

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2016 6:00 P.M.
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, Giannettino, Cuddy, and Carabajal, and Mayor Quill were all present.

The following City Staff was present:

- City Manager, Doug Selby
- Corporation Counsel, John Rossi
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- Director of Planning and Economic Development, Jennifer Haines
- 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. There will be a public meeting with Robert J. Freeman, Executive Director of the New York State Committee on Open Government held on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7p.m. The purpose of the meeting is for Mr. Freeman to provide an overview of the New York State Open Meetings Law and Freedom of Information Law. He will also be available for questions from participants. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, first floor of Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street, Auburn. This meeting will be held during National Sunshine Week and the event is open to all. We will be working over the coming weeks to invite all public boards and commissions of the City, as well as, Cayuga County, the local School District, etc.

B. Mark your calendar for this exciting upcoming workshop for the Auburn SPARKS initiative, Tuesday, March 15th from 6pm-8pm at the Hilton Garden Inn on State Street.

Auburn SPARKS is a community-driven effort to revitalize the City's downtown core and Owasco River corridor. This revitalization effort is being funded through the New York State Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program, which helps communities identify end uses and solutions for the vacant and underutilized sites in their neighborhoods.

The purpose of this study is to develop a comprehensive framework for the Downtown/Owasco River Corridor study area that considers the community's strong industrial history centered on Route 20 and the Owasco River. This area-wide revitalization plan will provide a framework for redevelopment initiatives that improve the economy and quality of life for residents and businesses. Visit www.AuburnSPARKS.com for more information.

C. The next meeting of the Auburn Industrial Development Authority will be held on Wednesday, March 16th at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce building, 2 State, Street in downtown Auburn.

D. Change the clocks, change the batteries.

The Auburn Fire Department and the the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urge you to check your alarms this weekend when you set your clocks one hour ahead for Daylight Saving Time. Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday, March 13, 2016 at 2 a.m.

This is a great time to put fresh batteries in your alarms. Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms do an important job of giving you and your family time to escape a fire or CO poisoning incident, but only if they have batteries that are working. CPSC recommends replacing batteries in alarms once every year.

5. Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations

The Clerk read a Proclamation from the Office of Mayor Michael D. Quill naming March 10, 2016 as Harriet Tubman Day in the City of Auburn. Great, great grandniece of harriet Tubman, Ms. Pauline Copes Johnson accepted the proclamation on behalf of her family and the Harriet Tubman Boosters.

Proclamation from the Office of Mayor Michael D. Quill naming March 10, 2016 as Harriet Tubman Day in the City of Auburn.

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born into slavery as Araminta Ross in Bucktown, near Cambridge, Maryland in the early 1820's; and

WHEREAS, Harriet escaped from slavery in 1849 to eventually settle in Philadelphia, where she was introduced to William Still – the “Station Master of the Underground Railroad” and began her mission as one of their conductors; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman became known as the “Moses of her people” after making close to 20 trips leading some 300 slaves to freedom in Canada, along the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, in the mid 1850's, Harriet Tubman met William H. Seward and his wife Frances in Auburn, New York, through whom she contracted seven acres of land on South Street to build a home for herself, husband Nelson Davis and other family members; and

WHEREAS, in 1896 she purchased twenty-five adjoining acres to her home, including a frame house to expand her charitable work providing for poor, sick, and elderly formerly enslaved people; and

WHEREAS, on the 10th day of March 1913, Harriet Tubman departed for Eternal life and was laid to rest with full military honors at Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, today her home and property in Auburn are registered as a National Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, in 1998 this site was designated as part of the National Parks Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2014 President Barack Obama signed the National Defense

Authorization Act (NDAA) which included establishing the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park which will protect in perpetuity sites associated with Tubman in Cambridge, Maryland and Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Harriet Ross Tubman is an inspiration to many people, as her life's work of dedication and commitment to the abolition of slavery makes her one of our Nation's greatest historical figures, and it is therefore fitting that people everywhere pay tribute to this significant American champion of freedom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the members of City Council and citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim the 10th day of March, 2016, as HARRIET TUBMAN DAY in the City of Auburn, New York.

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.

Diane Dudek Taylor, Teller Avenue

Ms. Dudek Taylor spoke regarding the Schines Theater and she encouraged the City to take a greater role in restoring the theater.

Dennis Zack, N. Lewis Street

Mr. Zack spoke regarding issues pertaining to the Auburn Municipal Power Agency Board of Directors.

Norm Davis, N. Division St

Mr. Davis spoke to thank the Council for their attention to the heroin epidemic that is present in the community and throughout the region.

Tim Lattimore, 63 South St.

Mr. Lattimore is the County Legislator for District 13 in the City and he spoke on several different topics.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. March 3, 2016, City Council meeting minutes.

Motion to approve by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Carabajal.

The motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2016 carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Giannettino, Cuddy, Carabajal and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

8. Reports of City Officials

A. City Manager's Report

- He discussed the committee that has been working on the potential merging of the City and County Public Works Facilities. He stated that there is a need for a member of Council to join the group and any member that is interested should contact him.

B. Reports from members of Council

- Councilor McCormick discussed the recent March to Lake day seminar that was held on March 5th at the Auburn Public Theater. She also asked Auburn Police Department Captain Casper to report on the summit they attended in Albany on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 about police and community relations. The meeting was sponsored by the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM); and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (NYSCOPA). Captain Casper provided an update to the Council.

- Councilor Cuddy reported on the most recent Lead Task Force meeting that he attended with Director of Planning and Economic Development Jennifer Haines.
- Councilor Giannettino reported on the most recent Heroin Epidemic Action League (HEAL) meeting. He also reported on the most recent Historic Sites Commission meeting that he attended.

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

F1. Presentation on Parks Department by Mike Talbot, Department of Public Works. Mr. Talbot provided an overview of the maintenance and programming associated with all of the City's parks. The Council discussed summer music and movies. Mr. Talbot explained the dilemma the department has with booking the summer music because the funds in the annual budget do not get approved until June. Councilor Cuddy asked that a resolution be brought before Council that would have the Council approve such funding in advance so that the Parks department could adequately schedule summer concerts well in advance of the summer season.

- Review of City Boards and Commissions and Discussion of Possible Changes by Councilor Giannettino. The Councilor presented an overview of the 20 different City Boards and Commissions. He reported that during the review process he worked with staff to get board lists and websites up to date. He made some recommendations for creating a board member training process, having the Council adopt transparency standards for boards and commissions to follow that exceed state open meetings law requirements, possible merger or consolidation with the County of some boards, and possible elimination of some boards that no longer exist. The Council discussed and decided to continue the discussion at future meetings.

10. Other Business

Mayor Quill stated that there were five Thursdays in the month of March and that Thursday, March 24th is Holy Thursday. He recommended to the Council that the Council meeting of March 24th be cancelled and that said meeting be rescheduled to the 5th Thursday of the month, March 31st. Members of Council asked that a resolution be brought to Council at the next meeting to make this change.

Councilor Giannettino asked that a resolution be drafted for the Council to encourage the President of the United States to have National Drug Control Policy Director Michael Botticelli hold a public forum on the heroin epidemic in the Central New York region.

Councilor McCormick asked about a Homeland Security Grant that the Council took action on in November 2015 for the Auburn Police Department. The Manager stated there had just been a meeting on that earlier in the day. She also asked about the U.S. Department of Justice audit of the Asset Forfeiture Funds accounts. The Manager stated that the Comptroller had provided additional information they had requested but at this time we have not heard anything back from them.

Executive Session. Councilor Giannettino made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Carabajal. Council voted to enter an executive session regarding the following matters:

1. Discussion on one matter pertaining to the appointment of a particular individual. (NYS “The Open Meeting Law”, Article 7, Section 105-f)
2. Discussion on one matter pertaining to the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of City owned property. (NYS “The Open Meeting Law”, Article 7, Section 105-h)
3. Discussion on one matter that is confidential by Federal or State law. (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 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Giannettino, Cuddy, Carabajal, and Mayor Quill all voting aye. The Council entered Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Mayor Quill reconvened the Council in open session at 9:29 p.m.

Councilor McCormick made a motion to schedule a Special Meeting of the City Council for Saturday, March 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. to be held in Council Chambers of Memorial City Hall, 24 South Street in Auburn. The purpose of the meeting would be to convene an executive session for the matter of appointment of an individual to the position of City Manager.

Councilor Carabajal seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0. Councilors McCormick, Giannettino, Cuddy, Carabajal and Mayor Quill all voting aye.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Auburn City Council Minutes March 10, 2016

Minutes submitted to the City Council on March 11, 2016 by:

Charles Mason
City Clerk

On March 17, 2016 a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016 Auburn, NY City Council meeting was made by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Carabajal.

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	Absent	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Carabajal	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 10th day of March, 2016 and that the City Council approved such by the vote listed above.

Charles Mason, City Clerk Date: March 18, 2016