

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 5, 2015 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. Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka, and Mayor Quill were all present.

**The following City Staff was present:**

- City Manager, Doug Selby
- Corporation Counsel, Andy Fusco
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Fire Chief, Jeff Dygert

**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 City Clerk read the following announcements:

A. IGNITE the Winter, Winterfest will be held on Friday, March 6, 2015 beginning at 5 p.m. with events featured on Exchange Street Plaza, Genesee Center, the Auburn Public Theater, and all of the Historic and Cultural Sites in the City.

B. An upcoming Owasco Lake Watershed Management event entitled “March to Lake Day” will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 9 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. at the Bisgrove Auditorium on the campus of Cayuga Community College, 197 Franklin Street in Auburn. The event will feature speakers on topics pertaining to management issues of the Owasco Lake Watershed.

C. The City of Auburn Civil Service Commission regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, March 9, 2015 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be Monday April 13, 2015 at 6:30pm.

D. The next meeting of the City of Auburn’s Historic & Cultural Sites Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at 2 State St. first floor conference room in Auburn.

E. Notice of Public Hearing from the Central NY Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) To close a projected \$5 million dollar deficit in the upcoming fiscal year, Centro is considering significant service changes and a restructuring of its fare media in all of its service areas. A public Hearing on this matter will be held in Auburn, NY on March 16, 2015 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Memorial City Hall, 1st Floor Council Chambers, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021 for more information: [www.centro.org](http://www.centro.org)

## **5. Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations**

### **Proclamation from Mayor Michael D. Quill Naming March 10, 2015 Harriet Tubman**

**Day in the City of Auburn.** The City Clerk read the proclamation. Mayor Quill presented the proclamation to Pauline Copes Johnson great-grandniece of Harriet Tubman who spoke on behalf of the Harriet Tubman Boosters.

**6. Public to be Heard** – Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and the Clerk read the Public to be Heard rules.

### **Gilda Brower, 40 Grover Street**

Ms. Brower is a former member of the Auburn City Council. She spoke about the upcoming ‘March to Lake Day’ event being held at the Cayuga Community College on March 7, 2015 from 9 a.m until 1 p.m. There will be many speakers at the event discussing issues pertaining to the Owasco Lake Watershed. She invited people to attend this event which is open to the public.

### **Tim Lattimore, 63 South Street, Cayuga County Legislator for District 13**

Legislator Lattimore stated that he is keeping his coat on because it is pretty cold out and gas and electric bills will be coming soon for people and they are probably going to be quite high after this extraordinarily cold winter and with the rates that NYSEG is charging it’s going to be expensive. Dave Arnold used to come to this podium and argue, and he agreed with him wholeheartedly about keeping the coal fired plant down on Cayuga Lake working and hopefully we can revamp that site and actually make it a coal fired plant which will help the environment and also help the rate payer with lower cost energy. NYSEG wants to put up a new line and as you know NYSEG makes money only in regards to the transmission of the element. New York State has to be producing more elements and he happened to be with the Governor in Solvay the other day which is one of the lowest utility costs in upstate and he’s in favor of on sight generation having combined heat and power plants like the City has, like the County has in operation so that we can take some of the congestion off the lines instead of building these new lines. He stated he has indicated that if NYSEG does build this third line that they give us the right of way that is going to be abandoned hopefully for a dollar so that we can use it for other means if they do build it but he would like to see the coal fired plant that’s on Cayuga Lake now revamped into a gasification plant and also he would like the Harriet Tubman issue, Mrs. Johnson did swear him in this term on the County leg. So it is always pleasure to see her and hopefully we can get the remaining funding for that project.

## **7. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

### **February 26, 2014, City Council meeting minutes.**

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

The motion to approve carried 5-0. Mayor Quill and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye.

## **8. Reports of City Officials**

### **A. City Manager's Report**

- The Auburn Ice Hockey Club has offered to assist with operating the Casey Park Ice Rink during the winter months in an attempt to offset costs for the City, raise money for future capital needs at the rink, and keep the ice rink open. The proposal will need to be negotiated and ultimately approved by the Council. The group plans to form as an official not for profit organization. A proposal will be forthcoming in the next couple months to hopefully be executed within the upcoming Fiscal Year 2015-2016 City Budget discussions.
- The Co-Gen facility has experienced 2.5 days of downtime in recent weeks due to methane levels dropping most likely due to the extreme cold weather conditions. The production has resumed and the City will need to be aware that the landfill may not be able to meet production needs to run the plant during these extreme cold weather periods.
- Councilor Ruzicka asked if there was an update on the City/County Department of Public Works merger. The Manager responded that there was no progress to report. Councilor Ruzicka stated he has spoken with County Legislators who are eager to keep things moving on this topic. Mayor Quill stated he has also spoken with County Legislators who are eager to keep things moving on this topic. The Manager stated there would be some logistical work on the City's part needed to prepare City facilities for the planned first step of merging of a part of the City and County fleet. He also stated that a lot of work can be conducted by the City/County DPW Joint-Venture Committee.

### **B. Reports from members of Council – None**

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

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

### **B. Ordinances -**

#### **B1. Bond Ordinance #2 of 2015 Refunding of 2006 Serial Bonds**

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

The motion to approve carried 5-0. Mayor Quill and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye.

### **C. Local Laws – None**

### **D. Resolutions -**

#### **D1. Financial Resolution #24 of 2015 Accepting Grant Funding from the Sean M. Walsh K-9 Memorial Foundation for the Auburn Police Department**

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

The motion to approve carried 5-0. Mayor Quill and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye.

**D2. Agreement Resolution #25 of 2015 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Professional Services Agreement for the Public Safety Complex Project**

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

Councilor Camardo asked if this agreement would be executed before the official closing on City owned property at 5 Frederick Street. The Council discussed. The City Manager stated that the agreement would not be executed until the closing on 5 Frederick Street was complete. The closing for 5 Frederick Street is anticipated to occur in a couple weeks.

The motion to approve carried 5-0. Mayor Quill and Councilors McCormick, Camardo, Cuddy, and Ruzicka all voting aye.

**E. Tabled Legislation - None**

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

**10. Other Business**

A. Mayor Quill asked if the Manager could provide the Council with an update on the rate of return of annual Financial Disclosure Forms of City officials and board members.

B. Mayor Quill stated that he would like the Council to consider approving a resolution at the next week's Council meeting to address concerns of the Council on behalf of residents of the City to service cuts and fare adjustments being proposed by the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority aka CENTRO. This led to discussion among all members of the Council. There appeared to be consensus that a resolution would be brought to Council at the March 12, 2015 Council meeting for the Council's consideration.

C. Councilor McCormick stated that she wanted to commend the City Public Works crews that have been working diligently for many weeks to keep up with snow removal during what has been a very bad winter with lots of snowfall and extreme cold conditions. She also addressed concerns from a resident that had been brought to her attention pertaining to crows getting into resident's trash once placed curbside for collection. She discussed that it is highly recommended that the best way to keep crows away from your trash is to place your trash in approved refuse collection containers and make sure the container's lids are on.

D. Councilor Ruzicka asked the Manager what the City's plan was to keep storm drains clear during the next several weeks that we will experience warmer weather conditions that will cause snow to melt during the day but likely freeze again at night. He also asked about the City's efforts to remove snow banks and snow on curblines to try to widen streets. The Manager responded that this is something we would be working on case by case and he encouraged Councilors to forward resident complaints to him to be taken care of.

E. Councilor Camardo asked about potholes on the roads and what the plan was to address the significant winter damage that has occurred. The Manager stated he has met with the Superintendent of Public Works on this topic. The City will be getting a hot box trailer on Monday, March 9, 2015 which in theory will allow for improved patching of the potholes that have developed. The Manager wants to see City crews putting this new piece of equipment to work immediately upon being trained for its use. The Manager also stated that this topic will need to be discussed by Council in the upcoming weeks as we discuss the upcoming City Road Improvement Program with the options being should we try to rebuild streets or should we implement for the upcoming year more of a repair program to try to get as many streets in workable order as possible.

**Adjournment:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on March 6, 2015 by:

Charles Mason  
City Clerk

On March 12, 2015 a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 Auburn, NY City Council meeting was made by Councilor Cuddy, seconded by Councilor McCormick.

	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 5th day of March, 2015 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.*



*Charles Mason, City Clerk*

*Date: March 13, 2015*