

**Auburn City Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 23, 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 Mayor Quill.

**1. Roll Call** – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Quill, and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, and Ruzicka were all present. Councilor Cuddy was excused.

**The following City Staff was present:**

- City Manager, Doug Selby
- Corporation Counsel, John Rossi
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- Fire Chief, Jeff Dygert
- Police Chief, Jeff Dygert
- Traffic Control Officer, Greg Gilfus

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

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

**4. Public Announcements** –

The Clerk read the following:

A. The City of Auburn Zoning Board of Appeals will hold its next meeting on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street in Auburn.

B. Cayuga County Fall 2014 Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event on Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 8am – 1pm. This event is free, however, everyone **MUST REGISTER** with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County. Please call 315-255-1183 or register online at <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccceayuga/household-hazardous-waste/>

C. There will be a Public Forum to discuss issues pertaining to protecting Watersheds in Cayuga County from the application of liquid manure on frozen ground and near waterways and streams. This forum will be held on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 from 6pm-8pm at the Cayuga Onondaga BOCES Campus, 1879 West Genesee Street Road in Auburn, NY. The forum will provide an opportunity for County residents to speak regarding possible legislation to establish regulations to address the issue. Residents wishing to speak at the forum are asked to pre-

register by sending an e-mail to Cayuga County Legislator Keith Batman at [kbatman@cayugacounty.us](mailto:kbatman@cayugacounty.us). For more information please contact Eileen O'Connor at the Cayuga County Health Department by phone at 315-253-1405 or e-mail at [econnor@cayugacounty.us](mailto:econnor@cayugacounty.us)

**5. Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations- none**

**6. Public to be Heard** – The Mayor opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules. The following members of the public spoke:

**County Legislator Ryan Foley, VanAnden Street**

Legislator Foley reported that he has been working with the County Highway Superintendent to see if Cayuga County snowplows would plow City of Auburn roads when the plows are traveling through the City.

**Ron Quill, Case Avenue**

Mr. Quill spoke to thank the public that attended the October 19<sup>th</sup> open house at the local branch of the Salvation Army. He stated that the Salvation Army will be looking for donations of turkeys to provide those in need with Thanksgiving meals. He stated that a Thanksgiving meal will be prepared from scratch for those in need on Thanksgiving Day.

**7. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

A. October 16, 2014, City Council meeting minutes.

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

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

**8. Reports of City Officials**

**A. City Manager's Report** – City Manager Doug Selby reported on the following:

- There has been discussion between the City and County regarding the plowing of City streets. He thanked County Legislator Ryan Foley for his assistance with this matter.
- The City obtained two new refuse collection trucks/packers. These were funded by a bond that the Council passed previously this year. Councilor Camardo asked what would happen to the funds the City received for selling the old trucks/packers at auction. The manager reported that funds would be returned to the sources which originally appropriated the funds.
- The field lighting at Falcon Park is currently being replaced.
- There will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the Mill Street Dam project on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Mill Street Dam.
- Councilor Camardo then asked about progress on joint City and County meetings. The Manager reported he has been in discussion with the County Administrator about such meetings and would invite members of Council to submit to him potential topics for discussion.

**B. Reports from members of Council**

**Councilor McCormick** spoke to point out that this week's issue of the Syracuse New Times magazine featured Auburn's Theater Mack on its cover. She stated she believed it

was great publicity for the Cayuga Museum, Theater Mack and for Auburn. She also referred to and shared her thoughts on a recent article that appeared in the Citizen newspaper which reported on the Cayuga County unemployment rate being at a rate of 5.1%.

**Councilor Ruzicka** spoke to share his thoughts on a recent article that appeared in the Citizen newspaper which reported on the Cayuga County unemployment rate being at a rate of 5.1%.

**Mayor Quill** announced that he attended an event this week with the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden. On behalf of the City of Auburn he presented the Vice President with a key to the City of Auburn and reported that the Vice President stated he would hang the key on his office wall.

**Councilor Camardo** commented that the Vice President has a long history with our area and was previously the commencement speaker at Cayuga Community College.

## **9. Matters to Come Before Council**

### **A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) – None**

### **B. Ordinances - None**

### **C. Local Laws – None**

### **D. Resolutions – None**

### **E. Tabled Legislation - None**

### **F. Staff/Vendor Presentations - None**

• **Vacant Property Registry presentation by Fire Chief Jeff Dygert.** The Fire Chief provided the Council with an update on this project that has recently gained increased public attention due to placards that the Fire Department has placed on the vacant properties that are in the most disrepair. The Fire Chief explained what the significance was behind the placards and provided a breakdown of the nearly 200 properties on the list.

**Budget Update Graphs.** Councilor Ruzicka pointed out that the final budget graph in the packet was not labeled. The Manager stated he would find out which budget line belongs to the graph and report back to Council.

**Residential Parking Discussion.** The Police Chief Brian Neagle and the Corporation Counsel John Rossi led a discussion on the topic of establishing residential parking programs. The Corporation Counsel discussed the New York State law that the City of Auburn requested that the State pass back in the 1990's pertaining to the topic. While the law was passed at the State and is part of the State law the City of Auburn has never pursued establishing any specific residential parking programs. The State law also lists specific streets in the City of Auburn that are eligible for residential parking programs and any such programs established locally would be limited to those streets. If the City wanted to add streets to the list it would require asking the

State legislature to amend the law. The Police Chief then led a discussion which provided an overview of residential parking programs in the City of Ithaca and Albany, NY. He also went through a list of items that would need to be taken into consideration if the City wanted to pursue establishing such programs.

## **10. Other Business**

**A. Councilor Camardo** asked the City Manager a question pertaining to an e-mail the Manager sent to Council about the City's projected upcoming pension payment to the State. The Manager explained the pension payment would go down in 2016. The Manager reported that if the City has extra money as a result of this decrease that his recommendation would be that the Council use the money to pay down the previous amortized funds used to pay the City's pension payments. The Councilor then stated that when looking at the City's future fiscal plan the Council needs to be looking at accurate information and he asked if the City Manager could follow up with Andrew Fish from the Cayuga Economic Development Agency from his September 11, 2014 presentation to the Council for a report on the impact of job loss in the City. Mr. Fish's presentation focused on job creation but the Councilor had asked for information on job loss and has not heard back.

**B. Councilor Ruzicka** asked when the Council would be receiving information he has previously requested on tax delinquent properties and a list of vacant properties owned by the City so that the City may determine which properties have no value to the City and could be sold. He also asked when the Council would be discussing the financial audit reports that have been conducted by the independent auditing firm, the Manager responded that the presentation would be on the October 30, 2014 Council meeting agenda. He then discussed topics pertaining to demographic information to be considered for the City financial forecasting models and stated that the Comptroller's recommended financial model supported by a majority of the members of Council does not contain any demographic variables.

**C. Mayor Quill** stated that he thought the City Manager should check with the New York Conference of Mayors and Other Municipal Officials (NYCOM) to see if they have any best practice recommendations for handling tax delinquent properties.

**D. Councilor McCormick** stated that she is happy to know that the City Code Enforcement Office is now open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. She noted that there is a sign on the Code Enforcement office door that reads the office is open from 8 a.m. until 3:55 p.m. She asked if the Manager would make sure that the office is open for the normal business hours that are maintained by City Hall which are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**G. Executive Session** – Mayor Quill made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Council voted to enter an executive session regarding the following matters:

1. Three different matters of discussion that would be considered confidential under attorney client privilege. (Section 4503 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules which establishes that a

confidential communication between attorney and client shall be privileged. Pursuant to this section, Council will be receiving legal advice from its attorney which fulfills the requirement provided in Section 108(3) of the Public Officers Law allowing this exemption.)

The motion to enter executive session carried 4-0. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill all voting aye. The Council entered Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on October 24, 2014 by:

Charles Mason  
City Clerk

On October 30, 2014 a motion to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014 Auburn, NY City Council meeting was made by Councilor , seconded by Councilor .

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	x	
Councilor Camardo	x	
Councilor Cuddy	abstain	
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 23rd day of October, 2014 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.*

*Charles Mason, City Clerk*

*Date: 10-31-2014*