

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MAY 1, 2024 MINUTES

The regular meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 1, 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 and Liz Shaner. Also in attendance were Solicitor Stanley Burke, Mayor Frank Cataldi, Engineer from Systems Design, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Council-Member Melissa Schwenk was unable to attend this meeting.

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

April 2024 Minutes and Financial Reports

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to accept the April minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

A motion was then made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to approve payment of check #16071 through #16089, as attached to the May agenda. Motion carried. The motion also includes payment of the regular May invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. The complete May check register is included with council's copy of the May minutes and is on file at the Borough Office.

Recognition of Guests

The guests attending this meeting were Jessica Bachman, John Williams, John Fessler, and Aaron Brommer.

Jessica Bachman asked if the Solicitor had any information on her request to use a small portion of her lot for a burial of some of her family's cremation remains. Solicitor Burke told her he found no Pennsylvania law prohibiting this and no code in Auburn that disallows it. He emphasized that this is not legal advice and she should not take it as such.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

Nothing Submitted

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

Frank noted that he will be attending a zoom meeting later this week to obtain more information on the CODE RED alert system. Details and a price quote will be discussed at the June meeting.

Frank will also be attending a "Municipal Leader Funding Seminar" to look into grant funding for the Municipal Authority and the Borough. The seminar will be held on May 30th.

Mayor Cataldi informed Council that he just learned that part of Auburn's reservoir is in Tilden Township. If a 911 emergency call comes in, the township's police force can be dispatched to help with the call. He suggested that the Municipal Authority consider working on getting the road cleaned up for better access.

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

MAY 2024 MINUTES PAGE (2)

Safety - Jesse Spencer

No report

Fire & Ambulance

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried. The reports are on file at the Borough Office.

SEO/Engineer

Copies of this report were distributed to all council-members. The full report is on file at the Borough Office.

Discussions:

-A citation was issued and filed against the property owner of 243 Orchard Street for not cleaning up the property in the time they were given. SDE is waiting for the owner to answer the citation.

-The firm reviewed a 2023 paving issue complaint regarding ponding water during a rain event at the intersection of Third and Market Streets. They noted where some debris was collecting during heavy rainfall but to fix the issue they would need to go into the State's right-of-way as well as the brick gutter on the other side. It was noted that the warranty on that road project will expire on September 7, 2024.

-SDE also looked at the deteriorated culvert pipe at the bridge on Deer View Drive. It was noted that there is one FEMA Grant due May 31st for flooding areas only for pipe size upgrades and this culvert would most likely qualify for the grant.

2024 Liquid Fuels Road Project -3 Bids Submitted:

Construction Masters Services:

Total Base Bid - \$152,769.50 Total Supplemental Bid - \$2,677.75

The H&K Group:

Total Base Bid - \$150,854.55 Total Supplemental Bid - \$4,440.00

Ronnie C. Folk Paving, Inc.

Total Base Bid - \$124,355.00 Total Supplemental Bid - \$4,245.00

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Doug, to award the project to Ronnie C. Folk Paving, Inc. pending a thorough review by the Engineer and Solicitor Burke. Motion carried with Jesse Spencer abstaining from voting.

After some discussion a motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to remove the supplemental bid of \$4,245.00 for the Second Street gutter repair. Motion carried with Jesse Spencer abstaining from voting.

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

Tax Collector- Marlene Naftzinger

For the first half of April 2024 a total of \$11,403.23 in Real Estate Tax and a total of \$656.60 in Per Capita Tax was collected and deposited. The full detailed report is on file at the Borough Office.

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

Sanitation - Melissa Schwenk

A total of \$8,300.00 in regular receipts and a total of \$1,160.00 in delinquent receipts was collected and deposited during the month of April 2024.

No information was received at this time regarding lien issues.

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

MAY 2024 MINUTES PAGE (3)

Municipal Authority

Latest minutes and reports on file – February 2024

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

- Several blocked inlets were flushed out throughout town
- The crew put down millings on River Road
- The road crew will also be working on the bridge on Deer View Drive this month
- Doug said that S & S will begin the sidewalk work on Front Street this month as well. (This project was approved at the October 2023 meeting)
- Doug also agreed to ask Terry Shaner, (S & S), for an estimate to repair the drainage issues on Deer View Drive as well as installing a new inlet box on Bear Creek Street

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

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

- Solicitor Burke noted that the Orchard Street land purchase should be completed and recorded with the County Courthouse within the next two months.
- He also told council that an appraiser was contacted to appraise the abandoned property on Bear Creek Street and will be scheduled as soon as possible.

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

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

The minutes and financial reports from February and March are on file at the Borough Office. Nothing else reported at this time.

SCOG

Next meeting on September 11th @ 7 p.m. at Deer Lake Borough Hall

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

- Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street
- Security cameras (date of completion?) and pending open invoice for labor to install
- Brenda & Liz are still working on web page—www.auburnboroughpa.com
- Ethics forms still due from Solicitor and Melissa (Jesse's now on file)
- John reminded everyone of the spring clean-up to be held on May 11th
- Brenda noted that the spring newsletter will be sent out by the end of May
- A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to approve the use of a portion of the ARPA Funds to replace the roof at the Scout Lodge. Motion carried. It was noted that the Scouts have around \$10,000.00 to use toward the roof replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

- A thank you card from Megan Kimmel's family was received and given to council
- A letter was received regarding any issues or concerns with the new Sch. River Trails project. Council agreed that they had no problems at this time and asked Brenda to inform the trails director.
- A letter was received from the Conservation District informing the Borough that they will begin mosquito surveillance and West Nile Virus monitoring later this month and throughout the summer.

MAY 2024 MINUTES PAGE (4)

New Business cont'd

-Council was informed that the Municipal Authority crew used the Borough's backhoe the weekend before this meeting. Jesse agreed to draw up an "Inter-Municipal Agreement" between the Auburn Borough and the Auburn Municipal Authority regarding liability, insurance, and operating costs.

-Doug offered to get a price to install a 100 gallon off road fuel tank. The purchase will be discussed at the June meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 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 Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to adjourn the May 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer