

**AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Auburn Municipal Building at 451 Pearson Street.

In attendance were Council- President John Eckert, Vice- President Doug Naftzinger, and Council- Members Jesse Spencer, Melissa Schwenk, and Liz Shaner. Also in attendance were Solicitor Stanley Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Mayor Kimmel was unable to attend the meeting.

At this time the meeting was called to order by President Eckert and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

**January 2024 Minutes and Financial Reports**

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept the January minutes and reports as submitted. The final 2023 year end totals, as submitted, was also accepted with this motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, to approve payment of check #15948 through #15966 as attached to the February agenda. Motion carried. The motion also includes payment of the regular February invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice- President Naftzinger. The complete February check register is included with the February minutes

**Recognition of Guests**

The guests attending this meeting were; James Adams, Raymond Burkey, Kim Eckert, and John Fessler. They had nothing to discuss at this time.

**Complaint Forms**

Nothing submitted

**REPORTS**

**Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk**

The Hillside SPCA most recent fee chart was submitted to the Borough. The secretary noted that the fee to accept feral cats at their site was set at \$50.00 per cat.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**Mayor – Megan Kimmel**

No report

**Safety – Jesse Spencer**

Jesse noted that the curb is high and the inlet grate is in need of repairs in the area at South Second and Market Street. He offered to contact Penn Dot and inquire as to who is actually responsible for the repairs.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried.

**Fire & Ambulance**

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, to accept the reports as submitted by Fire Chief James Adams. Motion carried. The reports are on file at the Borough Office.

**SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny**

Copies of this report were distributed to Council-Members. The full report is on file at the Borough Office.

**Discussions:**

Council agreed to give the resident at 243 Orchard Street a 30 day extension to finish cleaning up the debris around the property.

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### Engineer's Report (cont'd)

Chip noted that SDE recently ordered towing tags/stickers to place on uninspected, illegally parked, unlicensed or abandoned vehicles parked on borough streets.

The idea of sharing a joint road project with Cressona Borough to obtain more competitive pricing will be considered next year.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

### Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

#### Year Ending 2023 Report:

Real Estate not collected = \$4,198.82 + Penalties of \$419.89 = \$4,618.71

(A total of 29 delinquent properties listed)

Per Capita – 208 delinquents not collected (Total) = \$1,144.00

(590 per capita on record at beginning of year – 29 per capita are deceased, moved, etc)

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, to accept this report. Motion carried.

### Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

A total of \$3,500.00 was collected and deposited for the month of January.

Melissa noted that she is still working on the January 2024 report and will submit it when completed. A lien issue with regard to a recently sold property will be discussed with Solicitor Burke. The property in question is Acct. #166 located at 231 Orchard Street.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.

### Municipal Authority

Latest minutes and reports on file – September 2023

### Streets & Roads – John Eckert

#### January Road Crew Report:

- Patched potholes on the street by the firehouse
  - Cleaned out several storm drains
  - Removed 3 large logs on Deer View Drive near the bridge to prevent the pipe from getting blocked
  - Driveways on Bear Creek Street and Deer View Drive are washing out on to the street.
- Chip agreed to provide a sample notice letter so the Borough can notify these home owners about their responsibilities.

A motion was made by Liz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

### Solicitor – Stanley Burke

It was noted that if there is not a lien on the 231 Orchard Street property, as previously discussed, then the former owner can be sent a notice for the delinquent fees. According to Melissa's December report the amount due is \$1,200.00. A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, authorizing the Solicitor to send a certified letter informing the prior owner of the amount owed. Motion carried.

Solicitor Burke said that the purchase of the Orchard Street land is still in limbo. He agreed to update any new information at the next meeting.

The Solicitor will also be contacting the local appraiser regarding the abandoned property on Bear Creek Street.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Melissa, to accept this report. Motion carried.

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**Parks & Recreation – Liz Shaner**

Liz attended the most recent meeting and noted the following items of interest:  
The Middle School is planning to start up the “open swim” at the pool with a soft launch.  
Two new gym attendants were hired.

The full time staff will be attending the PRPS Conference held in March.

A motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.  
The full meeting’s minutes and reports are available for review.

**SCOG Report**

Doug agreed to attend the March meeting.

**Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk**

No report

**Old Business**

--Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street

--Orchard Street land purchase

--Security Cameras (open invoice for labor to install the system)

--AHS will be informed that they can purchase coverage for their items through the insurance carrier of their choice and provide the Borough with a copy of the policy.

--“Spring road projects”- Curb repair next to 132 Pine St. – Stone washing out at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market St. – Council members agreed to meet this month and discuss any other road issues

--Web design project is being finalized and ready to go “live” (in need of a few more pictures for the site)

The secretary will still need training in “Word Press” in order to maintain the site.

**New Business**

--No rock salt will purchased for the upcoming season (2024-2025)

--Suggested a purchase of netting or a chain to put up in front of the salt shed

--Ethics reports distributed and due by May 1<sup>st</sup>

--An electronics recycling event will not be held this year

--A spring clean up date was scheduled for Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 8 – 12 noon

--Jesse noted that he plans to canvass the local trail before the clean up day to collect discarded tires that have been dumped there

--A motion was made by Jesse, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Liz, authorizing the secretary to transfer \$100,000.00 from the General Fund to the Borough’s PLGIT account. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

A work session will be held if needed at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Doug, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jesse, to adjourn the February 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler  
Secretary-Treasurer

