

Mayor Levesque 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. Councilor Milks had an excused absence. All other Councilors were present.

7:00 P.M. City Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

- I. Consent Items** – All items with an asterisk (*) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member or a citizen so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.
- 1. Order 01-01032023***
Confirming Chief Moen’s appointments of Steven Friedrich, William Howard, James Clement, and Joshua Crosswell as Constable with Firearm for the Auburn Police Department.
- 2. Order 02-01032023***
Re-appointing Darren Finnegan to the Planning Board, full member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.
- 3. Order 03-01032023***
Appointing Paul Jacques to the Planning Board, full member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.
- 4. Order 04-01032023***
Re-appointing Stacey LeBlanc to the Planning Board, full member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.
- 5. Order 05-01032023***
Appointing David Trask to the Planning Board, full member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2025.
- 6. Order 06-01032023***
Appointing Amanda Guerette to the Planning Board, associate member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2025.
- 7. Order 07-01032023***
Appointing Timothy DeRoche to the Planning Board, associate member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.
- 8. Order 08-01032023***
Re-appointing Danelle Martel to the Auburn Housing Authority Board of Trustees, with a term expiration of 10/01/2027.
- 9. Order 09-01032023***

Re-appointing Jeremiah Bartlett to the Complete Streets Committee, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.

10. Order 10-01032023*

Appointing Benjamin Weisner to the Age Friendly Community Committee, with a term expiration of 6/1/2023.

11. Order 11-01032023*

Appointing Gerald Samson to the Regulatory Advisory Board, with a term expiration of 6/1/2024.

12. Order 12-01032023*

Appointing Kirk Nadeau to the Airport Board, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026.

13. Order 13-01032023*

Amending the postponement date of order 165-12192022 to February 21, 2022 instead of February 13, 2022.

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Morin for passage of the consent items.

Councilor Whiting asked that Orders 05-01032023, 06-01032023, and 07-01032023 be removed from the consent agenda and placed under new business for discussion.

Passage of the remaining consent items, 6-0.

II. Minutes – December 19, 2022, Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Hawes and seconded by Councilor Staples to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting.

Passage 6-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- LA 9-1-1 Presentation
- Presentation of Recreation Non-Profit Groups
 - Auburn Suburban Baseball & Softball
 - Phoenix Karate
 - Auburn Ski Association
 - YMCA
- Council Communications (about and to the community)

Councilor Whiting reported that we should be hearing a fairly big announcement from Museum LA soon.

Councilor Walker reported back on the New Year's Day party that was held at the Senior Community Center.

Councilor Staples reported that he attended the New Year's Auburn event and thanked staff for their efforts.

City Manager Crowell also reported on the New Year's Eve event and thanked everyone that was involved.

Mayor Levesque also commented positively on the New Year's Eve event. He also noted that he is asking staff to put together an order for Council to review and vote on directing the Planning Board to recommend converting the agricultural & resource protection zone within the Lake Auburn Watershed into a city conservation zone.

IV. Open Session – Stephen Beal, Johnson Road commented on the Planning Board appointments that are on the agenda.

V. Unfinished Business - None

VI. New Business

1. Order 14-01032023

Directing the City Manager to acquire the necessary property to optimize a new Engine 2 station and allocating up to \$25,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in support of this initiative.

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

Public comment - No one from the public spoke.

Passage 6-0.

2. Order 15-01032023

Amending Order 22-02072022 to include website redesign and associated costs to the list of projects that were approved in the allocation of ARPA funds.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Passage – 6-0.

3. Ordinance 01-01032023

Amending the Code of Ordinances, Sec. 16-49, Security Systems and Appendix A, Fees and Charges under Emergency Management and Service, removing the renewal requirement and associated fee. First Reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Hawes for passage.

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

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Passage – 6-0. A roll call vote was taken.

Order 05-01032023

Appointing David Trask to the Planning Board, full member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2025. This item was removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Whiting to replace David Trask with Joshua Daigle for this position.

Motion failed 3-4 (there was a tie vote of 3-3 with Councilors Hawes, Morin, and Walker opposed, and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, Mayor Levesque voted to break the tie vote and voted in opposition).

Passage of Order 05-01032023 4-2 (Councilors Gerry and Whiting opposed).

Order 06-01032023

Appointing Amanda Guerette to the Planning Board, associate member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2025. This item was removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Public comment – Stephen Beal, 575 Johnson Road, commented that it would be of interest to the public to know if someone has resigned or reached their term limits.

Motion was made by Councilor Whiting and seconded by Councilor Gerry to replace Amanda Guerette with Stanwood Gray for this position.

Motion failed 3-4 (there was a tie vote of 3-3 with Councilors Hawes, Morin, and Walker opposed, and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, Mayor Levesque voted to break the tie vote, and voted in opposition).

Passage of Order 06-01032023 4-3 (there was a tie vote of 3-3 with Councilors Gerry, Whiting, and Staples opposed, and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, Mayor Levesque voted to break the tie vote, voting in the affirmative).

Order 07-01032023

Appointing Timothy DeRoche to the Planning Board, associate member, with a term expiration of 1/1/2026. This item was removed from the consent agenda.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

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Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Whiting to replace Timothy DeRoche with Joshua Daigle for this position.

Motion failed 3-4 (there was a tie vote of 3-3 with Councilors Hawes, Morin, and Walker opposed, and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, Mayor Levesque voted to break the tie vote, and voted in opposition).

Passage of Order 07-01032023 6-0.

VII. Open Session – No one from the public spoke.

VIII. Reports (from sub-committees to Council)

Mayor Levesque reported on the dual enrollment program for Edward Little High School students.

Councilor Morin reported that he is excited about this project, and he gave special thanks to the Central Maine Community College staff, particularly Andrew Morong, and his team.

Councilor Whiting commented on an experience he had while in high school and stated that it will be great for students to have this opportunity.

Manager Crowell thanked Mr. DeRoche for coming to the meeting tonight and for applying to serve on the Planning Board position. There will be a legal consultation for new Planning Board members that will be held tomorrow night. He also said that moving forward, we will include information in the Appointment Committee minutes when a position is vacant due to a resignation or term expiration. He also provided an update on staffing and hiring of police officers.

IX. Executive Sessions – Legal Matter, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E). This item was taken up during the workshop.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Morin to adjourn. Unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

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ATTEST _____

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk

IN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 17, 2023, VOL. 37 PAGE 6

Mayor Levesque 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. Councilor Milks had an excused absence. All other Councilors were present.

7:00 P.M. City Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Consent Items – All items with an asterisk (*) are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member or a citizen so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

1. Order 16-01172023*

Re-appointing Karen Scammon as the City Assessor with a term expiration of 01/31/2028.

2. Order 17-01172023*

Confirming Chief Moen's appointment of Nathaniel Aronson as Constable with Firearm for the Auburn Police Department.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage of the two consent items.

Passage 6-0.

II. Minutes – January 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Staples to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Passage 6-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Library Presentation and Update - Mamie Anthoine Ney, Library Director
- Communication - Business License Denial Notification (1800 Club, LLC.)
- Council Communications (about and to the community)

Mayor Levesque reported that Burnt Ends BBQ located Lewiston and owned by Jill and Kevin Cunningham (Jill is an Auburn city staff member) will be celebrating their 1-year business anniversary, on January 23rd adding that they have great barbeque.

Councilor Morin extended his appreciation for everyone involved at the Auburn Public Library.

Councilor Walker reported that the United New Auburn Association will be meeting on January 31st at Rolly's Diner. Chief Moen of the Auburn Police Department will be the

guest speaker. On Thursday, January 26th the Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held at 6:00 pm at the Sixth Street Congregational Church.

Manager Crowell, provided an update on the Maine's Hire-A-Vet Campaign which staff participated in. He also stated that he has been hearing from Councilors regarding conflict with the February meeting dates. He is proposing that Councilors suspend the rules to add item to the agenda to change meeting dates.

IV. Open Session

Bruce Rioux, 85 Mary Carroll Street would like Councilors to add to the February agenda a workshop and eventually a vote to use tax-payer funds to reimburse rate payers of the Auburn Water District for the cost of the litigation for the Lake Auburn lawsuit that the City of Lewiston has filed.

Pam Rousseau, 745 West Auburn Road would like to have a way to provide public comment when people cannot attend a meeting.

Larry Pelletier, 129 Second Street commented on the homeless crisis in Auburn and Lewiston.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Order 160-12052022

Allocating up to \$180,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purchase of a portable Stage.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples. No one seconded the motion.

Motion fails for lack of a second.

2. Ordinance 01-01032023

Amending the Code of Ordinances, Sec. 16-49, Security Systems and Appendix A, Fees and Charges under Emergency Management and Service, removing the renewal requirement and associated fee. Public hearing and second reading.

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

Public hearing – No one from the public spoke.

Passage 6-0. A roll call vote was taken.

3. Ordinance 24-12052022

Zoning Map Amendment - Amending a portion of 150 Andrew Drive (Parcel I.D. 347-003) from Agriculture and Resource Protection (AG), and Low-Density Country Residential (LDCR), zoning districts to the Suburban Residential (SR) as recommended by the Planning Board. First Reading.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Passage 4-2 (Councilors Gerry and Whiting opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

VI. New Business

1. Order 18-01172023

Directing the Planning Board to provide a recommendation on a zoning text and map amendment prohibiting any future residential structures and animal farms within the portion of the Lake Auburn watershed zoned “Agriculture and Resource Protection”.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Passage 5-1 (Councilor Gerry opposed).

2. Order 19-01172023

Directing the Planning Board to provide a recommendation for a zoning amendment that will prohibit any future subsurface wastewater disposal within 300’ of Lake Auburn.

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

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Passage 5-1 (Councilor Gerry opposed).

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Whiting to suspend the rules. Passage 6-0.

Motion was made by Councilor Whiting and seconded by Councilor Walker to cancel the February 6, 2023 and February 21, 2023 Council meetings and to schedule a meeting for February 13, 2023.

Passage 6-0. This becomes Order 20-01172023.

VII. Open Session – No one from the public spoke

VIII. Reports (from sub-committees to Council)

Mayor Levesque reported on some recent news about the high school construction cost overruns and significant PBC mitigation. A meeting has been scheduled with the Governor, the General Contractor and sub-contractors regarding this issue. The School Committee is now in budget discussions and prepping their FY 24 budget.

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Councilor Staples, reported on last week's LATC (Lewiston Auburn Transit Committee) meeting. They have been discussing the upcoming budget.

Councilor Walker reported that the 911 Committee will be meeting on Thursday at 8:00 am at Lewiston City Hall, and the Age Friendly Community Committee will be holding a spaghetti Valentine Day dinner on February 14th.

Councilor Whiting, commented on Larry Pelletier's comments on homelessness and asked the City Manager if there was any word on the State of Maine housing.

City Manager Crowell provided an update on overnight warming shelters. A draft application will be submitted to the State which would provide accommodations for up to 68 people and will be located at 121 Mill Street in Auburn. If approved, it will be coming back to the Council for a vote. The Director of the 911 center provided updated information which will be made available. He also wanted to recognize staff. Brian Wood, Assistant City Manager received an award for the Finest Under 40 with the Chamber of Commerce, Sue Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk received her Master Municipal Clerk designation, and our Finance Director, Jill Eastman and her team received a certificate of achievement for excellence in finance reporting which is 29 years running for our Finance Department.

Jill Eastman, Finance Director – December Finance Report

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Morin to accept and place on file the December Finance Report. Passage 6-0.

IX. Executive Sessions – None.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Morin seconded by Councilor Walker to adjourn. Unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

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ATTEST _____

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk

FY23 GOALS | DEPARTMENT UPDATES

PLANNING FOR A BETTER FUTURE | Attract quality businesses by creating an environment where business can succeed. Enrich lives and promote community life in Auburn.

Business & Community Development: The Department has implemented six initiatives to support small businesses and entrepreneurs in the community. These include: (1) a micro enterprise loan program offering up to \$7,500 for low-income or underserved business owners; (2) a revolving business loan program providing up to \$150,000 to new and expanding businesses; (3) a corner store grant program offering up to \$35,000 in funding to improve food options in neighborhoods; (4) active involvement in the strengthen L/A program to address workforce issues in the city; (5) participation in the recovery friendly workplace initiative to support the hiring of individuals in recovery; and (6) the simplification of documentation and processes for clients to make it easier to do business with the Department.

City Clerk: Continue to work closely with businesses guiding them through the business licensing/renewal process with one part time staff person is dedicated to marijuana licensing which helps to ensure a smooth and consistent process for business owners.

Communications & Community Development: Supported and promoted Auburn's departments, signature events, initiatives, and programs, helping to enhance Auburn's reputation as a regional destination and an exceptional community partner. Collaborated with community partners, hosted and/or promoted new business/grand opening events, public art dedications, new construction/development projects, and other unifying, community-building occasions. Launched and promoted Auburn's inaugural Christmas Shopping Village, which supported small local businesses and entrepreneurs and made downtown Auburn a holiday destination.

Economic Development: Implementation of the Downtown Revitalization Plan included but was not limited to: successfully marketing seven city-owned downtown properties, creating the Christmas Village, partnering with the founder of the Blues and Brews Fest, coordinating New Year's Auburn, developing a new spring event, continually updating the Storywalk, and meeting with business prospects and investors.

Fire Department: We continue to streamline fire safety inspection processes to reduce the impacts on businesses. We have reduced time taken for plans review processes and approvals.

Information Technology: We will continue to streamline software solutions that offer residents, business owners, and contractors a more transparent and connected community.

Police Department: We continue to work on reducing shoplifting incidents with our retailers. Later this month we are initiating a Citizens Police Academy to help further the public's understanding of department operations.

Public Works: Although, this winter has not produced a great deal of snow the department maintains a high priority of snow removal for the downtown businesses improving access throughout the winter months.

Recreation: Focus on reaching out to local businesses to help support our programming. Sponsorships and donations from Auburn business not only help us keep costs low but it is also an opportunity for those businesses to get their name out into the community. Continue to help support each departments special events and use our resources to ensure our patrons know not only what the Recreation Department is offering but other departments within the City.

Sports Tourism: Auburn is including sports in its tourism strategy and tourism in its sports strategy. Connect with leaders, investors, real estate influencers, and partner organizations to promote engagement. Continue successful communication with local community stakeholders (Ex. Auburn Suburban) and regional stakeholders (Ex. Edge Sports Group) who will support the city's future sport tourism initiatives. Cultivate relationships with investment groups (Ex. Municipal Acquisitions) to explore ways to fund sports tourism projects and initiatives. Main mission is to focus on three (3) impacts of sport tourism: 1. Direct impacts (Ex. retail, food, and lodging), 2. Indirect (Ex. Purchase of goods and services - B2B), and 3. Induced (Ex. Money spent back into the economy)

Transportation: Established engagement with downtown businesses and prospective investors regarding infrastructure challenges and opportunities (including pedestrian safety, transit access, parking, etc) as continued scope development for small area master plans and seeking of non-local infrastructure investment (MaineDOT or federal)

RECLAIMING OUR STREETS | Develop clear identities for Auburn's Downtown and industrial parks that consider scale, connectivity, use, and integrity to maximize their appeal. Invest in and maintain infrastructure necessary to provide sustainable, safe, and livable environment.

Business & Community Development: The Department's ongoing neighborhood challenge grant program empowers local neighborhood groups to request funding for small infrastructure projects that enhance their communities. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for a wide range of projects, including park benches, wayfinding signage, and more. In addition, the Department has actively pursued federal earmark dollars to secure funding for larger projects that benefit the entire city.

Communications & Community Engagement: Installed, decorated, and promoted "pop-up shops" on Festival Plaza to help beautify the downtown and bring more visitors to the heart of the city. Designed and installed signage for public art, and promoted the art unveiling events. Increased use of electronic signs, light pole banners, etc. to beautify downtown and promote the city. Supported Public Works beautification efforts - planters, benches, street tree planting, etc. Promoted recycling, sustainability, composting, and other initiatives. Created StoryMap to highlight the city's sustainability efforts. Worked with Downtown Coordinator to improve Riverwalk StoryWalk installations. Created Court Street transportation survey to help improve walkability efforts. Created and shared public safety alerts, educational materials, and anti-crime initiatives, including Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, motorist safety info, fire prevention info, and much more.

Economic Development: The Economic Development Department took an interdepartmental approach to create and begin implementing the 5-Year Downtown Revitalization Plan. In addition, we created and have been presenting the GIS powered storyboard identifying Auburn as Maine's manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution hub.

Fire Department: Improving public safety infrastructure by working toward a new public safety building and South Main Street Fire Station.

Information Technology: We will continue to aid internal departments with their needs to develop Auburn's Downtown through connectivity and technology.

Police Department: The department works daily to ensure the safety of our motoring public throughout the city. As with Fire, we are working on improving the Public Safety Infrastructure with the Public Safety Building Project.

Public Works: Public Works plays a significant role in maintaining city streets, sidewalks, trails, and outdoor in support of all city neighborhoods. Projects such as North River Rd and Woodbury Hill Rd cold mulch road treatments improved the quality of each of these neighborhoods. The department continues to explore other roads that could benefit from the less expensive, but effective road treatments.

Recreation: With the new playground spaces is an opportunity to further promote our great parks and fields. Promoting these locations and fields as areas for the community

to gather and host parties. Look into adding equipment to playgrounds for those with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Sports Tourism: Sport tourism projects have been critical steps in many urban renewal efforts creating economic engines. We will continue to explore and understand specific programming niches across Auburn. The use of certain spaces and industrial areas offer flexibility with sport tourism projects and events. Identify different demographic groups targeting how these areas of Auburn can be designed to accommodate sports tourism projects. (Ex. Use of downtown and festival plaza for the 2024 Fan Fest area for the National Collegiate Roller Hockey National Championship.

Transportation: Coordinated with Capital Investment/Engineering and Community Development to prioritize putting out to bid a Union Street crosswalk improvement and a new Gamage Ave crosswalk creating improved safety and connectivity in the PAL/Washburn School Neighborhood. Also coordinated with Planning and Permitting and Public Works on a GIS intern project to evaluate crosswalk compliance with MaineDOT safety policies through our CDBG priority census tracts. Additional effort will go into an action plan to improve pedestrian safety in known high crash locations and on priority walking routes to neighborhood schools.

MAKING HOUSING MORE ATTAINABLE | Efficiently utilize current housing stocks and sustainable targeted residential development that supports and attracts growth, residents, and workforce.

Business & Community Development: The Department has 9 initiatives in place to support housing and homeownership. 3 of these programs have been in place for some time, while the remaining 6 are relatively new (within the last 18 months). These include: (1) critical repair program, which provides funding to repair critical components of homes/apartments for eligible residential homeowners and landlords; (2) home buyer program, which offers down payment assistance to eligible applicants; (3) security deposit program, which helps eligible individuals access funds for security deposits on qualified apartments; (4) lead hazard abatement program, which provides funding to remove lead hazards from eligible housing units; (5) accessory dwelling unit program, which offers grants of up to \$30,000 to assist with the creation of new, affordable dwelling units on existing properties; (6) curb appeal program, which provides up to \$10,000 in grants to multi-unit building owners to improve visual impact; (7) heating assistance program, which provides up to \$700 in assistance to qualified residents; (8) sustainable Auburn program, which offers matching grants to residents; and (9) housing

resource coordinator, who works with unhoused residents to find affordable housing solutions.

Communications & Community Engagement: Distributed press releases and social media promoting various business, economic, and community development programs and initiatives, such as Sustainable Auburn rebates, HOME-ARP, HEAP and heating assistance, property tax stabilization program, property tax relief program, and more. Promoted and supported city's recruitment efforts across all departments. Worked with administration and human resources to evaluate employee recruitment and retention strategies; laid groundwork for a regional hiring event to be held in 2023. Created Qualified Sales StoryMap to help tell the story of Auburn's recent housing market.

Economic Development: Economic development met with a total of 92 developers and investors to promote the need for additional housing in Auburn. Examples meetings resulting in building new residential units include but are not limited to the Sable Ridge development and seven city-owned properties.

Fire Department: We support all housing development by ensuring all housing types meet minimum safety standards.

Police Department: Implementation of the Disorderly Housing Ordinance has been an effective means to addressing problem housing areas and working with property owners to quell disturbances in the neighborhoods. Staffing constraints have not allowed us to develop a selective enforcement strategy for neighborhoods.

Recreation: Keeping program cost low so all community members feel that they can participate regardless of their financial situation.

Sports Tourism: With the expected housing growth around the Auburn Mall and Norway Savings Bank Arena area, the city sees sport as a lever for economic development and has seized opportunities to be attractive to event hosting and visitors while meeting the needs of citizens and honoring local identities in which the city they live. Solidifying the emergence and attractiveness to live in this part of Auburn.

Transportation: Coordinating with Planning and Permitting on infrastructure needs and opportunities as zoning changes have advanced through the Planning Board and when prospective investors reach out to the city. This has included reviewing Complete Street policies, framing opportunities for street grid expansion, additional walking facilities, and how our ordinances might further encourage in-fill along existing street networks.

ENRICHING NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITIES | Support all residents by fostering a sense of unity while honoring diversity and coordinating community resources and assets to provide "wraparound" support to all residents. Dedicate resources to define our image and identity to build a sense of community.

Communications & Community Engagement: Shared weekly/monthly police, 9-1-1, and planning/permitting statistics to educate residents, demonstrate transparency in reporting, and highlight the performance of city departments. Promoted and facilitated assessing division's "Virtual Town Hall" meetings to help residents better understand recent valuation adjustments. Promoted Community Forums on Zoning. Inspired community and neighborhood pride, but working to successfully and thoughtfully tell the story of Auburn through photos, live and pre-recorded videos, and other content.

Fire Department: We are working to establish the Co-responder PSY program to offer "wrap around" support to citizens with substance abuse, behavioral health or homelessness issues.

Human Resources: Work to attract out of state and New Mainer potential employees with skills to build the CoA workforce and bring their families into our community.

Police Department: The Police Athletic League (PAL) program is the successful cornerstone in enriching neighborhood identity. The continued success of the program has led to the implementation of a new building project that has received significant federal funding. We continue to support our Neighborhood Watch Program as staffing allows.

Recreation: Provide programming for the New Mainer population – to feel included- by reaching out to community via social media and surveys to see what they would like to be offered in their community.

Sports Tourism: Continue to evaluate, strategize, and move progress on two (2) or more recreational infrastructure projects aimed at improving or enhancing local infrastructure for the purpose of accessibility, sustainability, and revenue enhancement measures that are necessary. This includes evaluating a third sheet of ice and a comprehensive plan to build a new indoor turf facility that both are fiscally sustainable and focuses on meeting the growing population density and accessibility to its citizens.

Transportation: Coordinated with Communications, Capital Investment, and School Department for a survey of students and residents along the Court Street Corridor for targeted pedestrian improvements, per Council CIP allocation. Follow up public meeting to review results and staff recommendations based on neighborhood input to follow this winter.

ENACTING RESILIENT SOLUTIONS | Create, support, and market accessible, connected, and diverse network of recreation and natural resources that provides destinations and pathways for residents. Continue to improve access to training designed to address workforce gaps. Provide diverse, well-rounded education through partnerships. Protect funding and support educators, facilities, and accessibility.

Communications & Community Engagement: Used social media, email & text alerts, media releases, city website, electronic signage, electronic mapping, and other methods to provide dependable, consistent communication to residents, businesses, etc. on topics such as summertime cooling centers, winter warming centers, browntail moth abatement, PFAS, parking bans, road closures/traffic alerts, and much more. Designed and produced the city's Annual Report to the Community. Designed and produced various surveys to collect and evaluate community data and feedback. Collected and distributed resident complaints, compliments, and feedback (received via email, social media, and the city website) to appropriate staff and city council in an effort to include citizens in the decision-making process and to offer exceptional customer service and help make improvements to Auburn's service delivery.

Fire Department: Placed a rescue UTV into service to meet the increased demands for EMS and rescue services associated with recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and fishing.

Public Works: Public Works provides maintenance and conducts small construction projects in support of all Auburn Recreation facilities and ensure safe connectivity amongst the city's recreation and natural resource assets. The department has created an in-house Professional Driving training program to address the department's workforce gaps. The training program provides local residents with an opportunity to start a professional CDL operator career at Auburn Public Works with no experience.

Recreation: Providing participates with program brochures in different languages. We have started to offer programs partnering with Special Olympics that provide opportunities for those with disabilities to play alongside with others.

Sports Tourism: Sports tourism will continue to play an important role in recovery and resilience building here in Auburn post Covid-19. Contributing to evolving hospitality and experience economy, while generating social and environmental benefits in our local community. We continue to reinforce a growing appreciation for the need to facilitate exercise and sport as part of making Auburn healthier and more attractive to

those living and visiting our city. Combine sporting events with local opportunities, local entrepreneurs and utilize local services to minimize economic outflow and maximize local benefits.

Transportation: Coordinated with Capital Investment and Purchasing, along with the Sustainability Workgroup, to host a Bates College student research team evaluating opportunities for EV infrastructure in Auburn. Follow up activities included engaging Efficiency Maine and MaineDOT to seek non-local funding for further investment.

Mayor Levesque called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. All Councilors were present.

7:00 P.M. City Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Consent Items

1. Order 21-01032023*

Re-appointing Robert Cavanagh to the Auburn Sewer District Board of Trustees, with a term expiration of 3/1/2027.

2. Order 22-01032023*

Re-appointing Jason Pawlina to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees, with a term expiration of 3/1/2027.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Walker for passage of the two consent items.

Passage 7-0.

II. Minutes – January 17, 2023 Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Staples to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Regular City Council meeting.

Passage 6-0-1 (Councilor Milks abstained as he was not present for the meeting).

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Mayor Jason Levesque’s State of the City Address which was previously recorded was presented.
- Communication from Frederick Kunas (Auburn Suburban Baseball & Softball)
- A Special City Council Meeting to be held on February 17, 2023
- Council Communications (about and to the community)

Councilor Staples congratulated the Edward Little High School basketball teams on a successful season. He also commented on the Sun Journal article regarding the warming shelter. He stated that the city did put forth a good effort and would like that to continue.

IV. Open Session

Larry Pelletier, 129 Second Street, spoke regarding an article on homelessness and read reasons why someone may become homeless. He provided a written copy.

Bruce Rioux, 85 Mary Carroll Street, would like Auburn tax payers to reimburse the Water District rate payers for the legal fees incurred due to the law suit that was initiated by the City of Lewiston.

V. Unfinished Business

1. Ordinance 24-12052022

Zoning Map Amendment - Amending a portion of 150 Andrew Drive (Parcel I.D. 347-003) from Agriculture and Resource Protection (AG), and Low-Density Country Residential (LDCR), zoning districts to the Suburban Residential (SR) as recommended by the Planning Board. Public hearing and second reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Milks and seconded by Councilor Staples for passage.

Public hearing –

Ryan Smith, 14 Weaver Street, spoke regarding the City Attorney’s recent legal opinion and said he would like the City Council to reach out to legal counsel again or have the petitioner start the process over.

Stephen Beal, 575 Johnson Road, spoke regarding this property adding that this parcel is not suitable for suburban residential.

Razell Ward, 1372 North River Road, spoke regarding storm water runoff on Andrew Drive and stated that this lot is not suited for residential development, and she is respectfully requesting that this not be approved.

Lisa Bisson, 199 Andrew Drive, stated that there was a lack of adequate infrastructure for development at this location, the roads are narrow and there is no turnaround. She stated that the East Auburn Community respectfully requests that they not approve the zoning change.

John Cleveland, 183 Davis Avenue, discussed elevations and slope sides of this lot, there is no way to develop a road on those steep grades and there are no other abutting roads to get there adding that it is not adequate to support suburban residential construction, and he would like the City Council to reject this.

Passage 5-2 (Councilors Whiting and Gerry opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

2. Order 165-12192022

Allocating \$145,000 of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for the acquisition of the Shovel Ready Housing Plans.

Motion was made by Councilor Morin and seconded by Councilor Hawes for passage.

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples to postpone this item, then withdrew his motion.

Failed 1-6 (Councilors Gerry, Whiting, Hawes, Milks, Morin, Staples opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

VI. New Business

1. Public hearing – CDBG & HOME Annual Action Plan

Larry Pelletier, 129 Second Street, continued reading an article he found regarding homelessness.

Andy Titus, 24 Rubellite Lane, stated that this plan should have a goal and how we did against that goal when spending the money. We need to measure how the money is being used and if it is not working that is how we will know to switch to something different.

2. Ordinance 02-02132023

Amending the definition and use of standards related to Public Safety Facilities, Detention Facilities, Correctional Facilities and/or Government Offices at a site on which the use does not currently exist. First reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Milks for passage.

Public comment – Andy Titus, 24 Rubellite Lane stated that he was disturbed about this, adding that it is far reaching, and Council will have to become involved and then it becomes politics. He said he feels it is wrong and they are rushing this through.

Passage 5-2 (Councilors Whiting and Gerry opposed). A roll call vote was taken.

3. Order 23-02132023

Authorizing the City Manager to execute a CBA between the City of Auburn and the Auburn Firefighters Association Local 797.

Motion was made by Councilor Morin and seconded by Councilor Whiting for passage.

Public comment – No one from the public spoke.

Passage 7-0.

VII. Open Session – Fred Stone, 169 Royal River Road would like to extend some of his property to rural residential, which is currently listed in the Ag zone. He said he would like to build a home on the land, but he can't because of the zoning. He also spoke about a blue building on Trapp Road that he said is an eyesore, a danger, and a fire hazard. It is boarded up now after being vandalized. He would like to know if something can be done about that property.

VIII. Reports (from sub-committees to Council)

Mayor Levesque commented on the ELHS basketball games, the boys alpine ski team came in first place in KVAC's, girls came in second, and boys swimming first place, adding that it is a very busy sports season. He spoke about the Court Street traffic, and appreciates the work Jason Moen, Jonathan LaBonté, and Kris Bennett did presenting, and he reported that the Legislative Policy Committee will be working on several bills.

Councilor Gerry commented on the warming shelter and asked what will we be doing moving forward. She would like to see the City Manager come up with some other locations.

Councilor Whiting wanted to attest to Mr. Stone's comment on the building on Trapp Road and said he was glad that he brought it to our attention. He also announced the new name of Museum LA is Maine Mill – Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning, and Labor.

Councilor Milks reported that we are looking for two additional Sewer District Trustees.

Councilor Morin reported that Mr. Stone lives in his ward and he encouraged him to come here to speak.

Councilor Walker said he agreed with Mr. Stone regarding his property and the warehouse that he mentioned earlier. He also reported that the Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held at the Sixth Street Congregational Church at 6:00 pm on February 23rd. The United New Auburn Association will be meeting on February 28th at Rolly's Diner. Fire Chief Chase will be the guest speaker at 6:00 pm.

Councilor Staples reported that the library committee met at the end of January, and they've been discussing fundraising events.

City Manager Crowell will provide a budget meeting schedule at the next regular meeting, he provided an update on the status of the warming center, some of the partnerships working with the city on this, and resources that are available and how we are addressing the issue.

Jill Eastman, Finance Director – January 2023 Finance Report

Motion was made by Councilor Walker and seconded by Councilor Morin to accept and place on file the January 2023 Finance Report.

Passage 7-0.

IX. Executive Sessions

Labor contract negotiations (Police Patrol), pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D).

Motion was made by Councilor Hawes and seconded by Councilor Milks to enter executive session.

Passage 7-0. Time 8:29 pm.

Council was declared out of Executive Session at 8:39 pm.

Labor contract negotiations (Police Command), pursuant to 1M.R.S.A. §405(6)(D).

Motion was made by Councilor Milks and seconded by Councilor Walker to enter executive session.

Passage 7-0. Time 8:40 pm.

Council was declared out of Executive Session at 8:48 pm.

Economic development, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(C) which premature disclosure would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the City.

Motion was made by Councilor Milks and seconded by Councilor Whiting to enter executive session.

Passage 7-0. Time 8:51 pm.

Council was declared out of Executive Session at 9:11 pm.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Whiting and seconded by Councilor Morin to adjourn. Unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST _____

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk

Mayor Levesque called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Auburn Hall and led the assembly in the salute to the flag. Councilor Moring had an excused absence. All other City Councilors were present.

5:30 P.M. City Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

I. Unfinished Business

1. Ordinance 02-02132023

Amending the definition and use of standards related to Public Safety Facilities, Detention Facilities, Correctional Facilities and/or Government Offices at a site on which the use does not currently exist. Public hearing and second reading.

Motion was made by Councilor Milks and seconded by Councilor Hawes for passage.

Public hearing – No one from the public spoke.

Motion was made by Councilor Staples and seconded by Councilor Whiting to postpone this item to the next City Council meeting.

Motion failed 3-4 (there was a tie vote of 3-3 with Councilors Hawes, Milks, and Walker opposed, and in accordance with the City Charter, Article III, Section 3.3, Mayor Levesque voted to break the tie vote and voted in opposition).

Passage of Ordinance 02-02132023 4-2 (Councilors Gerry and Whiting opposed).

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Councilor Milks seconded by Councilor Hawes to adjourn. Unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST _____

Susan Clements-Dallaire, City Clerk