

City of Auburn
City Council Meeting
July 6, 2026

Mayor Harmon called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Consent Items

- 1) ORDER 59-07062026 – Appointing Ilwaad Hussen as Student Representative to the City Council for a term expiring June 30, 2028, as nominated by the Appointment Committee. *This item was removed from the agenda.*
- 2) ORDER 60-07062026 – Appointing Sally Gagnon to the Age Friendly Community Committee for a term ending June 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 3) ORDER 61-07062026 – Accepting an Asset Forfeiture in the amount of \$868.00 from the Maine Criminal Courts to the Auburn Police Department for an incident occurring on April 8, 2025.
- 4) ORDER 62-07062026 – Nominating the proposed slate for 2027 Vice-President and Executive Committee candidates to Maine Municipal Association’s Executive Committee on behalf of the City of Auburn.
- 5) ORDER 63-07062026 – Confirming Chief Moen’s appointment of Sean O’Donnell Jr. and Darrien Jimmo as Constable with firearm for the Auburn Police Department.

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

II. Minutes – June 15, 2026 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Duvall noted spelling error of his last name to be corrected.

Motion to accept the minutes as corrected by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- 2025 Spirit of America Tribute Presentation

Mayor Harmon presented the Spirit of America award to Mary Bunnell. As the founder of Coins for K9s, Mary Bunnell collects bottles and donations to buy medical kits for K9s across Maine.

IV. Open Session

John Cleveland, Davis Ave

V. Unfinished Business

1) ORDINANCE 12- 06152026 - Amending Chapter 14, “Business Licenses and Permits”, of the City’s Code of Ordinances, to adopt regulations regarding syringe service programs. *Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE. Passage requires majority vote.*

Councilor Cowan moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Duvall.

Councilor Cowan moved to amend section 4(H) and 8(F) as shown in redline on the draft to align the background check requirements with existing standard practices. Seconded by Councilor Duvall. Motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment on the amended ordinance. The following spoke:

Kathy Light, Mill St
Quentin Chapman, Eastman Ln
Tom Campell, Auburn
Steven Beale, Johnson Rd
Paul Witten, Harvard St
Audrey Murphy, Auburn
Kryston Chapman, Eastman Ln
Jeffrey Wilkins, Auburn
Erin Soule, Lewiston
Beth Bell, Nottingham Rd
Leslie Gerry, Auburn
Stephen Milks, Alderwood Rd
Laurel Libby, Auburn

Councilor Randall asked about the exchange part of the ordinance; Mayor Harmon responded the program allows up to 100 needles to be distributed. No exchange is required. Councilor Randall stated she could not support the ordinance as drafted.

Councilor Platz noted concerns about litter and stated he could not support the ordinance as drafted.

Councilor Walker stated he had concerns about drug use in the city and would not be supporting the ordinance as drafted.

Councilor Gerry stated she would not be supporting the ordinance as drafted.

Mayor Harmon explained if the ordinance is not passed, then the city has no authority to locally regulate syringe service programs which remain legal in the State. Mayor Harmon stated that prohibition by the City would likely face legal challenges due to the activity being legally allowed in the State.

Councilor Platz asked if the ordinance could be postponed to a future date to give more consideration if an amendment is proposed. Mayor Harmon confirmed the item could be postponed to a date certain.

Councilor Cowan asked if the Council would be open to an amendment that would set a cap on the number of needles issued (less than 100).

Councilor Gerry left the meeting at 8:39pm.

Councilor Platz moved to postpone ORDINANCE 12-06152026 until July 20 when a subject matter expert can speak to the Council on the question of a needle exchange rate or cap on the number of needles to be distributed by a provider. Seconded by Councilor Randall. Motion passed 6-0.

VI. New Business

- 1) ORDER-64-07062026 – Amending the City’s Master Fee Schedule (APPENDIX A) regarding license fees for Syringe Service Programs. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Platz moved to postpone to July 20, in respect of when ORDINANCE 12-06152026 will be considered. Seconded by Councilor Randall. Motion passed 6-0.

- 2) ORDER 65-07062026 – Granting food license fee waiver of \$200.00 to Great Falls Youth Corp for the concession stand in Lake Grove Park for the 2026 summer season.
Passage requires majority vote.

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

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Attended ribbon cutting of the Auburn Resource Center; next meeting of the Comp Plan Committee will be July 8 to work on the policy document; thanked staff for putting on solid waste information sessions; new garbage carts are now being delivered; old garbage bins can be delivered to 67 Kittyhawk for no charge. Automated collection starts on July 13. Attended the Fallview apartments on Main St ribbon cutting. Maine Mill Museum held their ribbon cutting; a great exhibit.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Duvall noted SNRB will be meeting on Thursday; Councilor Walker noted that the recycling rules on the website need to be updated; Councilor Platz noted there is no school committee meeting this week.

c. Student Representative Report – Excited to welcome a new Student Representative soon.

d. City Manager Report – 10 individuals used the cooling center last week due to the heat; Lake Grove Park will have four park rangers at the park; the snack shack will be opening this week; a photo contest is place currently for additions to the Comp Plan. The Police Department has 3 new officers.

VIII. Open Session

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Councilor Walker moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Cowan.
Motion passed 6-0. Council adjourned at 9:04pm.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk