

Auburn City Council Meeting, March 28, 2024

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers
Memorial City Hall
24 South St.
Auburn, NY 13021**

Minutes

The meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. from the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn, NY by Mayor James N. Giannettino, Jr..

ROLL CALL – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Giannettino and Councilor Ginny Kent, Councilor Rhoda Overstreet-Wilson, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Christina Calarco were present.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Tim Brennan
- Police Chief, Jim Slayton
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Comptroller, Mary Beth Leeson
- City Engineering Office: Scott McIntyre
- Assistant to the Mayor and City Council, Rhonda Miller

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – Mayor Giannettino led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection – Mayor Giannettino asked for a moment of silent prayer.

Public Announcements –

The City Budget preparation webpage has been added to the City website and can be located at this link: www.auburnny.gov/budget

Planning is underway for the Summer Recreation Program for Children in the City's parks. Information of the Summer of 2023 program was sent by email to the members of City Council for their review, as well as, the information can be found at the City website page: www.auburnny.gov/summerrec If members of City Council have any input for the Summer 2024 program they are asked to provide that to the City Manager and the Director of Public Works.

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The northeast United States will experience a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024 and in Auburn the eclipse will reach totality at 3:22 pm. The City of Auburn is pleased to announce that Falcon Park will host 'Eclipse Fest' on April 8, 2024, when the "Great North American Eclipse" will make its way through 13 US states from southwest to northeast. The City of Auburn, NY will experience a total eclipse at 3:22 p.m., which will be the first visible in the area since 1925. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, as the next one won't happen until 2144!

Join the Auburn Doubledays and the City of Auburn for a family-friendly viewing experience at Falcon Park, 130 N. Division Street in Auburn. You won't want to miss the one and only "Falcon Park Eclipse Fest"! Bring your family and friends to watch the eclipse safely on the field with mascots Abner Doubleday and Casey the Falcon.

Eclipse viewing glasses are being provided courtesy of the Cayuga County Office of Tourism. If you would like to pick-up a free pair of eclipse viewing glasses before the event you may do so during normal business hours at the NYS Equal Rights Heritage Center, 25 South Street, Auburn. Download the NASA eclipse viewing safety sheet [here](#).

Here are some of the fun things planned for the afternoon:

- Local radio station Classic Hits 99.3 morning DJ Lisa Cruz will be broadcasting live from the event;
- There will be children's sports activities on the field, science activities by Lily Donaldson, research assistant at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and activities by the 4H Club of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County;
- The Doubledays will have their concession stand open to sell refreshments. Mascots Abner Doubleday and Casey the Falcon will be on the field;
- Auburn Wegmans will be bringing a celebratory Eclipse Cake that will be sliced and shared with attendees;
- A limited number of souvenir Falcon Park Eclipse Fest posters will be available; and
- Admission is free!

Event Info Recap:

- What: historic, one-time event 'Falcon Park Eclipse Fest'
- When: Monday, April 8, 2024 from 2 – 4 p.m.
- Where: Falcon Park, 130 N. Division Street, Auburn
- Info: www.auburnny.gov/eclipsefest
- Media contact: Chuck Mason, City Clerk, City of Auburn, NY cmason@auburnny.gov or phone 315-255-4101.
- For more information on Falcon Park Eclipse Fest contact Brian Rhodes at brhodes@auburnny.gov or phone at 315-255-2489
- For more information on solar eclipse events in Cayuga County visit: <https://www.tourcayuga.com/total-solar-eclipse/>

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Ceremonial Presentations – none

Public to be heard: The City Clerk read the rules for Public To Be Heard. The following individuals spoke: David Taralla owner of Bee Line Auto on Seminary Avenue discussed public restrooms in the downtown, using abandoned buildings for homeless shelters and activity in the retail space at 9 E. Genesee Street. David Steigerwald of N. Seward Avenue discussed the Zoning Board meeting held on March 25, 2024. Greg Kromer from Virginia showed pictures of Auburn that he had taken from an airplane.

Approval of Meeting Minutes –

March 14, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 14, 2024 minutes by Councilor Kent, seconded by Councilor Calarco.

Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager's Report –

- The city is currently accepting bids for construction services for the Auburn City Court Expansion Project. Bids are due back April 16. More information is available on the city webpage under the link "Bids/RFPs."
- The city has released a Request For Qualifications for Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services for our general liability and workers comp coverage. Responses are due back April 5.
- Yesterday, Mayor Giannettino, Seth Jensen our Director of Municipal Utilities and I participated in a municipal water discussion with Cayuga County, several towns and villages, the County Water Authority, County Health Department, and Wells College. Topics included second source, rates, challenges, opportunities, and the potential benefits of collaboration and/or regionalization. There was good productive discussion and there is interest in continuing the dialogue. Today we communicated with three other entities who did not attend but are interested in taking part in future discussions.

Reports from members of Council –

Matters to Come Before Council -

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR) – none

B. Ordinances – none

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C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions – none

E. Staff or Vendor Presentations –

- Auburn Fire Department 2024-2025 Budget Presentation - Mark Fritz, Fire Chief (see attached)
- Bar Graph Reports for February 2024 - Jeff Dygert, City Manager

TABLED ITEMS – none

OTHER BUSINESS –

Executive Session: Councilor Cuddy made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Overstreet-Wilson. Council voted to enter an executive session regarding the following matters:

- Three matters made confidential by federal law under attorney client privilege.
- Three matters pertaining to the sale, lease or acquisition of real property.

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m..

Minutes submitted by: Chuck Mason, City Clerk