

IN COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, VOL 38 PAGE 47

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 Mubarik Abdulahi was absent.

I. Consent Items

1) ORDER 82-09152025* – Confirming Chief Moen’s appointment of David Strait as Constable with firearm for the Auburn Police Department.

2) ORDER 83-09152025* - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Randy’s Auto, 899 Broad St.

3) ORDER 84-09152025* - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for M&P Auto, Inc., 227 Merrow Rd.

4) ORDER 85-09152025* - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Prolerized New England Company, LLC., 522 Washington St. North.

5) ORDER 86-09152025* - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Isadore T. Miller, 79 & 80 Old Hotel Rd.

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

II. Minutes – September 2, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

Motion to accept the minutes by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Passed 7-0.

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

IV. Open Session

Peter Rubens, regarding the Androscoggin River

Joe Thomas, ATU Transit Union President

V. Unfinished Business

1) ORDER 87-09152025 – Business License Denial Appeal Hearing pursuant to Sec. 14-662 of the City’s Code of Ordinances regarding 65 Washington St N, Medical Cannabis Retail Store. Action to follow.

Mayor opened the hearing. Mr. Frank Berenyi presented representing the applicant. The City Clerk presented on the license denial. Questions from the Council and applicant concerned the mailing address of the church and school. The school and church exist on the same parcel. The Mayor opened the item for public comment. There was no comment from the public. The Mayor closed the hearing.

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Motion to deny the license previously denied by the City Clerk was made by Councilor Platz. Seconded by Councilor Walker.

A draft Findings of Fact was presented by Attorney Carey. An amendment to the main motion was made to adopt the Findings and Conclusions by Councilor Gerry. Seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion passed as amended 7-0.

2) Public Hearing - CDBG/HOME Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER) Program Year 2024. Public hearing, no action to follow.

Mr. Holmes, Director of Community & Business Development, presented an update on this five year plan.

VI. New Business

1) ORDER 88-09152025 – Public hearing regarding 67 Minot Avenue (Parcel ID 240-271) on the prompt action to secure the structure. Public hearing and action to follow.

Miracle Enterprises, LLC, is the owner of the business. Representatives were in attendance from the company to speak on the property.

Eric Cousens, Director of Public Services, and David O'Connell, Fire Inspector, presented their findings on determining the security of the structure.

A letter from Zack Brandwein, included in the amended packet, was accepted into the record.

Councilor Whiting moved to adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law as drafted. Seconded by Councilor Walker.

Councilor Milks moved to amend the language in 9) to strike “served” and replace with “sent”. Seconded by Councilor Gerry. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion passed 7-0, as amended.

2) ORDER 89-09152025 - Public hearing regarding 67 Minot Avenue (Parcel ID 240-271) on the request for ongoing order to secure the structure. Public hearing and action to follow.

Eric Cousens, Director of Public Services, and David O'Connell, Fire Inspector, presented their findings on determining the security of the structure.

A representative of the company stated she would be working to secure the building. Mayor Harmon asked the representatives of the company if they agree to let city staff secure the building if the plan for the company to secure the building is not executed.

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Representatives of the company stated they would be working to secure the building. Councilors stated agreement with the draft order that staff be authorized to secure the building. Attorney Carey stated the draft order could be amended to allow staff to inspect the building.

Councilor Milks moved to adopt and amend the order to include that staff be authorized to inspect the building prior to securing and that 9) be amended to strike “serve” and add “sent”. Seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

3) ORDER 90-09152025 - Approving the renewal of an Auto Graveyard/Junkyard permit for Don’s No Preference Towing, dba Morris Auto Parts, 940 Washington St. North with conditions. Passage requires majority vote.

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

4) ORDER 91-09152025 - Designating Phillip Crowell, City Manager, as the Voting Delegate for the City of Auburn for the MMA Annual Business Meeting to be held October 8, 2025. Passage requires majority vote.

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

VII. Reports

- a. **Mayor’s Report** – Mayor Harmon spoke on a few updates in the community including the status of the Community Resource Center to residents of Barker Mill Arms. The PAL Ribbon Cutting took place on September 5, 2025. Met with committees regarding carry-over bills concerning housing matters. The Public Library held its block party this past weekend with approximately 400 participants.
- b. **City Councilors’ Reports** – Spoke on the positive resident meeting with the Mayor and Barker Mill Arms concerning the Community Resource Center. Councilor Whiting noted he was riding in the Dempsey Challenge. Councilor Cowan stated there would be a Town Hall meeting on September 29 in the Community Room at Auburn Hall at 6pm. Maine State Music Theatre has some events they are coordinating with the ELHS Auditorium. Full Plates Full Potential offers culinary training at ELHS. Congratulated Lt. Harrington on graduating the FBI academy. Councilor Milks spoke positively on the PAL Center Ribbon Cutting. Councilor Platz gave an update on the hiring of the School Department. To date, 55 staff members have been hired including teachers and support staff. There are 24 vacancies remaining district-wide.

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c. Student Representative Report – Brennan Edwards spoke on the start of the new school year, no phones are allowed at ELHS. There will be a home football game on Friday, come out to support ELHS.

d. City Manager Report – Gave an update on the PAL Center. Thanked those who attended the 9/11 ceremony and hosted the blood drive. Thanks to the Finance department and tax staff as taxes were due today.

VIII. Open Session

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Platz, seconded by Councilor Milks. Passed 7-0.

Council adjourned at 8:53pm.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk