

**Auburn City Council
Business Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 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. Mayor Quill, and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka were all present.

The following City Staff was present:

- City Manager, Doug Selby
- Corporation Counsel, John Rossi
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- City Comptroller, Laura Wills
- Director of Capital Program Development and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Vicky Murphy
- Police Chief, Brian Neagle
- Fire Chief, Jeff Dygert
- Director of Engineering, William Lupien

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Quill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection – Mayor Quill asked for a moment of silent prayer.

Public to be Heard –

- **Vince DeWitt, 54 Frances St. Auburn**
Mr. DeWitt spoke to provide a perspective of how historically Auburn has made major decisions that have benefitted its citizens in the long run. He urged the Council to consider its decision to current upgrades needed for the water filtration system as a major decision that will impact the local citizens for many years to come.
- **Ron Quill, 5 Case Ave. Auburn**
Mr. Quill spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Salvation Army Board of Directors to urge citizens to support local food pantries.
- **David Arnold, 29 Logan St. Auburn**
Mr. Arnold spoke in his capacity as Chair of the Cayuga County Labor Council about matters of concern to some local labor leaders.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. March 13, 2014, City Council meeting minutes.

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

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

Presentations and Proclamations –

- **Tax Cap/Levy Presentation by Comptroller Laura Wills.**

The Comptroller presented the calculation of how Governor Cuomo's proposed property tax cap and rebate program would impact the City and the average Auburn property owner. The Governor's proposal must be approved by the state legislature.

- **Cayuga Strategic Solutions Presentation by Andrew Fish, Executive Director**

Mr. Fish presented the Council with an update of the project known as Cayuga Strategic Solutions which is the merger of the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce and the Cayuga Economic Development Agency (CEDA).

Public Announcements –

The Clerk read the following:

1. Letter from the Owasco Watershed Lake Association informing the Mayor and Council members of their annual Owasco Lake Day which will be held at Emerson Park on Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

2. The City Electric Board has announced the dates for the semi-annual interview and exam for electrical licenses. Applications for electrical licenses must be filed in person at the April 9, 2014 5 p.m. Electric Board meeting to be held in the first floor conference room at Memorial City Hall, 24 South St. in Auburn. The exam will be held on May 14, 2014 at 5 p.m. in the first floor conference room at Memorial City Hall, 24 South St. in Auburn. For more information please contact the City of Auburn Codes Office at City Hall.

3. 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 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.com

City Manager's Report - The City Manager reported:

- On the issue of the City phone system. The Manager discussed the background and timeline of the recent issue the City had with the voicemail system. After a lengthy process the issue was resolved by Verizon. The Manager is also looking into other service providers to explore alternatives for the City phone system.
- On the issue of pot holes. The winter weather has been very damaging to the City's

streets and there will be a lot of repair needed this spring. The Manager met with a company that leases pot hole repairing equipment and is arranging for the company to come to Auburn and provide a demonstration to the Council.

- The Manager had many other meetings this week on various issues including: interviews with potential new phone and internet service providers, GIS services with the Professor at the GIS program at Cayuga Community College, a meeting with the Viewpoint Software company regarding the progress of our new Codes permit program which will launch in spring, and the first Vermicomposting meeting regarding the utilization of Sewage Treatment Plant sludge with Larson Engineers. Councilor Ruzicka also attended the Vermicomposting meeting.

State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) – none

Ordinances – none

A. Reconsideration of Bond Ordinance #1 of 2014 Authorizing the Issuance of Serial Bonds for the City Water Supply and Distribution System

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

Motion to table for two weeks sponsored by Councilor Camardo, seconded by Councilor Ruzicka. The motion to table carried 4-1. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye. Councilor Cuddy voting no. Bond Ordinance #1 will be placed on the Thursday, April 3, 2014 Council meeting agenda.

B. Resolution to adopt Ordinance # 2 of 2014 - Amending Parking Ordinance to add Parking Meters on West Garden Street

Resolutions

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Camardo, seconded by Councilor McCormick. The resolution carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

Resolutions –

A. Resolution #48 of 2014 - Approval of Live Streaming of City Council Meetings

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor McCormick, seconded by Councilor Camardo. Councilor Ruzicka made a motion to table and there was no second to the motion. The resolution carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

B. Resolution #49 of 2014 Authorizing the Advertisement for Bids for the South Street Repaving Project

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Ruzicka, seconded by Councilor Camardo. The resolution carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

C. Appointment Resolution #50 of 2014 Appointing a Member to the Auburn Municipal Power Agency

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Camardo, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Councilor McCormick made a motion to table and there was no second to the motion. The resolution carried 4-1. Councilors Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye. Councilor McCormick voting no.

D. Appointment Resolution # 51 of 2014 Appointing Members to the Auburn Municipal Power Agency

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Camardo, seconded by Councilor Ruzicka. The resolution carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

E. Financial Resolution #52 of 2014 Authorizing a Budget Amendment to the FY 2013-14 Budget for a Transfer to the Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion to approve sponsored by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor Camardo. The resolution carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

Local Law- None

Tabled Legislation- none

Other Business

- **Seward Park Lease for Parking/Park Maintenance Agreement**

The City Manager discussed a proposal from the officials at the William H. Seward House Museum in which the museum is proposing to maintain the City own land known as Seward Park in exchange for some parking modifications to the City owned parking lot known as the Seward Parking Lot, reserved spaces at the Seward Parking Lot, and parking spaces in the City owned municipal parking garage.

- **Presentation of the Department of Fire Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget proposal** by Fire Chief Jeff Dygert
- **Presentation of the Department of Police Fiscal Year 2014-2015 initial budget proposal** by Police Chief Brian Neagle
- **Councilor McCormick shared several issues:** 1. She recognized the recent IGNITE the Winter event that was held in downtown Auburn sponsored by the IGNITE young professionals group of the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce. She stated the event

turned downtown Auburn into a festive environment for the evening. She noted that the IGNITE group will be celebrating 10 years as an organization; 2. She asked for clarification regarding if the City Audit Committee was a temporary committee or a permanent committee. The Manager reported the Audit Committee was assigned to work with the latest City audit but that one of their recommendations was to form a Financial Advisory Board; 3. She stated that she believes the Council should place a spending freeze on the Corporation Counsel Department's services line. The Corporation Counsel reported that much of the services paid for in that line are expenses that have already been incurred and are exclusive mainly to two projects, the negotiations with Auburn Professional Firefighters Local 1446, IAFF, AFL-CIO and the negotiations for the purchase of the Landfill Gas Electric Generation Facility, also known as Co-Gen, from C-H Auburn Energy, LLC. He stated these projects will not likely carry over to the next budget year; 4. She questioned how the Council should handle e-mail communication. If the Council communicates by a series of e-mails does that constitute a meeting? Corporation Counsel Rossi offered to put together some information for the Council regarding e-mails and the NYS Open Meetings Law.

- **Councilor Cuddy** mentioned that he thought the Council should make an effort to compose a mission statement and some long range goals and objectives for the City.
- **Councilor Ruzicka** mentioned that he thought the City needed a five year financial plan and that an organizational audit is needed.
- **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 McCormick, seconded by Councilor Camardo. The motion carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye. Council entered into executive session at 9:48 p.m. The Executive session adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on March 21, 2014 by:

Charles Mason

City Clerk

On March 27, 2014 a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2014 Auburn, NY City Council meeting was made by Councilor Camardo, seconded by Councilor Cuddy .

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	x	
Councilor Camardo	x	
Councilor Cuddy	x	
Councilor Ruzicka	x	
Mayor Quill	x	
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 20th day of March, 2014 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.

Charles Mason, City Clerk

Date: March 28, 2014