Legislature to Restore Funding for Educational Purposes**

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor Ruzicka.

Councilor McCormick invited Ms. Constance Evelyn, Superintendent of the Auburn Enlarged City School District to address the Council.

The resolution carried 4-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and, Ruzicka all voting aye.

**Local Law- None**

**Tabled Legislation- none**

## Other Business

- **Water Fund Presentation** by Comptroller Laura Wills with Capital Program Manager Christina Selvek and Director of Municipal Utilities Vicky Murphy

The Comptroller presented an analysis she prepared of the combined Water Fund and Water Capital Fund which identified money that would be available to be spent on capital improvements for the water system. The Council had much discussion and debate regarding the report. Councilor Cuddy asked for a recess and the Council approved. After the recess, the comptroller went through her report in more detail. The Council had more discussion and debate on the report. Councilor McCormick recommended that the Council wrap up the discussion on this topic and proceed to the next agenda topic.

The Comptroller and Capital Program Manager then presented different options the Council could consider to fund the improvements needed to the City Water Filtration System. The Council discussed.

- **Executive Session.** Council voted to enter an executive session regarding matters pertaining to:

1. Contract negotiations (NYS Public Officers Law, Article 7 §105-e. Collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law);

2. Matters pertaining to the appointment of particular individual. (NYS Public Officers Law, Article 7 §105.1.f. The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.)

Motion to enter an executive session was made by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor Camardo. The motion carried 4-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye. Council entered into executive session at 7:45 p.m.

- Council returned from executive session and proceeded with other business.
- The City Manager provided an overview for the upcoming initial budget presentations that the Council will receive over the next few meetings and then invited Mike Talbot to provide the first Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget presentation.
- **Presentation of the Department of Public Works Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget proposal** by Director of Public Works Mike Talbot, Water and Sewer Infrastructure Supervisor Tom Gabak, and Solid Waste/Landfill Supervisor Scott Emerson
- **Presentation of the Department of Planning and Economic Development Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget proposal** by Director of Planning and Economic Development Jenny Haines

- **Presentation of the Department of Comptroller Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget proposal** was postponed to a future meeting.
- **Councilor Cuddy** requested that Bond Ordinance #1 of 2014 be brought back before the Council at the March 20, 2014 Council meeting.
- **Councilor Camardo** stated the items he would need for further analysis of the Water Fund. He asked for the following: 1. Complete review of the Water Capital Fund. 2. Copies of the Bond Anticipation Notes for the complete project of the recent York Street Reconstruction. 3. Copies of the Bond Anticipation Notes for the complete project of the recent work at the State Dam.
- **Councilor Ruzicka** brought the following matters before the Council: 1. He stated the City needs a five-year financial plan. 2. He stated the Council needs to take action on a Fiscal Advisory Board as was recommended by the City Audit Committee 3. He stated the Council needs to take action and apply for assistance from the NY State Fiscal Recovery Board program. 4. He discussed information he obtained from the New York Council of Mayors and other Municipal Officials (NYCOM) regarding the topic of nepotism. He stated the City is involved with contract negotiations with the Fire Department and that it was recently brought to his attention that the Mayor has a brother in the Fire Department and this creates a conflict of interest for the Mayor to be voting on the contract. He asked for the Corporation Council’s opinion. Corporation Council Rossi offered that he had researched the information being referred to by Councilor Ruzicka and that he determined there to be no conflict of interest. Councilor Ruzicka stated he did not agree with the Corporation Council’s assessment.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on March 14, 2014 by:

Charles Mason  
City Clerk

On March 20, 2014 a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2014 Auburn, NY City Council meeting was made by Councilor , seconded by Councilor .

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	x	
Councilor Camardo	x	
Councilor Cuddy	x	
Councilor Ruzicka	x	
Mayor Quill	Absent	
Carried and Adopted	x	

*I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the City Council of the City of Auburn, N.Y., at a regular meeting thereof, held in the Council Chambers, Memorial City Hall, in said city, on the 13th day of March, 2014 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.*

*Charles Mason, City Clerk      Date: March 21, 2014*