

IN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2018 VOL. 35 PAGE 101

Mayor Levesque, along with Auburn resident Brayden Bashaw, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. All Councilors were present.

I. Consent Items

1. Order 01-01082018*

Confirming Chief Crowell's Appointments of Constables without firearms for the Auburn Police Department and Constable Process Servers without firearms within the City of Auburn.

Motion was made by Councilor Titus and seconded by Councilor Fournier for passage. Passage 7-0.

II. Minutes – December 18, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Fournier to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Regular Council Meeting. Passage 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

Proclamation: Brayden Bashaw - Ornaments of Hope

Brayden Bashaw, 12 year old Auburn resident, was recognized by Mayor Levesque for his significant contributions to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. Brayden raised \$7,500 by crafting and selling ornaments – "Ornaments of Hope" to benefit the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. He was presented with a framed proclamation. Mayor Levesque praised him for "being an upstanding role model for children and adults alike".

IV. Open Session

Robert Spencer, PO Box 1088 Auburn, stated that he was opposed to Troy Street project, and wanted the Councilors to ask themselves if they thought the City would be better off without the project than with having it on the wrong lot. He also stated that he did not think the previous Planning Board meeting was a legal meeting because in his opinion, it was not properly noticed.

Renee Simonitis, commented on the Street Light Conversion and the smart controls on the street lights. She stated that she did not want cameras added on and believes that doing so would be a step in the wrong direction for citizen privacy.

V. Unfinished Business - None

VI. New Business

1. Order 02-01082018

Accepting Portland Way as a City street.

Motion was made by Councilor Titus and seconded by Councilor Fournier for passage.

Public comment – no one from the public spoke. Passage 7-0.

2. Order 03-01082018

Approving the discontinuance of Troy Street and to appropriate funding for damages.

Motion was made by Councilor Gerry and seconded by Councilor Hayes to “order the discontinuance of a portion of Troy Street, said road being a City Way approximately 30 feet wide including the right of way, from a point beginning at the southern side of the intersection of Hampshire Street and Troy Street and extending approximately 250 feet in a generally southerly direction to the northerly intersection of Library Avenue and Troy Street and that the following damages be paid to the adjoining property owners as follows: Nico Carrao - \$0.00; Pan Am Railroad - \$0.00”.

Public comment – no one from the public spoke.

Passage 5-2 (Councilors Titus and Gerry opposed).

3. Order 04-01082018

Approving the order directing the municipal clerk to record an attested certificate of the Troy Street discontinuance.

Motion was made by Councilor Young and seconded by Councilor Walker to “issue and file with the City Clerk an Order of Discontinuance that accurately reflects the action taken by the City Council to discontinue a portion of Troy Street, and that the City Council send abutting property owners best practicable notice of this action without delay”.

Public comment – no one from the public spoke.

Passage 6-1 (Councilor Titus opposed).

4. Resolve 01-01082018

Supporting the formation of a Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary Committee as recommended by Mayor Levesque.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage.

Public comment – no one from the public spoke.

Passage – 6-0-1 (Councilor Hayes abstained).

5. Resolve 02-01082018

Supporting the formation of an Age Friendly Community Committee as recommended by Mayor Levesque.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Gerry for passage.

Public comment - Renee Simonitis wanted more information about this committee.

Motion was made by Councilor Hayes and seconded by Councilor Fournier to amend the language to read “resolved that the Auburn City Council hereby supports the formation of *the Mayor’s* Age Friendly Community Committee”. Passage 6-1 (Councilor Walker opposed).

Passage of Resolve 02-01082018 as amended 7-0.

VII. Reports

Mayor Levesque – reported that it has been a busy couple of weeks. He received several emails during the snow storms, he encouraged Councilors to reach out to their constituents encouraging them to sign up to receive Auburn Connections. He also encouraged Councilors to reach out to constituents regarding snow removal. He reported that a new softball league will be starting up Saturday at Ingersoll Arena. On January 15th, Krispy Kreme is having their grand opening at 6AM. Councilor Fournier will attend in the Mayor’s absence. He also mentioned that with all of the hockey tournaments that are taking place at the Norway Savings Bank Arena and the number of people attending these events, he would like to see a pop up display or something similar that would showcase Auburn in a positive way.

Councilor Young – reported that the Danville Junction Grange Hall is being jacked up in order to put in a foundation. Due to that, the Grange Hall supper did not take place.

Councilor Lasagna – reported that she went to brunch at the House of Bacon, adding that it is well worth checking out. She also displayed a gift that her daughter gave her as a Christmas gift, a beautiful framed wall hanging that had her name and Auburn City Council embroidered on it. She said that in the note, her daughter said that “she was very inspired about having me run for City Council” and Councilor Lasagna added that “this is where it begins”.

Councilor Hayes – reported that he attended the Lewiston Inauguration, and noted that he was very pleased to hear Mayor Bouchard comment that he and Mayor Levesque have met on a few different occasions and it was reported in the newspaper that between the two Mayors, it may be the best working relationship between the two Mayors that we’ve had. He also reported that the Airport Board will be meeting on Thursday at 5:00 PM at the airport. Members of the public are invited to attend.

Councilor Titus – reported that he did meet with the Sunderland Drive Neighborhood Watch Committee. There are still concerns regarding speeding in the Stevens Mill and Hotel Road areas. He also reported that the Sewer and Water District meetings will be held on the 16th and 17th of the month at 4:00 PM at the District Office.

Councilor Fournier – reported on the School Committee meeting. The 2021 graduating class will be graduating based on proficiency levels instead of grade levels (proficiency based learning). She added that there is a lot going on in the school system and she recommended inviting the School Committee to a meeting to give a presentation. They (School Department) are in the process of reviewing labor contracts, they reviewed their finance report, the wellness policy, and will review the 2018 school calendar and goals at the next School Committee meeting which will be held on January 17th.

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Councilor Walker – thanked the Public Services Department staff and Director Dan Goyette for helping out with the skating rink at Sherwood Heights, and their work during the storms. He said he appreciates everything they've done. He said the sidewalks and the City of Auburn look great and are the best he's ever seen.

Councilor Gerry – reported that the Lewiston Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) will meet on Wednesday at 12:30 at AVCOG. She also reported that the General Assistance department is in need of a lot of items (diapers, personal hygiene items, soaps, cleaning supplies, canned goods and other food items are needed). She will be placing a box in the lobby for residents to drop off items. She also commented on the Senior Center and some of the programs that are offered.

Assistant City Manager Clavette – reported that on January 29th there will be a workshop to cover the Departmental Orientation overview. She also reported that Mayor Levesque and she are setting up regular meetings with the Legislative delegation and she will provide regular updates to the Council on that. She also reported that on January 22nd, the City Council will transition from a paper and note books to a surface pro tablet with the goal going paperless for the February 5th meeting.

VIII. Open Session – Robert Spencer, PO Box 1088 talked about locating development lots and also about finding the location for the new high school.

IX. Executive Session

To confer with Counsel regarding their legal rights and obligations pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(e)

Motion was made by Councilor Gerry and seconded by Councilor Fournier to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(e).

Passage 7-0.

Time 8:19 PM.

Council was declared out of executive session at 8:31 PM.

Discussion on a poverty abatement case # 2017-001 pursuant to (36 M.R.S.A § 841) with possible action to follow.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Lasagna to enter into executive session pursuant to 36 M.R.S.A. §841.

Passage 5-0 (Councilors Gerry and Hayes not in room for vote).

Time 8:32 PM.

Council was declared out of executive session at 9:22 PM.

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Motion was made by Councilor Titus and seconded by Councilor Fournier to deny the abatement in full for case number 2017-001 for tax year 2016 - 2017.

Passage 4-2-1 (Councilors Young and Gerry opposed, Councilor Walker abstained).

Motion was made by Councilor Lasagna and seconded by Councilor Fournier to deny the abatement in full for case 2017-001 for tax year 2017 – 2018.

Passage 4-2-1 (Councilors Young and Gerry opposed, Councilor Walker abstained).

Discussion on a personnel matter pursuant to (1 M.R.S.A § 405 (6)(a)).

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Fournier to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(e).

Passage 7-0.

Time 9:26 PM.

Council was declared out of executive session at 10:18 PM.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Hayes and seconded by Councilor Walker to adjourn.

Passage 6-0 (Councilor Young was not present for this vote). The meeting adjourned at 10:19 PM.

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ATTEST _____
Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk

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Mayor Levesque, along with Axel Favreau, Ryan Mileikis, Ace Watson and Will Routhier of the Maine Gladiators U10 Squirt Team, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. All Councilors were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Consent Items – None

II. Minutes – January 8, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Fournier to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular Council meeting. Passage 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

Proclamation – Norway Savings Bank Arena – Maine Gladiators U10 Squirt Team

Axel Favreau, Ryan Mileikis, Ace Watson and Will Routhier of the Maine Gladiators U10 Squirt Team were recognized and the Mayor presented each of them with a framed copy of the proclamation.

IV. Open Session – Wayne Souza, Auburn talked about exhaust and the effects of exhaust/emissions in the air.

V. Unfinished Business - None

VI. New Business

1. Order 05-01222018

Approving the liquor license (beer and wine) for Craft Brew Underground LLC, DBA Craft Brew Underground located at 34 Court Street. Public hearing.

Motion was made by Councilor Titus and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage.

Public hearing – no one from the public spoke.

Passage 7-0.

2. Resolve 03-01222018

Authorizing membership in the Maine Service Center Coalition for 2018 and designating Peter Crichton to be the appointed representative and Denise Clavette as alternate representative.

Motion was made by Councilor Hayes and seconded by Councilor Fournier for passage.

Public comment – no one from the public spoke.

Passage 4-3 (Councilors Walker, Gerry, and Titus opposed).

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3. Order 06-01222018

Authorizing staff to enter into an agreement with RealTerm Energy for the LED Street Light Conversion Project.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage.

Public comment – a representative from RealTerm Energy brought one of the LED lights for the Council to see. No other members of the public spoke.

Passage 7-0.

4. Resolve 04-01222018

Supporting the formation of a Mayor's Ad hoc Committee on Economic Development and Marketing as recommended by Mayor Levesque.

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage.

Public comment - no one from the public spoke.

Passage 6-0-1 (Councilor Hayes abstained).

VII. Reports

Mayor's Report – Mayor Levesque reminded everyone that the Winter Festival will take place this weekend and more information can be found on our website and on social media. He encouraged people to attend. He challenged Councilors to take a “selfie” at each event they attend, and the councilor with the most “selfies” taken, posted on line, and verified will be treated, by the Mayor, to a nice dinner out at a local restaurant. He also reported that he spoke at the Chamber's monthly breakfast along with Lewiston's Mayor, Mayor Bouchard.

Councilor Young – reported that he attended his first School Building Committee meeting, adding that there wasn't a lot to report on it because most of it was covered in executive session. They talked about it being a self sustaining building. He added that they still have not selected a location for the school.

Councilor Lasagna – also reported on attending the School Building Committee meeting. She noted that the Department of Education will have a say on whether or not they accept a particular sight. She reported that they visited 3 sights in Massachusetts. A slide show of the schools they visited in Massachusetts is available on the Auburn School Departments website. She added that they will also be looking at schools in Maine. She also reported that she will be attending her first CDBG Meeting on February 7th.

Councilor Hayes – reported on a few recent newspaper articles regarding The Chamber Breakfast where the Mayor's of Lewiston and Auburn spoke, and on things happening at historic Lost Valley by Dave Irons. He talked about Otto Wallingford and provided some history on how he developed snow making. He spoke of community pride and image

adding that as we move forward, we should also take a look back on how we got here. He also provided some history on the Auburn Lewiston Airport and on Proctor & Gamble buying out Tambrands.

Councilor Titus – reported on the Sewer District meeting that was held last week. They have an ambitious budget for infrastructure repair and they came right within budget this year. He reported that the Water District meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. He commented on the School Building Committee stating that the Council should get involved in that before too much is committed. He also commented on Councilor Hayes report on Lost Valley.

Councilor Fournier – reported that March 7th is the community forum for the new high school project. She said it is imperative that we involve the public early on and we need to be transparent. She reported on School Committee meeting (goals, Shelly Mogul's presentation on Vision 2020, proficiency based education, there was a second reading on the student wellness policy, and they went over the finance report that focused on the demands that special education puts on the budget). She also reported on the Auburn Library Board of Trustees meeting. They have included 4 additional trustees and are looking for candidates to serve on the board. They are recruiting for donations for their annual auction. Their goal this year is \$10,000.

Councilor Walker – his reports on the 911 Committee and Mid Maine Waste Action Corporation have been included in the agenda packet. He also reported that the Neighborhood Watch meeting is to be held on the 25th at the Sixth Street Congregational Church at 6:30 PM and the United New Auburn Association meeting is going to be held on the 30th at 6:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Auburn's Chief of Police. He also invited everyone to join the United New Auburn Association on Sunday, January 28th from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM (Sherwood Heights) for sliding, skating, hot chocolate and donuts.

Councilor Gerry – reported on the last Lewiston Auburn Transit Committee (LATC) meeting. They discussed the meeting time. Meetings are held at 12:30 PM and they would like to keep that as is. They also discussed the temporary loan they received from the City. She also reported that she attended the Recreation Advisory Board Meeting where they discussed the budget and CIP that they will be submitting. They also discussed the upcoming Winter Festival. She also talked about the donation boxes she set up to collect items for the General Assistance pantry.

City Manager Report – thanked Denise Clavette and the team for taking over at the last meeting while he was touring schools in Massachusetts. He also wanted to let people know that the city has put out a city recycling calendar. He reported that they will be looking at EMS more closely. He would like to form a working group and has been working with Geoff Low, Auburn's Fire Chief on it. He mentioned a recent incident where the Town Manager of Jackman, Maine who made some racist remarks. City Manager Crichton stated that it was not representative of the profession and he was going to circulate a few letters that have been sent by the President of the

Maine Town and City Managers Association adding that they never want to see any of their colleagues make

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those kinds of remarks. He reminded everyone that there is a workshop scheduled for Monday, January 29th at 5:30 PM (Department Orientation). In closing, he wanted everyone to know that there was a public School Building Committee forum held a few months ago with community members.

Finance Director, Jill Eastman – December 2017 Monthly Finance Report

Motion was made by Councilor Titus and seconded by Councilor Walker to accept and place on file the December 2017 Monthly finance report. Passage 7-0.

VIII. Open Session – no one from the public spoke.

IX. Executive Session - None

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Fournier and seconded by Councilor Walker to adjourn. Passage 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

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ATTEST _____

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk