

IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING JANUARY 6, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 1

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. Councilors Milks and Weisner were absent.

I. Consent Items

1. ORDER 01-01062025 – Appointing Patricia Mador and Benjamin Weisner to serve on the 9-1-1 Committee for a term that ends 12/31/26, as nominated by Mayor Harmon.
2. ORDER 02-01062025 – Appointing Stanley Harmon for an unexpired term on the Age Friendly Community Committee ending 6/1/27, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
3. ORDER 03-01062025 – Setting 7:00am as the time for all polls to open for elections in Auburn for 2025.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0.

II. Minutes – December 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting & December 19, 2024 Special Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved for passage of the December 16 minutes, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Walker moved for passage of the December 19 minutes, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Whiting abstained).

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Proclamation – Call To Action Against Sex Trafficking
- Update on Revaluation & Statistics – Assessing Office

IV. Open Session

Paul Bernard, Turner
Riechelle Bernard, Turner
Evan Cyr, Granite St

V. Unfinished Business

1. ORDINANCE 23-12022024 – Text Amendments related to 30-A M.R.S. §§ 4364, 4364-A and 4364-B (L.D. 2003). Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE.

The following spoke:

Jason Levesque, Youngs Corner Rd
Evan Cyr, Granite St

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 4-1 (Walker).

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VI. New Business

1. ORDER 04-01062025 - Reappropriating Unspent Proceeds from the City's 2023 and 2024 General Obligation Bonds. First reading. Passage requires majority vote. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

2. ORDER 05-01062025 – Regarding the transfer of 143 Hampshire St & 1, 5 Gamage St. Passage requires majority vote.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Gerry moved to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda. Seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage of the following:

3. ORDER 06-01062025 – Directing the City Manager to evaluate the current situation for the provision of emergency warming shelters to ascertain if additional sites are needed and make recommendations to the City Council.

Seconded by Councilor Walker.

The following spoke:

Paul Bernard, Turner

Motion passed 5-0.

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Congratulated Panolam and Jay Brenchick, Economic Development Director. Congratulated staff for organizing the New Years Eve Auburn event. Thanked Public Works for their help in rescuing the fireworks display.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Gerry commented on the success of the New Years event held at the Senior Center, over 100 people attended. Councilor Cowan echoed support for the homelessness situation and stated the Homelessness Committee will be meeting on Thursday at 6pm in Room 204. Councilor Walker recognized the potato initiative and that bags of potatoes can be picked up at the Senior Center during normal hours of operation. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee, focusing on addressing the needs of unhoused children. Councilor Platz noted that he would like to know more about how the City decides which roads to repair as part of its paving program.

c. Student Representative Report – Student Representative's wished all a happy new year.

d. City Manager Report – Mentioned that over 3,000 people showed up for the NYE Auburn event. Over 226 children were assisted with donations of clothing and gifts due to the support from PAL center, Exchange Club, and Toys for Tots.

VIII. Open Session

Paul Bernard, Turner

X. Adjournment

Councilor Cowan moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Platz. Motion passed 5-0. Council adjourned at 8:54pm.

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Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING JANUARY 21, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 4

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 Representatives Egge and Abdulahi were absent.

I. Consent Items

1.) ORDER 07-012125 – Appointing Brian Cullen to the SNRB to represent the Sustainability Working Group for an unexpired term ending 4/1/27, as nominated by the Sustainability Working Group.

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

II. Minutes – January 6, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

Councilor Walker moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 5-0-2 (Weisner, Milks abstained due to absence at the January 6, 2025 meeting)

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Presentation: Year End Review – Economic Development Department and Planning, Permitting & Code Department
- County Commissioner Delegates – Andrew Lewis, Ward 5 (Chair) & Jane Pentheny, Ward 6 (Vice-Chair)

IV. Open Session

None.

V. Unfinished Business

1. ORDER 04-01062025 – Reappropriating Unspent Proceeds from the City's 2023 and 2024 General Obligation Bonds. Public hearing/second reading. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Whiting moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Mayor Harmon opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Harmon closed the public hearing. Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

VI. New Business

1) ORDINANCE 01-012125 – Amending the City's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 "ADMINISTRATION", regarding Property Tax Assistance Program. First reading. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker. Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no public comment. Motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Mayor Harmon spoke at the Lewiston-Auburn Rotary Club and gave an update on current issues in Auburn and upcoming potential challenges with the budget process.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Whiting noted Student Representative Egge placed 3rd in slalom. Councilor Cowan thanked the City's communication dept for promoting Project Support You; Councilor Weisner noted an upcoming meeting of the Lewiston Auburn Airport Master Plan and Open House. Councilor Walker noted an upcoming Executive Meeting at Maine Waste & Energy. UNAA meeting at Rolly's Diner and will have a guest speaker from the City, and Neighborhood

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Watch group will be meeting. The Age Friendly Committee is collecting winter clothing to donate to those who are homeless and in need. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Committee's budget committee, facility rebate project and an update from ELHS gym water damage noting that the damage was recently fixed.

c. Student Representative Report – None.

d. City Manager Report - Responded to the order passed at the last meeting regarding proving warming, cooling and charging locations; reviewed and provided the SOP on these emergency shelters. Current arrangements make a resource providing a minimum level of service in the city available every day of the week.

e. 2024 November & 2024 December Finance Report – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director
Motion to accept the 2024 November Finance Report by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to accept the 2024 December Finance Report by Councilor Walker, seconded by Councilor Cowan. Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. Open Session

None.

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.
Council adjourned at 8:37pm.

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Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk

IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 6

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 Abdulahi was absent.

I. Consent Items

On request of a citizen, the item appearing on the Consent Agenda was moved to New Business.

II. Minutes – January 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting

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

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- City Manager Update on Federal Funding Impacts – City Manager Crowell addressed recent Executive Orders from the White House suspending funds for certain projects and initiatives. The City is continuing to monitor to see which projects should be allowed to continue; the City is not expecting major changes regarding funding for transportation and EMS services.

IV. Open Session

Evan Cyr, Granite St
Dina Chapman, Auburn
Arlo Driggs, Auburn

V. Unfinished Business

1) ORDINANCE 01-012125 – Property Tax Assistance Program (2nd reading). Second reading/public hearing. ROLL CALL VOTE.

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Walker.
Mayor Harmon opened the item for public comment. There was no comment.
The motion passed 7-0 on a roll call vote.

VI. New Business

1) ORDER 09-020325 - Approval to encumber from the General fund for Fire apparatus. Passage requires majority vote.

Motion for passage by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

There was no comment.

Motion passed 7-0.

2.) ORDER 08-020325 – Appointing Maureen Hopkins to the Planning Board for a term that expires 1/1/2028, as nominated by the Appointment Committee. *This item was moved from the Consent Agenda on request of a citizen.*

Councilor Gerry moved for passage, seconded by Councilor Cowan.

The following spoke:

David Trask, Partridge Ln
Anita Chapman, Auburn
Dina Chapman, Auburn
Evan Cyr, Granite St

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Councilors discussed ward representation on the Planning Board which is not a current requirement in City ordinance. Councilors discussed the process of appointments.

Motion passed 4-3 (Walker, Milks, Weisner).

VII. Reports

a. **Mayor's Report** - Mayor Harmon thanked Mr. LaBonte and Mr. Cousens for coordinating the Airport Master Planning session. Attended the opening of Chairlift 3 at Lost Valley. Gave a brief update on the Comp Plan Committee. Gave a brief update on FY26 budget process. Submitted testimony regarding several bills before the Legislature via the MMA LPC.

b. City Councilors' Reports -

Councilor Whiting gave an update on the audit process. Councilor Cowan gave an update on the SNRB asking for members to join the Working Groups. The Homeless Committee has finalized a report for the Council expected to come forward at the February 18 meeting. Councilor Weisner attended the Airport Master Planning session. Councilor Platz gave an update on the School Dept; announced the School Committee has released the State of Schools report and the protocol released by the Superintendent if U.S. ICE federal officers should enter buildings of the School Department.

c. **Student Representative Report** - Thanked all District 2 Festival participants at ELHS.

d. **City Manager Report** – The City revaluation inspections began today on behalf of the Assessor's office. Attended the Maine Waste to Energy meeting with Councilor Walker.

VIII. Open Session -

Evan Cyr, Granite St

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Weisner, seconded by Councilor Whiting.

Motion passed 7-0. Councilor adjourned at 8:41pm.

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Emily F. Carrington

IN COUNCIL WORKSHOP & MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2025 VOL 38 PAGE 8

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 Representatives Egge & Abdulahi were absent.

I. Consent Items

- 1.) ORDER 10-02182025* – Appointing Katherine Truitt to the Complete Streets Committee for a term that expires December 31, 2026, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 2.) ORDER 11-02182025* – Appointing Bruce Rioux to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for an unexpired term that expires March 1, 2027, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 3.) ORDER 12-02182025 *– Appointing Timothy Simpson to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 4.) ORDER 13-02182025* – Appointing Robert Cavanagh to the Auburn Water District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 5.) ORDER 14-02182025* – Appointing Graca Muzela to the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees for an unexpired term that expires March 1, 2028, as nominated by the Appointment Committee. Page 2 of 2
- 6.) ORDER 15-02182025* – Appointing Denis Bergeron to the Auburn Sewerage District Board of Trustees for a term that expires March 1, 2029, as nominated by the Appointment Committee.
- 7.) ORDER 16-02182025* – Appointing David Griswold to the Sustainability & Natural Resource Management Board (SNRB), representing the Community Forest Working Group, for a term that expires April 1, 2028.

Motion for passage by Councilor Gerry, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 6-1 (Milks).

II. Minutes – February 3, 2025 Regular Council Meeting

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

III. Communications, Presentations and Recognitions

- TIF Update – Glen Holmes & Kelsey Earle

Presentation included an update on TIF tracking.

- Quarterly Corrective Actions Report – Kelsey Earle & Amanda Couture

The School Department gave an update on the five identified focus areas from FY23 audit. The school department is working on transitioning to using the same financial software as the City. Grant reconciliation, purchasing policy concerning sole-source providers, journal entries and approval, were noted on the City side.

- Presentation: Homelessness Committee's Report to City Council – Bill Lowenstein and Dave Bilodeau from the Homelessness Committee delivered the report.

IV. Open Session

Justin Young, Washington St N, spoke on code enforcement concerns regarding his property at 959 Washington St N

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

1) ORDER 17-02182025 – Accepting the report by the ad-hoc Homelessness Committee. Passage requires majority vote.

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

2) ORDER 18-02182025 – Action regarding poverty abatement case #PA 2025-001. Passage requires majority vote.

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

3) Public Hearing - Public Hearing prior to drafting CDBG & HOME Consortium Action Plan for Program Year 2025. No action.

Mayor Harmon opened the item for public hearing. There was no public comment. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

VII. Reports

a. Mayor's Report – Attended a tenant meeting of the Drop In Center; thanked Jay Brenchick for attending recent meetings of the manufactures and the effects of tariffs on our manufacturing sector.

b. City Councilors' Reports – Councilor Gerry noted the order added to the meeting regarding emergency warming centers and asked for an update; Councilor Whiting congratulated Josie Eusden who turned 100 on February 5th. Councilor Cowan acknowledged the work of the Homelessness Committee. Councilor Walker noted the next UNAA meeting on February 25; 110 people attended the Valentine's luncheon, thanked the City and all volunteers. Councilor Platz noted no school committee meeting this week due to school vacation week; the Lost Valley Trail Network Group recently met and secured a \$10,000 grant from Bob Brainerd, considering building a 10k course for public use.

c. Student Representative Report – None.

d. City Manager Report – Distributed copies of the New Resident Guide updated in 2025; available in the tax office and online, congratulated the Communications team.

e. January 2025 Finance Report – Kelsey Earle, Finance Director

Councilor Walker moved to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Councilor Whiting. Motion passed 7-0.

VIII. Open Session

John Cleveland, Davis Ave

Councilor Walker thanked Public Works for a great job with snow removal for the past week of winter storms.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:24pm by Councilor Cowan, seconded by Councilor Walker. Motion passed 7-0.

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Emily F. Carrington, City Clerk