

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 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, John Rossi
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Talbot

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. The next meeting of the Auburn Industrial Development Authority will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce Building, 2 State Street in Auburn.

B. 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

C. PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE AND NOTICE OF SEMI-ANNUAL INTERVIEW AND EXAM FOR ELECTRICAL LICENSE. Notice is hereby given that applications for electrical licenses must be filed in person at the April 8, 2015 City of Auburn Electric Board meeting to be held at 5:00 pm at the City Hall Conference Room at 24 South St. 1st Floor, Auburn, NY. The exam will then be held May 13, 2015 at 5:00 pm at this same location. Applications can be

obtained at the Code Enforcement Office in City Hall, 315.255.4111.

5. Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations

Proclamation from Mayor Michael D. Quill Naming March 17, 2015 as St. Patrick's Day in the City of Auburn. The City Clerk read the proclamation.

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.

Karen Quinn, 9 Benham Avenue

Ms. Quinn spoke about the conditions of City streets and sidewalks this winter. She stated that she realized it was a difficult winter but that the snow plowing on some streets in the City was done minimally and that made it difficult to drive on those streets, and road and sidewalk conditions throughout the City made it difficult for walkers to be able to get around. She encouraged the Council to plan better for these rough winter conditions in the future.

Jon J. Wilcox, 106 Swift Street

Mr. Wilcox spoke in his new capacity as the Chairperson of the local IGNITE Young Professionals of Cayuga County. He spoke to thank and recognize all of the City staff that were involved with helping the group with the 2015 IGNITE the Winter – Winterfest in Downtown Auburn that was held on Friday, March 6, 2015. He also thanked and recognized all of the event sponsors.

Cate Richardson, Cayuga County Health and Human Services, 160 Genesee Street

Ms. Richardson spoke in her capacity as a Cayuga County Homefinder for the foster care program in Cayuga County. The program is in need of foster homes in the City of Auburn. Persons interested in becoming foster parents please contact Cate @ (315) 253-1190 to receive more information. More information is also available on the internet at: <http://www.cayugafostercare.org/Home.aspx>

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

March 5, 2015, 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 Manager asked Superintendent of Public Works Mike Talbot to provide a report on pothole patching on City streets. Mr. Talbot reported that City work crews have been out all week beginning to patch the many potholes that have developed following the rough winter weather we have experienced. The City has developed a web page for residents to notify the DPW of potholes that need to be filled. (http://www.auburnny.gov/Public_Documents/AuburnNY_WebDocs/comments) Also, the City has received a new Asphalt Pothole Patch Trailer this week. The trailer cost \$36,746.00. Talbot stated that he thinks this new piece of equipment will help the City meet its needs patching potholes.
- Councilor Ruzicka asked if there was an update on the City/County Department of Public Works merger. The Manager provided an update. The Manager stated that the

subcommittee will meet next week to work on costs, scheduling, logistics and the development of a potential memorandum of understanding between the City and County.

B. Reports from members of Council

- Councilor McCormick reported on the ‘March to Lake Day’ event that was held at Cayuga Community College on Saturday, March 7, 2015. She thanked all those involved with planning and presenting at the event. She stated that the event was video-recorded and will be shown on the local public access TV channels in upcoming weeks.

9. Matters to Come Before Council

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

B. Ordinances -

C. Local Laws – None

D. Resolutions -

D1. Council Resolution #26 of 2015 Opposing Service Cuts to Cayuga County and Auburn Route Service by Central New York Regional Transit Authority (CENTRO)

Motion to approve by Mayor Quill, seconded by Councilor Camardo.

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 –

Auburn Downtown Business Improvement District (BID)

Mark Divietro, President of the Board of Directors for the Downtown Auburn Business Improvement District (BID) presented an overview of the work that the Downtown BID does. He was joined by the BID’s Executive Director Connie Reilley and BID Assistant Director Jesse Kline. The BID is requesting that the Council consider a long term agreement with the BID for maintenance. The BID maintenance program has been in action for about 10 years and works well to keep the Downtown BID area adequately maintained for cleanliness, grass-cutting, snow-removal, planting flowers, watering flowers, etc. In order to properly plan for future years the BID needs the security of a longer term commitment from the City. Councilor McCormick, Councilor Cuddy and mayor Quill spoke in favor of having the City establish a long term agreement with the Downtown BID. The Mayor asked the Manager to work on this matter and bring it back to the Council for Council consideration at a future Council meeting.

City Budget Discussion - Outsourcing City Functions and Services, Public Private Partnerships (PPP's)

The City Manager led a presentation of information on this topic and the Council discussed.

10. Other Business

A. Councilor Ruzicka brought up questions about a report from Energy Advantage providing an analysis of energy production at the City Cogeneration facility.

B. Mayor Quill called for a recess at 7:08 p.m. The recess was called so that the City Manager could make copies of the report from Energy Advantage that Councilor Ruzicka was questioning. The Council recessed.

C. Mayor Quill reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

D. The City Manager handed all Councilors a copy of the report from Energy Advantage. Councilor McCormick asked if the City Manager could provide some background on the report from Energy Advantage. The City Manager explained that over the years the City has been discussing different ways to maximize the revenue for the City-owned Cogeneration system, internally, the City staff has conducted analysis and concluded that one of the best options was to sell energy into the New England market and move the Wastewater Treatment Plant from being powered by the Cogeneration facility to being powered by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG). The Manager wanted to firm up the City staff's analysis so he contracted with the company Energy Advantage to provide the study that Councilor Ruzicka is wanting to discuss. All members of Council discussed. The following is a summary of points discussed by each member of Council on this topic:

- Councilor Ruzicka discussed the report from Energy Analysis. He pointed out various things about the report that he questions. He stated that he believes the report needs to have more input from members of the Auburn Municipal Power Authority (AMPA) and City staff so that the City can make a good decision on this matter. He stated he believes it is a flawed analysis because the numbers just don't line up. He stated that he wants the report to be discussed at the next AMPA meeting and wants the company representatives from Energy Advantage to be present for the discussion.
- Councilor Cuddy discussed the issue of moving the Wastewater Treatment Plant from being powered by the Cogeneration facility to being powered by (NYSEG) so that the City could sell power from the Cogeneration facility to the New England market. He stated that when the issue came up last year in September he was of the understanding that the City was moving forward on this transition. He stated he believed the Energy Advantage study provides a similar view of the analysis provided by City staff that making necessary changes to be able to sell power from the Cogeneration facility to the New England market is a good option for the City. He stated that he believed that last September himself, Councilor McCormick, and Mayor Quill had all expressed at the time that they wanted the City staff to keep moving forward on this switch to NYSEG at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He wants to see our City staff be more aggressive with

NYSEG to be able to move forward with this transition. He stated he really wants to see the City move forward with this matter.

- Councilor Camardo stated that he has not had sufficient time to study the report in question that was just provided this week. He wants to hear the City Manager provide his thoughts on the report.
- Councilor McCormick stated that she believes the Council previously agreed to move along with the staff recommendation to switch the Wastewater Treatment Plant from being powered by the Cogeneration facility to being powered by (NYSEG). She would like to see the City move forward with this. She stated that the issue is complicated but she has confidence in the decision of Mr. Selby and City staff. She stated she does not want to see more analysis of this hold up the progress.
- Mayor Quill stated that he does not want to see any more analysis of this issue slow down the progress of this issue. He stated he wants to see the staff move forward with the staff recommendation to switch the Wastewater Treatment Plant from being powered by the Cogeneration facility to being powered by (NYSEG). At the same time he believes if the City Manager wants to bring this matter to the AMPA board the Manager has that prerogative but he does not want such a meeting to interfere with moving this project forward.

E. Councilor Ruzicka discussed the topic of the Viewpermit software being implemented at the City Code office. He would like an update on this project. He asked the City Manager to look into the matter of a sign in the Codes office that asks applicants to be patient with City staff as they learn the new software.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on March 13, 2015 by:

Charles Mason
City Clerk

Auburn City Council Minutes March 12, 2015

On March 19, 2015 a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 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 12th day of March, 2015 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.

Charles Mason, City Clerk Date: March 13, 2015