

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING JANUARY 6, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 1**

Mayor Harmon 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. Councilors Milks and Weisner were absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

1. ORDER 01-01062025 – Appointing Patricia Mador and Benjamin Weisner to serve on the 9-1-1 Committee for a term that ends 12/31/26, as nominated by Mayor Harmon.
2. ORDER 02-01062025 – Appointing Stanley Harmon for an unexpired term on the Age Friendly Community Committee ending 6/1/27, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
3. ORDER 03-01062025 – Setting 7:00am as the time for all polls to open for elections in Auburn for 2025.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0.

### **II. Minutes** – December 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting & December 19, 2024 Special Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved for passage of the December 16 minutes, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Walker moved for passage of the December 19 minutes, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Whiting abstained).

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- Proclamation – Call To Action Against Sex Trafficking
- Update on Revaluation & Statistics – Assessing Office

### **IV. Open Session**

Paul Bernard, Turner  
Riechelle Bernard, Turner  
Evan Cyr, Granite St

### **V. Unfinished Business**

1. ORDINANCE 23-12022024 – Text Amendments related to 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364, 4364-A and 4364-B (L.D. 2003). Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE.

The following spoke:

Jason Levesque, Youngs Corner Rd  
Evan Cyr, Granite St

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 4-1 (Walker).

**VI. New Business**

1. ORDER 04-01062025 - Reappropriating Unspent Proceeds from the City's 2023 and 2024 General Obligation Bonds. First reading. Passage requires majority vote. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

2. ORDER 05-01062025 – Regarding the transfer of 143 Hampshire St & 1, 5 Gamage St. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Gerry moved to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage of the following:

3. ORDER 06-01062025 – Directing the City Manager to evaluate the current situation for the provision of emergency warming shelters to ascertain if additional sites are needed and make recommendations to the City Council.

Seconded by Councilor Walker.

The following spoke:

Paul Bernard, Turner

Motion passed 5-0.

**VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – Congratulated Panolam and Jay Brenchick, Economic Development Director. Congratulated staff for organizing the New Years Eve Auburn event. Thanked Public Works for their help in rescuing the fireworks display.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** – Councilor Gerry commented on the success of the New Years event held at the Senior Center, over 100 people attended. Councilor Cowan echoed support for the homelessness situation and stated the Homelessness Committee will be meeting on Thursday at 6pm in Room 204. Councilor Walker recognized the potato initiative and that bags of potatoes can be picked up at the Senior Center during normal hours of operation. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee, focusing on addressing the needs of unhoused children. Councilor Platz noted that he would like to know more about how the City decides which roads to repair as part of its paving program.

**c. Student Representative Report** – Student Representative's wished all a happy new year.

**d. City Manager Report** – Mentioned that over 3,000 people showed up for the NYE Auburn event. Over 226 children were assisted with donations of clothing and gifts due to the support from PAL center, Exchange Club, and Toys for Tots.

**VIII. Open Session**

Paul Bernard, Turner

**X. Adjournment**

Councilor Cowan moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 5-0. Council adjourned at 8:54pm.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

**Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk**

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING JANUARY 21, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 4**

Mayor Harmon 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. Student Representatives Egge and Abdulahi were absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

1.) ORDER 07-012125 – Appointing Brian Cullen to the SNRB to represent the Sustainability Working Group for an unexpired term ending 4/1/27, as nominated by the Sustainability Working Group.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

### **II. Minutes** – January 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0-2 (Weisner, Milks abstained due to absence at the January 6, 2025 meeting)

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- Presentation: Year End Review – Economic Development Department and Planning, Permitting & Code Department
- County Commissioner Delegates – Andrew Lewis, Ward 5 (Chair) & Jane Pentheny, Ward 6 (Vice-Chair)

### **IV. Open Session**

None.

### **V. Unfinished Business**

1. ORDER 04-01062025 – Reappropriating Unspent Proceeds from the City's 2023 and 2024 General Obligation Bonds. Public hearing/second reading. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Whiting moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Mayor Harmon opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Harmon closed the public hearing. Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

### **VI. New Business**

1) ORDINANCE 01-012125 – Amending the City's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 "ADMINISTRATION", regarding Property Tax Assistance Program. First reading. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no public comment. Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

### **VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – Mayor Harmon spoke at the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club and gave an update on current issues in Auburn and upcoming potential challenges with the budget process.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** – Councilor Whiting noted Student Representative Egge placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in slalom. Councilor Cowan thanked the City's communication dept for promoting Project Support You; Councilor Weisner noted an upcoming meeting of the Lewiston Auburn Airport Master Plan and Open House. Councilor Walker noted an upcoming Executive Meeting at Maine Waste & Energy. UNAA meeting at Rolly's Diner and will have a guest speaker from the City, and Neighborhood

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Watch group will be meeting. The Age Friendly Committee is collecting winter clothing to donate to those who are homeless and in need. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee's budget committee, facility rebate project and an update from ELHS gym water damage noting that the damage was recently fixed.

**c. Student Representative Report** – None.

**d. City Manager Report** - Responded to the order passed at the last meeting regarding proving warming, cooling and charging locations; reviewed and provided the SOP on these emergency shelters. Current arrangements make a resource providing a minimum level of service in the city available every day of the week.

**e. 2024 November & 2024 December Finance Report – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director**

Motion to accept the 2024 November Finance Report by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to accept the 2024 December Finance Report by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

### **VIII. Open Session**

None.

### **IX. Executive Session**

### **X. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0. Council adjourned at 8:37pm.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

**Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk**

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 6**

Mayor Harmon 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. Student Representative Abdulahi was absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

*On request of a citizen, the item appearing on the Consent Agenda was moved to New Business.*

### **II. Minutes** – January 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- City Manager Update on Federal Funding Impacts – City Manager Crowell addressed recent Executive Orders from the White House suspending funds for certain projects and initiatives. The City is continuing to monitor to see which projects should be allowed to continue; the City is not expecting major changes regarding funding for transportation and EMS services.

### **IV. Open Session**

Evan Cyr, Granite St  
Dina Chapman, Auburn  
Arlo Driggs, Auburn

### **V. Unfinished Business**

**1) ORDINANCE 01-012125** – Property Tax Assistance Program (2nd reading). Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker.  
Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no comment.  
The motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

### **VI. New Business**

**1) ORDER 09-020325** - Approval to encumber from the General fund for Fire apparatus. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

There was no comment.

Motion passed 7-0.

**2.) ORDER 08-020325** – Appointing Maureen Hopkins to the Planning Board for a term that expires 1/1/2028, as nominated by the Appointment Committee. *This item was moved from the Consent Agenda on request of a citizen.*

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

The following spoke:

David Trask, Partridge Ln  
Anita Chapman, Auburn  
Dina Chapman, Auburn  
Evan Cyr, Granite St

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Councilors discussed ward representation on the Planning Board which is not a current requirement in City ordinance. Councilors discussed the process of appointments.

Motion passed 4-3 (Walker, Milks, Weisner).

### **VII. Reports**

a. **Mayor's Report** - Mayor Harmon thanked Mr. LaBonte and Mr. Cousens for coordinating the Airport Master Planning session. Attended the opening of Chairlift 3 at Lost Valley. Gave a brief update on the Comp Plan Committee. Gave a brief update on FY26 budget process. Submitted testimony regarding several bills before the Legislature via the MMA LPC.

#### **b. City Councilors' Reports -**

Councilor Whiting gave an update on the audit process. Councilor Cowan gave an update on the SNRB asking for members to join the Working Groups. The Homeless Committee has finalized a report for the Council expected to come forward at the February 18 meeting. Councilor Weisner attended the Airport Master Planning session. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Dept; announced the School Committee has released the State of Schools report and the protocol released by the Superintendent if U.S. ICE federal officers should enter buildings of the School Department.

c. **Student Representative Report** - Thanked all District 2 Festival participants at ELHS.

d. **City Manager Report** – The City revaluation inspections began today on behalf of the Assessor's office. Attended the Maine Waste to Energy meeting with Councilor Walker.

### **VIII. Open Session -**

Evan Cyr, Granite St

### **X. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Whiting.

Motion passed 7-0. Councilor adjourned at 8:41pm.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

**Emily F. Carrington**

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 8**

Mayor Harmon 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. Student Representatives Egge & Abdulahi were absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

- 1.) ORDER 10-02182025\* – Appointing Katherine Truitt to the Complete Streets Committee for a term that expires December 31, 2026, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 2.) ORDER 11-02182025\* – Appointing Bruce Rioux to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for an unexpired term that expires March 1, 2027, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 3.) ORDER 12-02182025\* – Appointing Timothy Simpson to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 4.) ORDER 13-02182025\* – Appointing Robert Cavanagh to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 5.) ORDER 14-02182025\* – Appointing Graca Muzela to the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees for an unexpired term that expires March 1, 2028, as nominated by the Appointment Committee. Page 2 of 2
- 6.) ORDER 15-02182025\* – Appointing Denis Bergeron to the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 7.) ORDER 16-02182025\* – Appointing David Griswold to the Sustainability & Natural Resource Management Board (SNRB), representing the Community Forest Working Group, for a term that expires April 1, 2028.

Motion for passage by Councilor Gerry, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 6-1 (Milks).

### **II. Minutes** – February 3, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- TIF Update – Glen Holmes & Kelsey Earle

Presentation included an update on TIF tracking.

- Quarterly Corrective Actions Report – Kelsey Earle & Amanda Couture

The School Department gave an update on the five identified focus areas from FY23 audit. The school department is working on transitioning to using the same financial software as the City. Grant reconciliation, purchasing policy concerning sole-source providers, journal entries and approval, were noted on the City side.

- Presentation: Homelessness Committee's Report to City Council – Bill Lowenstein and Dave Bilodeau from the Homelessness Committee delivered the report.

**IV. Open Session**

Justin Young, Washington St N, spoke on code enforcement concerns regarding his property at 959 Washington St N

**V. Unfinished Business**

**VI. New Business**

1) ORDER 17-02182025 – Accepting the report by the ad-hoc Homelessness Committee. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

2) ORDER 18-02182025 – Action regarding poverty abatement case #PA 2025-001. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Weisner moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

3) Public Hearing - Public Hearing prior to drafting CDBG & HOME Consortium Action Plan for Program Year 2025. No action.

Mayor Harmon opened the item for public hearing. There was no public comment. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

**VII. Reports**

a. Mayor's Report – Attended a tenant meeting of the Drop In Center; thanked Jay Brenchick for attending recent meetings of the manufactures and the effects of tariffs on our manufacturing sector.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Gerry noted the order added to the meeting regarding emergency warming centers and asked for an update; Councilor Whiting congratulated Josie Eusden who turned 100 on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Cowan acknowledged the work of the Homelessness Committee. Councilor Walker noted the next UNAA meeting on February 25; 110 people attended the Valentine's luncheon, thanked the City and all volunteers. Councilor Platz noted no school committee meeting this week due to school vacation week; the Lost Valley Trail Network Group recently met and secured a \$10,000 grant from Bob Brainerd, considering building a 10k course for public use.

c. Student Representative Report – None.

d. City Manager Report – Distributed copies of the New Resident Guide updated in 2025; available in the tax office and online, congratulated the Communications team.

e. January 2025 Finance Report – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director

Councilor Walker moved to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 7-0.

**VIII. Open Session**

John Cleveland, Davis Ave

Councilor Walker thanked Public Works for a great job with snow removal for the past week of winter storms.

**X. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm by Councilor Cowan, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

## IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING MARCH 3, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 11

Mayor Harmon 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 Cowan was absent (excused). Student Representatives Abdulahi and Egge were absent.

**I. Consent Items** – None.

**II. Minutes** – February 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Milks. Passed 6-0.

**III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- LATC Presentation - Larry Allen, MPO Transportation Director

**IV. Open Session**

None.

**V. Unfinished Business**

**VI. New Business**

1) **ORDER 19-03032025** – Authorizing the Finance Director to execute an agreement with the Auburn Lewiston Municipal Airport to refinance the outstanding principal on the Hangar #5 loan for 20 years at zero percent interest.

Councilor Platz moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Weisner. Jonathan LaBonte, Transportation Director, presented on this item.

Motion passed 6-0.

2) **ORDER 20-03032025** – Authorizing the City Clerk to consolidate to one polling place for the June 10, 2025 School Budget Validation Referendum. *Public hearing.*

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Milks. Mayor Harmon opened the item for public hearing. There was no public comment. Councilor Gerry asked the overall savings to the City. The City Clerk answered the overall savings would be approximately \$4,000.

Motion passed 6-0.

3) **ORDER 21-03032025** – Authorizing the City Manager to sell 15 Academy Street (Parcel ID 230-132) and 261 Main Street (Parcel ID 231-004).

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Weisner.

The following spoke:

John Cleveland, Davis Ave

Mr. Cleveland asked questions that were answered by Mr. Glen Holmes, Director of Business & Community Development:

- 1) Is the Purchase and Sale agreement for a sale price of \$50,000 for both lots combined (15 Academy & 261 Main).
  - a. Yes, the agreement that was approved in the P&S agreement is for a total sale price of \$50,00 for both lots.

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- 2) Does the agreement require 16 Market Rate units?
  - b. Yes, the agreement calls for a minimum of 16 Market Rate units. The current number of planned units is 53.
- 3) Does the P&S agreement offer downtown incentive program funds provide up to \$250,000 for the project?
  - c. Yes, the agreement does provide for up to \$250,000 in downtown incentive funds.
- 4) There is a TIF and CEA attached for this project—what is the percentage of capture for the TIF?
  - d. Yes, a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district has been created to cover this development. The capture rate for the TIF District is 100% of taxes on increased new value of the district.
- 5) What is the amount that is being provided to the Credit Enhancement Agreement for the developer for this project?
  - e. The Credit Enhancement Agreement (CEA) calls for 50% of the taxes paid on the increased new value to be returned to the developer up to and not to exceed \$1,000,000.00 (One Million Dollars) over the 30-year life of the TIF. (For clarity for the developer to receive the million dollars over the time frame they will have needed to increase the value of the property enough to be required to pay over two million dollars in taxes over the same period. This will be on property or properties that prior to this paying no taxes as it was owned by the city and not being used.)
- 6) How long is this TIF for?
  - f. The TIF is a 30-year TIF Approved by the State on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and has a start date of July 1, 2024 and an end date of June 30, 2054.
- 7) Is that Tax incentive program still available to the developer?
  - g. Yes, as part of the P&S agreement the incentive (CEA) is still available.
- 8) What is the benefit being derived to the community for providing the Credit Enhancement Agreement?
  - h. On the application to the State of Maine Department of Economic & Community Development the Benefit is listed as Tax Base Improvement and Public Facilities Improvement.
- 9) Matt Leonard is listed as the manager and signee, is he also the sole manager and owner of the LLC? If not, who are the other owners?
  - a. Auburn Town Center Apartments, LLC Registered Agent is Avery T. Day.
  - b. Highgate Development, LLC Registered Agent, is also Avery T. Day.

Motion passed 5-1-0 (Milks abstained).

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4) **ORDER 22-03032025** – Directing that final design and costs of the public safety facility building project be submitted to City Council for approval.

Councilor Whiting moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Platz. This item was opened for public comment, the following spoke:

Andy Titus, Rubellite Ln

Motion passed 6-0.

### **VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – Congratulated St. Dom's Boys Basketball Team for Class D Championship. Attended a briefing at Central Maine Healthcare regarding legislative items impacting the healthcare industry. Shared the upcoming Council schedule for March: March 18, 2025 - Executive Session with action, March 24, 2025 - Budget Workshop, and March 31, 2025 - Budget Workshop, starting at 5:30pm. Two Budget Town Hall meetings held by Mayor Harmon on March 27 in the Community Room at Auburn Hall from 6pm-7:30pm and on March 29 at APL Conference Room at 2:30pm.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** – Councilor Gerry reported on the success of the Drop In Center at 121 Mill St. Councilor Whiting noted an upcoming art auction to be held at APL on March 29. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee's budget process starting this Wednesday, March 5 and a recent meeting of the Sustainability Initiatives meeting combining the SNRB and all working groups.

**c. Student Representative Report** – None.

**d. City Manager Report** – None.

### **VIII. Open Session**

None.

### **IX. Executive Session**

### **X. Adjournment**

Councilor Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Milks. Motion passed 6-0. Council adjourned at 8:02pm.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

**Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk**

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING MARCH 17, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 14**

Mayor Harmon 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 and Councilor Weisner were absent. Student Representative Abdulahi arrived late at 7:08 P.M.

### **Consent Items**

- 1) ORDER 23-03172025\* – Appointing Bilal Hussein to the Planning Board (Associate Member), for an unexpired term ending 1/1/26, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 2) ORDER 24-03172025\* – Appointing Elisabeth Collier to the Board of Assessment Review for a term ending 4/1/28, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 3) ORDER 25-03172025\* – Appointing Jennifer Edwards as the Local Health Officer for the City of Auburn with a term expiration of 4/4/2028.

Motion for passage by Councilor Gerry, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0.

### **II. Minutes** – March 3, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 4-1-0. (Councilor Cowan abstained due to absence at the last meeting).

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

### **IV. Open Session**

None.

### **V. Unfinished Business**

### **VI. New Business**

- 1) ORDER 26-03172025 - Approving event liquor license for the 2025 Signature Events: Auburn Lobster Festival, Saturday, May 17; Auburn Blues & Brews, Saturday, September 6; New Year's Auburn, Wednesday, December 31. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

There was no comment from the public.

Motion passed 5-0.

- 2) ORDER 27-03172025– Approving the omission of sidewalks in the Loring Avenue reconstruction design. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Gerry, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

The following spoke:

Jeremiah Barlett, Chair of Complete Streets Committee  
Maury Galarneau, Loring Ave  
Mike Adler, Loring Ave  
Dana Staples, Greenfield Dr

Dan Goyette, Engineering Director, gave a history of the street. Councilor Platz inquired about the safety history on this City and the guidance from the City's Comprehensive Plan.

City Manger Crowell explained that the Complete Streets Committee is working to enact the City's adopted Comprehensive Plan; however, in the case of a discrepancy or difference between staff and the Complete Streets Committee, it is to come to Council. There is no major safety concern on the street currently without sidewalks. The will of the public is to not support the sidewalks and staff agrees with the neighbors' majority opinion to not include sidewalks.

Motion passed 5-0.

3) ORDER 28-03172025 – Adopting the revised joint purchasing policy. First reading. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan.  
There was no public comment.

City Manager Crowell explained the School Committee will be voting on this at their next meeting, and this item will come back for second reading to the Council with the School Committee's recommendation.

Mayor Harmon asked for a definition of "local vendor" be included for second reading.

Motion passed 5-0.

## **VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – Attended the Androscoggin County Commissioners Workshop focused on the Sheriff's facility on Center St and gave an update on the future of this facility. Attended screening at USM of Beyond the Bridge; about 85 people attended. Mentioned upcoming Town Hall Budget meetings upcoming on March 27 and March 29.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** - Recognized Rep. Egge who received an honor with skiing. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee's budget process; has started sitting on the School Facilities committee.

**c. Student Representative Report** – Rep. Abdulahi mentioned non-profits opening to support kids and Rep. Egge said Happy St. Patrick's Day and congratulated the high school sports teams on their recent win.

**d. City Manager Report** – The City’s CIP proposal was presented to the Planning Board at their last meeting, as required by the City’s Charter. Discussed initiatives with our local congressional representatives and noted that some projects will not be getting funded.

**VIII. Open Session**

John Cleveland, Davis Ave

**IX. Executive Session** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (C) for an economic development matter.

**Executive Session** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (A) for a personnel matter.

1) ORDER 29-03172025 - Removing Daniel Bilodeau from Water District Board of Trustees. Motion for passage by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0.

**X. Adjournment**

Councilor Platz moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0. Council adjourned at 9:17pm.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

## IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING APRIL 7, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 17

Mayor Harmon 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 30-04072025\*** - Appointing Cliff Greim to serve on the Lewiston Auburn Railroad Corporation for the unexpired term (April 2025 through April 2027).
- 2) **ORDER 31-04072025\*** - Appointing Jonathan LaBonté to serve on the Lewiston Auburn Railroad Corporation for a three year term (April 2025 through April 2028).
- 3) **ORDER 32-04072025\*** - Appointing Jonathan LaBonté to vote the shares held by any shareholder for the Lewiston Auburn Railroad Corporation.

Motion for passage of items on the Consent Agenda by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Milks. Motion passed 7-0.

### II. Minutes March 17, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-2-0 (Weisner and Milks abstained due to absence at the last meeting).

### III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- o **Spirit of America Award Presentation** – Mayor Harmon awarded Silver Moore-Leamon the tribute award for her recycling efforts in the community.
- o **Safe Streets For All Update** – Eric Cousens, Director of Public Services, and Jason Ready from VHB presented an update on the project.
- o **2024 Summary of the Pro-Active Community Enforcement (PACE) Unit** – Police Chief Jason Moen gave a one year update on the success of the PACE Unit.

### IV. Open Session

Tara Rousseau, Whitney St; commented on the trash in local City parks

Andres Morales, Summer St; commented on gang and drone activity in the neighborhood

### V. Unfinished Business

#### VI. New Business

- 1) **ORDER 33-04072025** – Authorizing the donation of an Auburn Police vehicle (value approx. \$6,000) to the Law Enforcement Program at the Lewiston Regional Technical Center.

Motion for passage by Councilor Platz, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

- 2) **ORDER 34-04072025** - Approving the Annual Reports to the Maine State Housing Authority for the Tax Year April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, and authorizing the City Manager to sign the annual reports for Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing Districts, # 16 (Webster School), #21 (477 Minot Ave), and #22 (48 Hampshire Street), as provided by Business and Community Development Staff.

Motion for passage by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

**VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – The Comprehensive Plan Committee met last week and is starting data analysis; interested persons can learn more about the project on the website. Recognized Fire Chief Robert Chase who received the Fire Chief of the Year award. Reported back on the two budget town hall meetings; well attended and lots of good questions were asked by members of the community.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** -- Councilor Whiting noted Tabers opens April 10. Councilor Walker noted upcoming meetings of the Age Friendly Committee and Neighbourhood Watch Meeting of New Auburn and United New Auburn Association meeting. Councilor Platz gave an update on the school department and budget process and school's facility's committee.

**c. Student Representative Report** – Abdulahi noted an upcoming sports meet; Egge noted the All City Concert is April 15 at ELHS and in May there is also a high school concert.

**d. City Manager Report** – Noted upcoming three budget workshops for the Council. City Manager will report back on the status of the City parks. Noted a cut in the OUI Work Program with Sherriff's Department; this community service program allowed the City to partner with the Sherriff's Department to get these parks cleaned. Staff are now brainstorming other ways to get this work done.

**VIII. Open Session**

**IX. Executive Session** – 8:05pm (Weisner, Milks, 7-0).

Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (C) for an economic development matter.

Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (C) for an economic development matter.

Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (D) for labor negotiations.

Executive Session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (E) concerning a legal matter.

**X. Adjournment**

Council adjourned following Executive Sessions by unanimous consent.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING APRIL 22, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 19**

Mayor Harmon 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 Weisner was absent (excused). Student Representatives were absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

- 1. ORDER 35-04222025\*** - Authorizing the City Clerk to waive the \$60 Temporary Food Service licensing fee for the Auburn Exchange Club for the Lobster Festival Event scheduled to be held on May 17, 2025.
- 2. ORDER 36-04222025\*** - Authorizing the City Clerk to waive the \$200 Food Service Establishment licensing fee for the Auburn Suburban Baseball & Softball (ASBS) concession stand operations during the 2025 season (April 2025-July 2025).
- 3. ORDER 37-04222025\*** – Appointing David Lyon to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for an unexpired term ending March 1, 2026, as recommended by the Appointment Committee.
- 4. ORDER 38-04222025\*** – Appointing Craig Phillips to the Auburn Housing Authority for an unexpired term ending October 1, 2029, as recommended by the Appointment Committee.
- 5. ORDER 39-04222025\*** – Appointing Evan Cyr to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring May 1, 2028, as recommended by the Appointment Committee.

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Gerry. Motion passed 6-0.

### **II. Minutes** – April 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes by Councilor Walker seconded by Councilor Cowan.

Motion passed 6-0.

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

Mayor Harmon read the Proclamation recognizing Chief Robert L. Chase as 2024 Fire Chief of the Year and presented a plaque for his award.

Conservation Working Group's Earth Day Clean Up in Memory of Larry Pelletier – April 26, 10am-12pm – Anniversary Park, Festival Plaza & Pettengill Park

Mayor Harmon announced that Auburn has received notification from Maine Housing that our application for a Housing First project has been awarded to Auburn.

### **IV. Open Session**

Cathy McDonald, speaking on behalf of the Lewiston-Auburn Liberty Festival

### **V. Unfinished Business**

### **VI. New Business**

### **VII. Reports**

a. **Mayor's Report** – Mayor Harmon attended the Black Poster Project remembering the lives of those who died from substance abuse, and attended the grand opening of the Extra Space Storage.

b. **City Councilors' Reports** – Councilor Gerry attended Age Friendly's Easter Dinner. Councilor Whiting spoke in remembrance of Larry Pelletier. Councilor Walker remarked on the Age Friendly

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING APRIL 22, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 20**

Easter Dinner, feeding 125 people in the community; it was a well attended event. There will be an upcoming meeting of the Neighborhood Watch committee and UNAA where a speaker from the City will be present; spoke in remembrance of Larry Pelletier. Councilor Platz gave an update from the School Committee budget process and made cuts without impacting positions and also secured a long-time architect and engineer. Councilor Milks gave an update on the Sewerage Board and asked for those who are interested in serving on the Board to apply.

c. **Student Representative Report** – None.

d. **City Manager Report** – Mentioned the City Clerk's office will be closed on May 9 for training.

e. **February 2025 Finance Report** – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director

Councilor Platz moved to accept the report, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 6-0.

### **VIII. Open Session**

None.

*The City Council recessed the meeting and resumed the CIP Budget workshop at 7:31PM.*

**IX. Executive Session** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (A) for City Manager's Quarterly Review.  
*No action to follow.*

The Council moved into Executive Session at 8:16PM and then adjourned.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

## **IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING MAY 5, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 21**

Mayor Harmon 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. Student Representative Mubarik Abdulahi was absent.

### **I. Consent Items**

#### **II. Minutes** – April 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes made by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Platz.

Motion passed 6-0-1 (Weisner abstained due to absence at the last meeting).

### **III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions**

- Volunteer of the Season – Recreation Department; Mayor Harmon presented the award to Jeff Smith, recognized as the Winter 2024 Volunteer of the Season.
- Comprehensive Plan Update presented by Chair John Cleveland and Planning Director, David Hediger.
- Communication: Tax/Clerk Office closed for business on May 9 for training

### **IV. Open Session**

Misty Edgecomb, resident – held comments for relevant agenda item

Johanna Mitchell, Lake St – spoke on police response incident at 133 Lake St

### **V. Unfinished Business**

#### **VI. New Business**

1) RESOLVE 01-05052025 – Adopting the Appropriations Resolve (Municipal Budget) for Fiscal Year 2026. First reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Platz, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

Mayor Harmon opened the public hearing.

The following spoke:

Misty Edgecomb, resident

Becky Hutchins, County Club Dr

James Parakilas, Lewiston

Cathy Lou, 393 Center St

Mayor Harmon closed the public hearing.

Councilor Gerry moved to amend the proposed budget to cut Councilor and Mayor salary by 50%. Seconded by Councilor Cowan. Mayor Harmon and City Manager Crowell explained this process cannot be done by amending the budget, it is achieved through ordinance amendment, per Charter Sec. 2.2. On a roll call vote by request of Councilor Gerry, motion fails 2-5 (Whiting, Walker, Platz, Cowan, Weisner).

Motion passes 6-1 (Gerry) on a roll call vote.

**IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING MAY 5, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 22**

2) ORDER 40-05052025 – Authorizing the City’s general obligation bonds in the amount of \$11,762,700 to finance the City’s FY26 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). First reading. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires five (5) affirmative votes.

Motion for passage by Councilor Cowan, seconded by Councilor Whiting.

Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no comment.

Motion passes 5-2 (Gerry, Walker) on a roll call vote.

3) ORDER 41-05052025 – Adopting the five year Capital Improvement Plan (2026-2030). Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Platz, seconded by Councilor Whiting.

No comment from the public.

Motion passed 7-0.

4) ORDER 42-05052025 – Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget of the Auburn School Department. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Weisner.

Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no comment.

Motion passed 7-0. The School Budget Validation Referendum will be held June 10, 2025.

5) ORDER 43-05052025 – Accepting the Safe Streets for All report and safety action plan. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Cowan, seconded by Councilor Weisner.

There was no comment by the public.

Motion passed 7-0.

6) RESOLVE 02-05052025 - Adopting “Vision Zero” for Traffic Safety. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Whiting, seconded by Councilor Gerry.

There was no comment by the public.

Motion passed 7-0.

7) ORDER 44-05052025 - Nominations for the Androscoggin County Budget Committee Caucus to be held May 21, 2025. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Platz, seconded by Councilor Gerry.

There was no comment by the public.

Motion passed 7-0.

**VII. Reports**

**a. Mayor's Report** – served as judge for Letters for Literacy, a fundraising initiative. Last week, the Maine Mayor's Coalition held Mayor's Day in Augusta; attended CMCC awards banquet; attended the grand opening of Safe Voices.

**b. City Councilors' Reports** – Councilor Whiting noted that the Auburn Public Library has passes for various museums and cultural institutions and has added the Botanical Garden in Boothbay. Councilor Cowan attended Safe Voices grand opening. Councilor Milks reported on a lot of work recently done on Court Street regarding the separation of combined sewer lines. Councilor Walker thanked Sam Boss for putting together the Earth Day Community Clean up held May 3. Councilor Platz noted the pollinator garden initiative in Pettengill Park.

**c. Student Representative Report** – The high school is holding spring concerts, band and choir, 6:30pm in the ELHS Auditorium. Shout out to Seniors graduating next month.

**d. City Manager Report** – Noted the pollinator garden is certified by the UMaine Extension; noted police response to recent events in the City impacting youth.

**e. 2025 March Finance Report** – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director – reported all departments are operating as expected for this time of year; no concerns to note. Motion to accept the report by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

**VIII. Open Session**

None.

**IX. Executive Session** pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. Section 405(6) (A) for a personnel matter. Action to follow.

At 8:23pm, Councilor Walker moved to enter executive session, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 7-0.

Council came out of executive session at 8:33pm.

Motion for passage of **ORDER 45-05052025**, to remove Trustee Daniel Bilodeau from the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees due to non-attendance of at least three consecutive meetings. Motion by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Weisner.

Motion passed 7-0.

**X. Adjournment**

Councilor Walker moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST**

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk